

## **Being An Overcomer In Any Situation**

Joseph is the perfect type of you and me as a believer.  
His story is told in the coats he wore.

1. He wore the coat of many colors – which we will call the coat of **Salvation:**
2. He wore the coat of **Christian character** – which is the coat he left in the hand of the woman trying to seduce him to commit adultery.
3. He wore the coat that Pharaoh put on him – which made him second in command of all Egypt. This was the coat of the **Overcomer.**

**The message of Joseph's life to us is how to overcome no matter what life throws at us!**

### **1. The First Coat of Salvation**

Gen. 37:3 “Now Israel [Jacob] love Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colors.”

- It was a gift from the Father.
- Joseph never paid a penny for this coat.
- Never provided an inch of fabric for its making.
- Never sowed one stitch in it – he did nothing to contribute to the making of the coat.
- The coat was a free gift from the father to the son.

This is a beautiful picture of salvation:

- 21 times the Bible calls our salvation “the gift of God.”
- No one will be able to stand before God and say: “Look what Jesus and I did!”  
If you could contribute anything towards your salvation, that would make you a co-redeemer with Jesus Christ which would nullify the work of the Cross.

Eph 4:32 “...God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.”

Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

1Cor. 1:4 “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ.”

John 3:27 “John answered and said, a man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.”

The only claim we have to salvation today is that God so loved the world – [us] that He sent His only begotten Son – Jesus to give His life a ransom for us.

Because of Jesus, God will remember those who love and follow Him and transport us out of this world into God's presence, transforming us into God's image.

Today, if you are a believer and follower of Jesus – you have been given a robe of righteousness to wear: Isa. 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.

Joseph's coat of many colors was skillfully designed and created by his father who put it together from the beginning. The father had a plan.

- Our salvation was not an accident – and the Cross was not an afterthought!

**Before there was ever a sinner on earth –there was a Savior in Heaven!**

Rev. 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”

Isaiah 49:16 “Behold, I have graven you upon the palms of My hands...”

- As Jesus stands interceding as our attorney before God, our names are written in His hand.

**Josephs coat was a full-length coat covering him in total protection:**

Our coat/robe of righteousness is stained with the blood of our Savior Jesus.

Rev. 19:13 “And He was clothed with a vesture/raiment/robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.”

There is nothing that can wash away our sins – but the blood of Jesus!

What can make us whole again – nothing but the blood of Jesus.

- If you take the blood out of the Bible – it becomes nothing more than dull history.
- If you take the blood out of this church – it becomes nothing more than a meeting of people.
- If you take the blood out of the preaching of the Gospel, men walk away condemned and on their way to hell.
- It's by the blood and the word of our testimony that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loves us.

## 2. The Coat of Christian Character      Gen. 39

- Potiphar had a wife who was beautiful, young, lonely and bored.
- Joseph was handsome, every bit a man and carried God's presence.
- Joseph had the power of His presence with character.
- The Bible said five times: "The Lord was with Joseph."

She set her eyes on Joseph to entrap him and she repeatedly tried to seduce him – BUT JOSEPH REFUSED, until one day when no one was in the house except for the two of them; she pursued him enticing him to lie with her.

His refusal of her offer and literally running from her caused this bitter, rejected woman to accuse him of rape.

As he ran, she grabbed his coat and held it for evidence of his intentions to shame her.

Joseph was instantly condemned to prison for 13 years.

**BUT GOD WAS WITH JOSEPH!**

For 13 years – he suffered, his name was slandered and lied on, he was broken and hurt, done wrong and overlooked for something he was not guilty of.

Every believer has two coats:

1. The coat of **Salvation** – God is responsible for providing this coat.
2. The coat of **Christian Character** – you as a believer are responsible for this coat.

There are two sides to the proposition of Christian living:

1. There is your **position** in Christ – this is what Jesus did for you on the Cross. He paid for your sins and offers you salvation – it is the work He did for you to position you in His grace and mercy and Kingdom.
2. There is your **condition** in Christ – this is how you respond and to what Christ has done for you and you let your life shine before others to see the salvation and mercy of God in and through you.  
It's your actions and your lifestyle that either reflects Jesus to others or detracts from others seeing Jesus through you.

There's **IMPUTED righteousness** – this is where Jesus has gone to your account and filled it with His mercy, grace, and goodness. It has been deposited into your spiritual account by Jesus.

There's **PRACTICAL righteousness** – this is when you practice your faith by the lifestyle that you live.

You let your light shine and do not compromise.

You let the world see your second coat that “**you are different to make a difference.**”

1Thess. 5:21-22 “**Prove/test/discern/examine** all things; hold fast to what is good.  
**Abstain** [**to hold oneself off**] from all appearance of evil.”

The principle of Romans 14 of not doing something to cause others to stumble also applies to ourselves not stumbling by being involved in actions we have doubts about.

Rom. 14:23 “...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

- Your Christian Character Coat prevents you from:
  - Sleeping with that guy or girl to keep yourself for your future spouse.  
Test - driving a model before marriage is proven not to work so well.
  - Keeps you from going to the party, bar, club with others who have compromised their devotion to Christ. You don't because Christ has made a difference in your life.
  - If you're not satisfied with Jesus as being Lord, you really didn't get the full dose of salvation and you need come back to an altar and fully receive Him and surrender yourself.

### **Temptation:**

- **If you don't deal with temptation, temptation will deal with you.**
- It doesn't matter your age, gender etc. we are all the same: everyday of our lives we will face temptation:
- Dishonest Christians are ashamed to admit they are tempted.

1Cor. 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is **common** to man...”

