

Living an Overcoming Life

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There are three great rules of living an overcoming Christian life. These rules of God's plan are very simple. As we consider these principles of an overcoming life; keeping our heart with all diligence, this will enable us to live an overcoming life, which is the greatest thing in the sight of God. Proverbs 4:23, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*"

The first rule always begins at the Cross; we must get under the Blood. There is no heart purity, or pure heart condition, unless we get under the Blood. God's Word tells us how to get under the Blood; and the very moment we meet the simple conditions of getting under the Blood, exactly as God gives it, that moment we begin to receive the benefits of that great Atonement; whether it be spiritual, physical, or otherwise. The moment we accept God's plan for victory in the home life, which the Blood has provided, that victory will become an actual fact.

Romans 8: Paul tells us; we are more than conquerors over every enemy, through Him Who loved us; which means through the great work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and through His resurrected life. This takes us back to the promises which relate to heart purity. Step 1 is to confess and forsake all sin; this must be real and genuine, a true repentance; a confession of our actual condition before God, acknowledging just what we are and where we are, without covering anything. We should believe on the authority of God's Word, that we are pardoned and cleansed, according to the Scriptures alone; and take a definite stand on the Scriptures. The moment we have confessed and forsaken our sins, we have a right to claim pardon and cleansing, 1 John 1:9. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

In our Christian life, we can never get away from that promise, because the moment we lose sight of the promises of God, Satan will have us to walk by experience, sight, and feelings, instead of faith. We are to walk by faith in God's Word. Faith can only be exercised through a word, spoken, or written.

The next step is to keep our heart with all diligence is found in Romans 12:1: "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*"

These are promises with which we are very familiar, and yet we need to keep them before us every moment, to have them to use against Satan. We are to continually keep them before us, so we may know in our mind and heart that we have confessed according to that promise, and that we are clean of heart; and that we have presented our bodies a living sacrifice; therefore, we are holy and acceptable unto God.

This attitude brings us right up to Romans 6. The moment we take our place that our "old self" is nailed to the Cross of Jesus Christ; we are under the Blood and our sins are washed away; we are "dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6:11, "*Like-wise reckon ye, also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" It would be profitable to go over the 6th chapter of Romans often; and be sure we are taking the position that God commands us.

We can be sure that every particle of failure we have had in not meeting our trials and temptations right, is because we have failed to be definite in our stand upon this Word and this story of the Blood. All victories are founded in being positively clean-cut and definite in our stand, when we have confessed and forsaken our sins and have surrendered our lives a living sacrifice to God and turned our lives over to Him, we are dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus.

The moment we get away from the Cross; Satan can come in and defeat us. Since the foundation is out from under our feet; we could never stand. When we get our eyes off of the Cross, we have failed to take our stand, which is the first great principle of overcoming and being victorious in our Christian life.

The very moment Satan gets us away from the Word, by listening to any of his suggestions, that moment we will begin to have an "up and down" experience; our Christian life will begin to fail; we will not be able to meet things right; we will be overwhelmed with sorrows, troubles, and difficulties in this life. However, the very moment we have settled it that our heart is indeed clean and pure because God's Word says so and

because the Blood has provided it; God will prepare us to stand when the battle comes; we will be able to stand and to be more than conqueror through Him Who loved us. We must remember that the first and most valuable, important position to take—the foundation of all overcoming Christian living, the foundation of everything in the Christian life—is to keep our hearts with all diligence.

The second principle is found in Hebrews 12:2, God says we are to look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, first, last, and all the time. Look unto Jesus, instead of looking within ourselves to see what we are, how we feel, or what our experience is. We are to place our eyes on God and His Son, Jesus Christ; we are to be occupied with what He is—not with what we are—but what God is like and what He will do for us, and what Jesus Christ really is, and came to do for us.

God does not forsake us because of this weak, faltering, unhappy condition; but reveals His plan to us: "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith." As we look unto Jesus, all desire of sinning and of heeding the suggestions of Satan will fade away. That is a sensible argument, as we do it in human affairs daily. In order to get our supplies spiritually, physically, and otherwise, we must get our eyes on the source of supply; that is pure common sense.

Satan's advice to us is that we must look at ourselves; and the moment we 'see the waves and hear the winds' we go down; and it is very difficult to see God or His Word. While we are looking at the ground, we cannot see the stars, or see whether the moon is full, or whether it is out at all. If we look into the sky, we will be able to discover just how things look. Satan always says, "Everything is all right; just look at yourself and see what you are like." While we are occupied with looking down at ourselves, we have no time for looking up to God, or see what He is like.

