

TAKE YOUR  
POSITION  
*as an*  
OVERCOMER!  
BY MORRIS CERULLO



*Take Your Position  
As An Overcomer*

**Morris Cerullo**



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## Introduction

Beloved, this is your year of overcoming! This is a very strategic time for the Body of Christ—for you!!!

Christ is calling His Church to RISE UP ... to take its rightful position as the powerful force He intended it to be. Like a great general summoning and commanding his troops to face and conquer its enemies and take possession of land that legally belongs to them, Christ is blowing a trumpet and sounding an alarm.

Do you hear it?

In this end-time hour, by His Spirit, Christ is saying to His Church:

***“Rise up! Take your position at My side. I am strengthening you to win great conquests in My Name. I have already won the victory for you, but you must take it in My Name. This is not a time to be at ease. March forward in My strength and power to overcome all opposing forces that have gained strongholds and are holding territories that legally belong to you. Plunder the enemy’s camp! Set the captives free! Take possession of all that I have ordained for you. This is the hour for My Church to rise up! I have ordained for you to go forth, conquering the forces of evil, declaring my Name, healing the sick, binding up the wounded, and bringing multitudes into My Kingdom. This is your hour! RISE UP!”***



Hear the Word of the Lord and let it go deep into your spirit. Respond to Christ's call. Yield to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to release fresh revelation of all that He has planned for you. Please don't be satisfied or content to remain where you are. This is not a time for complacency or passivity! **It's time to cross over!**

The prophetic Word God has spoken to me for you is **“This is My Year of Overcoming!”**

As a member of God's Victorious Army, position yourself as an overcomer! This is your year:

- To overcome in every circumstance!
- To overcome every obstacle!
- To overcome every hindrance!
- To overcome in every battle!
- To overcome in every personal struggle!

For a moment, stop and think about the areas and things in your life in which you need to overcome. Humble yourself before the Lord; ask Him to reveal things you may not even realize the need to overcome. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and as He speaks to you, write them down. Think about the obstacles or hindrances in your life that you need to overcome. What are the current perplexing circumstances—the problems and challenges you must face and overcome?

As you receive God's instruction in this prophetic book, you will know beyond doubt that you are an overcomer! You will know your calling as an overcomer, what it means to be an overcomer, and how to face every circumstance—every situation, every problem, every hindrance, and every battle in 100% victory!

I am not talking about a temporary, emotional experience, where you are simply claiming you are an overcomer ... but an **experience** based on “Thus saith the Lord,” whereby you are, in reality, daily living the life of an overcomer.

Faithfully, God’s servant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morris Cerullo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end.

Morris Cerullo

*Take Your Position As An Overcomer*

## Chapter One

# **As An Overcomer, You are Fearless, Immovable, Unshakeable, and Invincible!**

Christ is going to bring you to a higher level of spiritual maturity as a seasoned soldier in God's Victorious Army, where you are fearless ... no longer intimidated by Satan or his lies. He wants you to know, that you know, that you know—regardless of what you face—that you will overcome. When this revelation breaks through in your spirit, there will be no doubt, no more wavering.

You will be fearless, immoveable, unshakeable, and invincible!

Christ has made it possible for you to overcome in every trial, test, and adversity you may face. He wants you to overcome every obstacle, every wrong attitude, and every negative force in your personal life that stands in your way of walking in 100% victory:

- Anger—bad temper
- Negative attitudes
- Bitterness and hatred toward others who have hurt you
- Unforgiveness

- Temptation—lusts of the flesh
- Addictions
- Fear
- Anxiety—worry
- Past failures
- Doubt
- Depression
- Loneliness
- Discouragement
- Spiritual weariness

As we go deep together into the Word, you will learn what it means to be an overcomer:

- On the job
- At home, in all your family relationships and situations you face
- In all your interactions with others
- In your marriage relationships
- In your financial challenges and crises
- In your ministry, and the obstacles you face in fulfilling all that God has called you to do

Get ready to rise up in 2018 as an overcomer in every area of your life!