- We all have this flesh to deal with.
- Some folks don't think spiritual leaders deal with temptation: but there's a saying:  
**“The higher you climb the mountain, the stronger the wind blows.”**

**Why does God permit temptations?      Four reasons**

1. To reveal your weaknesses

- God will not allow us to live with an oversized opinion of ourselves.

- When you start thinking you are above everybody else and more spiritual and holy – BAM – temptation comes to show you just how weak you really are without His grace and help.
- If you'd of told David that he was going to fail and commit adultery and murder the woman's husband when he was in his prime of victory and success; he'd say you were crazy – no way I'd do that.
- If you'd of told Peter that he would deny Jesus, he would have rebuked you as he did the Lord and insisted he was more spiritual than the other disciple's and would never deny his Lord. But he did.

But you see them after they failed that they are shamed and weep bitterly for their failure.

So beware: Gal. 6:1 “If a man is overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.”

If some of us had not failed, others would not be able to live with us now. We would be so full of our self that no one could stand to be around us.

**It's in our brokenness that we lose our pride.**

## 2. To reveal the need for watchfulness

Ill: [not for slides] The little boy who fell in the water when the waves came and swept him off his feet. He climbed out of the water and gathered his gear when a man asked him “How did you come to fall in?”

The boy replied: “I didn't come to fall in, I came to fish! I just fell in while I was fishing.”

We didn't come to sin and fail, it happened when we weren't watching!  
When we fail, it reveals our weakness.

Prov. 24:10 “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small – insufficient or not enough.”

- It happens when we take our eyes off Jesus and the tide of carnality pulls you in and suddenly, if you're not watching; you will fall.
- This is the day and time for watchfulness or you will fall into sins and bondages that only Jesus can deliver you from.

It's while these were sleeping that they failed:

- It's while Saul slept that David slipped into the camp and took his spear.
- It's while Samson slept that he received the most costly haircut of human history as Delilah cut the seven locks of hair from his head.

If we are to protect our family, character, integrity, testimony – Jesus said to “Watch and Pray that you enter not into temptation.” Matt. 26:41

You can't afford to come to church and have a sleepy = lethargic spirit.

In this day of confusion and turmoil when folks are checking out mentally, emotionally and spiritually – IT'S TIME TO BE AWAKE AND ALERT AND NOT SLUMBER AND THE BRIDEGROOM'S COMING CATCH US OFF GUARD.

- Don't allow yourself to become bored & dulled with your walk with God – STAY AWAKE AND STAY ON FIRE.

3. To force us into a position of trust and dependence on Him again.

- There's something about our human nature that the more we are patted on our backs, the bigger our head swells.
- The more success we get, the less we depend on God.

We ask God to deliver us and God says **NO – I'm going to develop you!**

The only way God can get us to ADVANCE is through ADVERSITY – we are more interested in COMFORT than CHARACTER;

we're crying out – **God take me OUT and God says NO – I'm going to take your THROUGH!**

But when you get through with God bringing you through, you're going to have wings and strength to fly and depend on Me and know that I AM your source and without Me you can do nothing.

Phil. 2:13 “For it is God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

4. To teach you to starve the flesh and feed the spirit.

- If you would hold a post mortem over the greatest defeats in your life, you'd discover a broken down altar, a closed Bible and communication with God cut off – every time.

- You're no longer praying, opening the Bible and feeding yourself, and fellowshiping with God – that is the set up for tremendous failure.
  - But to rebuild the altar, open the Word, and pray to God, the weak can become strong again.

**It takes 150 degrees to make tin,  
 It takes 500 degrees to make brass,  
 It takes 1130 degrees to make silver,  
 It takes 1400 degrees to make gold.**

**Do you want to be a tin Christian or do you want to be a gold Christian?**

- If you want to be a gold Christian, God is going to turn the heat up until all the impurities rise to the surface and get skimmed off over and over again until He sees His reflection in you, and you look like He looks and you think like He thinks, and you act like He acts and you live like He lives.

Gen. 41:41

The coat of salvation is from the Father,  
 The coat of Christian Character is your responsibility, every time you resist sin and temptation; God sees it.

### **3. The Coat of the Overcomer**

- Joseph had to overcome hatred from his own family – hatred and insult he had to overcome.  
 He had to overcome temptation of the worst kind dealing with sexual sin, slander of his character, lies on him, disappointment when the butler forgot him and left him in prison, the desire for revenge and retaliation on his enemies.

**Here is the test to let you know if you've forgiven those who have wronged you:**

- If when you have the power to hurt them or get even, and you don't do it.
- When you could retaliate with revenge – something restrains you and you don't take revenge – you have forgiven them.

Many are in a cage of resentment and bitterness and un-forgiveness towards members of your own family – husband, or wife, or kids, boss, fellow employee/er or someone who has done you wrong.

You're going to find out that if you will forgive them and release them – God is going to bless you and you will be the overcomer.

**You're not really holding them captive, you're bitterness and resentment is holding you as the captive.**

“People are often illogical and unreasonable and self-centered –

**Forgive them anyway.**

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish motives, -

**But do good anyway.**

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies -

**But succeed anyway.**

The good you do today will be forgotten by many tomorrow –

**But do good anyway.**

If you are honest, people may cheat you –

**But be honest anyway.**

The biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest of minds –

**But think big anyway.**

When you spend your years building, someone can destroy it overnight –

**But build anyway.**

People need help, but they may attack you when you try to help them –

**But help people anyway.**

Give the world the best you have, and it will never be enough –

**But give the world the best you've got anyway.**

**You see, in the final analysis; it is between you and God.**

**It was never between you and them anyway.**

They may have meant it for evil, but God meant it for your good.

**Today, will you place your weakness, your temptation into the hands of Jesus so He can make you to be an Overcomer?**