There is an old saying which says, "While we look at ourselves, we are filled with doubt and despair." Satan has us to look at ourselves, that he might show us different conditions which exist, and by looking at these conditions, we are convinced that they really do exist. However, the Bible is filled with admonition for us to look away from ourselves and up to GOD. Isaiah 45:22, "*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.*"

“Get your eyes on Me; take a good look at Me and you will be saved.” God challenges us to take a look at Him, and then gives us a promise of what will happen as we do so. A confidence to trust Him will be the result of looking to Him. When we get our eyes on God, our confidence grows in leaps and bounds. God gives us another promise along this line in Psalm 146:5 *“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.”*

David tells us his remarkable experience of living an overcoming life in Psalm 16:8, *“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.”* What a contrast to what we have done at times. We set our troubles, our sorrows, our trials, and temptations before us, and are determined to look at and meditate upon them. When we do, we lose sight of God, we cannot stand a moment when we get our eyes off God; we are an easy prey for Satan. *“I have set the Lord always before me.”*

Our eyes are to be on God and discover what He is able and willing to make us. This gives us the result of David's blessings; nothing was able to move him from his trust in God. He tells us in another place about keeping his eyes on the Lord in Psalm 25:15, *“Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.”*

That means that there is no difficulty, no entanglement, which we could get caught in, no circumstance which could surround us, even like Jonah in the stomach of the fish; but if we get our eyes on God we will be delivered. Jonah said, *“Yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.”* Jonah 2:4, He got his eyes on God, and then he could believe. He thought of the God Who made the Heavens and the earth; Who created that great fish which had swallowed him. He made everything; and He could and would deliver him out of the stomach of that fish. Then he could say, *“Salvation is of the Lord.”*

He received his deliverance from that desperate position. It is a positive fact, it makes no difference what entanglement we are in, what trouble or snare has overtaken us, what sorrow has overwhelmed us, we are to look at, and dwell upon God.

As we keep our eyes on the trouble and circumstances, they only become worse. But, when we get our

eyes on God, the entanglement will be immediately unloosed; and we will find that while looking at ourselves brings despair, but one good look at God fills us with quietness and confidence. 2 Corinth 3:18, *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

As we look to God, we are changed into the same image, by the Spirit of God. You would not think a look could bring about such a change; but as we look at God and lose sight of ourselves, God's Spirit will inspire us with confidence and bring us to the place where He will be able to work His righteousness in us, and we shall be changed by beholding.

If Satan can get our eyes on the difficulties which surround us, on human considerations, possibilities, and impossibilities, immediately our faith goes down to the ground; but when we consider the fact that God can make ‘the desert bloom and blossom as the rose,’ and ‘cause streams to break forth in the desert; the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of dragons, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.’ (Isaiah 35) With such a God we can readily see that the hardest place, the most difficult place, humanly speaking, is the place, divinely speaking, where God can work the best. God is delighted to handle hard cases, humanly speaking; that is His business, and that brings Him greater glory; whether in the home, in the workshop, or in Christian work.

The third principle is found in John 15:5, *“For without me ye can do nothing.”* What a combination for victory; taking our stand on the bare Word of God, that we are pardoned and cleansed, “dead indeed unto sin but living unto God in Christ Jesus;” maintain that stand against all the suggestions and wiles of Satan; then get our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith; the great God of the Universe. Then realize in our hearts that there will never come a time when we will meet anything in our own strength; we will not depend on human power again; but will depend absolutely on the power of God for all results every day.

Colossians 3:17, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”* This is the real secret of God's moment-by-moment overcoming Christian

life. This verse means that whatever we do, we should do it in dependence upon the power of Jesus Christ. That is very sensible, because Jesus Christ has all power and authority in Heaven and earth. Matt 28:20, *“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”*

David was an example. Before he went out to meet Goliath—humanly speaking, it meant death—perfectly absurd to say the least; a giant, a man of war, of real training from his youth, fully equipped with sword and spear, coat of mail from head to foot; he was furnished completely for the conflict. David came with only a little sling and a few stones he had picked out of the sand as he went along. But what won the battle? It was not David's sling, nor his ability. 1 Samuel 17:45, *“Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”*

The giant had the greatest, the mightiest and most powerful of human weapons, but David was depending on the power and authority back of the name of Jehovah; he did not say, “I come with sling and stone,” he said, “I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the Ever-living God. I am going to depend absolutely on the Living God.” When that stone was slung, it struck the mark. There was not a man, humanly speaking, who could have used that sling and killed that giant; but the power of God accomplished it. God's power accompanied that stone and did the work destroying that man's life.

John 15:5, *“For without me ye can do nothing.”* It is the story of the vine and the branches exactly. We are to draw all power and help from our great, true Vine; Who says if we abide in Him, and He in us we shall bring forth much fruit. John 15:7, *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”*

Romans 6:1-11, Colossians 3:17. As we couple these with abiding in Christ and depending on His power alone, and looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and set the Lord always before us. We shall not only “not be moved” but with such a combination, we will be able to keep our heart with all diligence if we apply these Scriptures to our heart.