## CONQUER, VANQUISH, AND SUBDUE!

Christ has called you and made it possible for you to live an overcoming life. However, until there is fresh revelation based on the Word of what “overcome” really means—what it means to overcome and how to overcome—you will be unable to take your position and truly live as an overcomer. As we begin this series on overcoming, ask the Father to anoint your mind and spirit and release fresh revelation. Don’t rely on your own wisdom or understanding. As you read, rely on the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with fresh “manna”—fresh revelation.

What does the Word say about overcoming?

Jesus told His disciples, *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world* (John 16:33, NIV).

Apostle Paul told the believers in the church in Rome, ... *we are more than conquerors through him who loved us* (Romans 8:37, NIV).

Paul told the believers in Corinth: *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ ...* (II Corinthians 2:14).

John wrote, *Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world* (1 John 4:4, AMPC).

He also wrote, *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?* (I John 5:4-5).

**OVERCOME** means: to conquer; to vanquish; to subdue; as to overcome enemies in battle; To surmount; to get the better of; as to overcome difficulties or obstacles. To overflow; to surcharge; To come upon; to invade. To gain the superiority; to be victorious.

**OVERCOMER:** One who vanquishes or surmounts. The word “overcome” is translated from the Greek word, *nikao*, which means “to conquer.”

In Romans 8:37, when Apostle Paul tells believers *we are more than conquerors*, the word “conqueror” is translated from the Greek word *hypernikao*, and it means: “to be more than a conqueror, to gain a surpassing victory.” The word “conqueror” is derived from the root word *nikao*, which is translated 24 out of 28 times as “overcome.” In other words, conqueror also means overcomer.

As we compare this verse in various translations, we get a clearer understanding of the power to overcome that Christ has made possible for us:

*... in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

Romans 8:37, NASB

*... amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.*

Romans 8:37, AMPC

*... overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us.*

Romans 8:37, TLB

You don’t just win a marginal or temporary victory. You don’t just win a partial victory. As an overcomer, you boldly face the enemy and win an **overwhelming** victory every time!

Not only are you a conqueror-overcomer, you are **EXCEEDINGLY MORE** than an overcomer! You are an overcomer—not maybe—not will be . . . **YOU ARE!**

The key to taking your position as an overcomer is knowing your identity and how Christ sees you. He sees you as one who **overwhelmingly** overcomes through Him and by His power released in and through you. He paid the supreme price so that you can walk in 100% victory over 100% of the enemy, 100% of the time!

Regardless of what circumstances, trials, or adversities you may face, you are already an overcomer! You are 100% victorious because Christ has already overcome Satan and the world!

## **WAGE WAR WITH A CONQUERING SPIRIT AND A RENEWED MIND**

The first step in living the life of an overcomer is to know and believe that you are what God says you are. Being an overcomer is made possible through Christ's overcoming victory on the cross. (I will go more in depth into this in chapter two.)

You cannot overcome with a defeatist mindset. You must not only believe that you are an overcomer, but you must take your position by faith as an overcomer and act like one.

The battle must first be won in your mind!

If you allow thoughts of fear, doubt, unbelief, or discouragement to remain regarding the circumstance or problems you face, you will be defeated before you begin. You are already declaring that you have lost! If you face situations with a wishy-washy, faithless mindset, you will lose the battle in your mind even before you lift up your will to fight.

Satan will do everything within his power to fill your mind with worry, anxiety, fear, defeat, and discouragement concerning the circumstances in your life, until your mind is so weakened that you become depressed, frustrated, and filled with a sense of hopelessness and despair. He will try to oppress and weigh your



mind down with such heavy burdens and pressures, until you are unable to break through the thick cloud of depression and oppression over you, and you will be unable to act in faith on God's promises to you as an overcomer.

As an overcomer, Christ has planned for you to have a strong mind, where you have the ability to control every thought, imagination, desire, and emotion, and bring them into obedience to Christ and conformity to His will.

You must use the powerful, supernatural weapons Apostle Paul mentioned in II Corinthians 10:3-5. He said, *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NIV).

As an overcomer in Christ, you are not weak or ineffective. You have a strong mind. Apostle Paul told Timothy: *For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV).

The extent to which you allow Satan to have access into your mind and to control your thoughts is the degree to which he has control over you.

As an overcomer, you must be willing to take aggressive action. Face your circumstances, problems and adversities **as an overcomer** with a conquering attitude. Recognize Satan's attack. Resist the thoughts he tries to plant in your mind. Take authority over them and cast them out in the Name of Jesus.

As an overcomer, you DEMOLISH everything that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. You TAKE CAPTIVE and bring every thought into submission to Christ and His Word.

You cannot do this in your own natural strength. Don't even try! We are not talking about the power of positive thinking! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you have a strength that is not physical, not earthly—but DIVINE POWER to demolish strongholds the enemy would try to build in your heart and mind. You must wage war *in the Spirit*, using the powerful supernatural weapons Christ has given you.

## **RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF A PASSIVE MIND**

One of Satan's greatest fears is that the Church will recognize its position of power, authority, and dominion as an overcomer—over him. He wants you to think he is in control of your circumstances and there is nothing you can do about them. His objective is to attack you in your mind—to wear you down until you become spiritually weary and “faint” in your mind. He knows that if your mind is weak, you will be weak, and he will be able to gain access to your mind and defeat you.

Becoming “spiritually weary” is one of the most dangerous positions you can be in. I am warning you now so that you will not fall into Satan's trap. Satan is intensifying his attacks on the Church. As the coming of the Lord draws closer, conditions worldwide will continue to get worse. In Matthew 24, Jesus reveals what we are to expect. Satan is waging war on the Church and will try to literally wear you out. Unless you are aware and spiritually prepared for the battle, you will not be able to stand.

Satan will attack you through your circumstances. He will bombard your mind with fear, worry, and doubt until you become spiritually weary. At this point, if you “faint” in your mind, you will become discouraged, lose hope, and resign yourself to accept your circumstances. Your discouragement will lead to depression, where you will be spiritually immobilized, and you will be caught in a vicious cycle of defeat.

Apostle Paul warns us not to become weary and faint in our minds. He said, ... *let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds* (Hebrews 12:1-3).

The Greek word for *faint* means “to unloose; to relax and so, to make weak.” Satan wants to weaken you. He wants you to become so overwhelmed by your circumstances, so weary fighting the battles you have day after day, that you faint—relax in your mind. He wants you to become passive—to receive every negative thought, every sinful thought, every carnal lust and desire, every doubt and worry, into your mind. He wants you to have a passive mind, where your spiritual senses are dulled and inactive so that you will be vulnerable to his attacks. (I will share more with you about the dangers of passivity in your spiritual warfare as an overcomer in chapter three.)

You may be at this dangerous point right now, where you are spiritually weary and have “fainted” in your mind. You may be so tired of the spiritual battles that you are ready to give up. Your mind may be in constant turmoil or you may be at the point of depression. Whatever strategy Satan may be using to attack your mind, **don’t give in!** You are an overcomer through Christ!

As an overcomer, you must take your focus off yourself and your circumstances, refuse to listen to Satan’s lies, and re-focus your spiritual eyes on Christ—the author and finisher of your faith. He is the Great Overcomer—who faced the fierce opposition of the Pharisees, Jewish rulers, Satan, and all the forces of hell, **endured** the agony on the cross, and overcame. And because He has overcome, you will too, through your union with Him!

Regardless of the circumstances or adversities you may be going through—whatever weakness, worry, or fears you may have—through Christ you are . . . not maybe, not hopefully, not sometime in the future . . . **YOU ARE NOW, EXCEEDINGLY, MORE THAN AN OVERCOMER!**

You do not just barely make it. It's a landslide victory! You don't just survive—you thrive! You will **demolish** all opposition of the enemy. Apostle Paul said, ... *If God be for us, who can be against us* (Romans 8:31). When you know who you are, and take your position as an overcomer, there is no devil, no power, no force that can defeat you!

Before we go any further, take time to make a new commitment before the Lord that you will wage war with a conquering spirit and a renewed mind. By faith, speak into the circumstances you face:

***“I am an overcomer! Through Christ, I win an overwhelming victory in every circumstance, every situation, every problem, every trial, and every battle I face. By His power living in me, I overcome Satan and every opposing force. I conquer and demolish every stronghold and bring every thought into conformity and obedience to Christ and His will. I walk in Kingdom authority and live an overcoming life. I am an overcomer!”***

**JESUS SAID,  
“I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!”  
SO WILL YOU!**

Let us now look closely at what it really means to be an overcomer and live an overcoming life.

It is very important for you to understand that living an overcoming life is not “pie-in-the-sky” thinking. It is not a life of ease or void of pain, adversity, opposition, or distress. It is not a life absent of heartaches, sufferings, troubles, or failures. It is not instant deliverance in the trials and tribulations we face.

You do not become an overcomer after you have received your breakthrough, or when your problem or situation is solved. You are an overcomer as you endure, persevere, and walk through difficulties, problems, and tragedies, and deal with them in the power of the Spirit.

You are an overcomer in the face of disappointment, opposition, and what may look like failure.

In His final moments with His twelve disciples in the Upper Room, Jesus prepared them for what they would face after He returned to His Father.

Jesus knew His hour had come.

He knew the crushing agony of the cross was before Him, ... *that the Father had given all things into His hands* ... (John 13:3).

His disciples hung onto every word He spoke.

In chapter fourteen, Jesus spoke of the coming Comforter who would abide with them forever. He said, *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever* (John 14:16). In chapter sixteen, He told them, ... *It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you* (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit—the Comforter—would be a supernatural power living in them, giving them victory over all the power of the enemy and in every circumstance they faced.

He gave them His legacy of peace. He told them, *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14:27). This peace would remain in them and would sustain them in their time of trouble.

He gave them His legacy of love. As He prepared to lay down His life He said, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). His love remaining

in them would enable them to lay down their lives for Him and the sake of the Gospel.

He gave them His legacy of joy. Jesus told them, *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full* (John 15:11). This joy was not just a fleeting emotion. Christ's joy was a supernatural force that would enable them to endure every fiery trial they would face.

He warned them of the persecution they would face. He said,

*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you ... But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

John 15:20-21

*They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.*

John 16:2-3

Jesus made it clear that we are not exempt from the troubles of this life. He said,

*I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]*

John 16:33, AMPC

Jesus did not sugarcoat the truth. He told His disciples plainly that they would be persecuted and face death for His Name's sake. He told them these things because He wanted them to know that **in the midst** of the trials, sufferings, and persecutions they would face, they would have supernatural peace "in Him" to sustain and strengthen them. He was sending the Holy Spirit, Who would **live in them**, giving them power, authority, and dominion over all the power of Satan and his principalities.

The word "tribulation" is derived from the Greek word, *thlipsis*, which means "a pressing; pressing together; oppression; affliction; tribulation; distress." Earlier, Christ had told them, ... *The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...* (John 15:20). He said, ... *I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you* (John 15:19).

Soon after the birth of the Church, beginning with Stephen, who was stoned to death, ... *there was great persecution that arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria ...* (Acts 8:1). During this persecution, they were not defeated. They were overcomers through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers in the Early Church faced their oppressors with a sustaining peace and joy. They marched into the Roman stadiums singing, as they were wrapped in animal skins and thrown to the lions. As they were burned at the stake, they sang praises to God! Overcomers!

## **BE COURAGEOUS AND UNMOVED BY YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

Immediately after speaking about the tribulation they would face, Christ made a remarkable statement. He said, "be of good cheer." In the Amplified Bible, this is translated, ... *but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]!* (John 16:33, AMPC). The word "cheer" is translated from the Greek

word, *tharseó*, which means “to be of good courage; be of good cheer.” Knowing they would face persecution, afflictions, and great sufferings for His Name’s sake, Christ encouraged them to be courageous and unmoved by their circumstances.

What could possibly be the basis or reason for being cheerful in the face of suffering, afflictions, persecution, and death?

The reason Christ gave His disciples why they were to be of good cheer—take courage and be confident, unmoved when they faced persecution ... He said, “I have overcome the world.” In the Amplified version this is translated, ... *For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]* (John 16:33, AMPC). Notice that Christ said, “I **have** overcome the world”—past tense, not “I will overcome the world.”

In these final moments with His disciples, He faced the cross **knowing** He had already overcome the world. He knew ... *the Father had given all things into His hands* ... (John 13:3). While He was in the world, He defeated Satan and the powers and principalities of this world. His purpose for coming into the world was to destroy the works of the devil. ... *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil* (I John 3:8).

## **GOD ALWAYS—AT ALL TIMES CAUSES YOU TO CONQUER!**

Jesus not only defeated Satan through His life, death, and resurrection; as the Mighty Overcomer, He completely and totally destroyed the works of the devil. He did not pay the supreme sacrifice for you to live in 50%, 75%, or 99% victory. He paid the price so that you can live as an overcomer in 100% victory in every circumstance or trial you face!



Christ overcame Satan, as the god of this world with all his powers and principalities, and all that is in the world. He has deprived Satan and his principalities and the world of their power over you.

He faced the cruel mockings, beatings, and agony of the cross in total victory. On the cross, when He cried, “It is finished,” Christ forever won the victory and set men free from the power of Satan.

When He told His disciples “I have overcome the world,” in essence He was saying, “I have overcome—and you will too!” That is the reason the disciples and believers in the Early Church were able to courageously face sufferings, afflictions, and death. They had faith and confidence that just as Christ overcame, they, too, would overcome.

Always remember, the strong foundation for you as an overcomer is not in you or anything you possess. It is through faith in Christ, Who has already overcome and won the victory for you.

Apostle Paul made it clear that our victory as overcomers is *through* Christ. He told the Corinthian believers, *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place* (II Corinthians 2:14). The word “always” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *pantote*, which means “at all times, always.” The word, *triumph* means “to conquer or to give victory—cause to triumph over.” Praise God! It is God Who **always—at all times**—causes us to conquer and triumph in every circumstance!

He said, *But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:57, AMPC).

As a statement of your faith, say aloud: ***“I am an overcomer through Christ. God always—at all times—enables me to conquer and triumph in every circumstance.”***

## **FOUR MAJOR THINGS THAT ENSURE YOUR VICTORY AS AN OVERCOMER**

### **1. You Overcome Through the Holy Spirit Living in You**

*In writing to believers, John said, Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.*

1 John 4:4, AMPC

*For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith. Who is it that is victorious over [that conquers] the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in and relies on that fact]?*

1 John 5:4-5, AMPC

How did John say you overcome?

Through your natural abilities? Through the power of positive thinking? By relying on man-made solutions? By your own tenacity and will to not give up?

No! Settle it now in your heart and mind. You cannot live an overcoming life and have victory in the circumstances you face through any self-effort!

You overcome by virtue of your birthright as a born-again child of God. John said, *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world ...* (I John 5:4).

As a child of God, you are born again by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in you, and by virtue of the Holy Spirit living in you, **you are an overcomer**. This is part of your spiritual birthright!

You have (past tense) overcome Satan, his evil principalities and powers, and the world because there is a power—a force—the precious Holy Spirit—that is greater, *living* in you. The Presence of the Holy Spirit ensures your victory. Jesus said,

*... I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.*

Luke 10:19, AMPC

## **2. You Overcome as You Fight the Fight of Faith**

John continues in verse four to further emphasize and clarify how we overcome. Let this go deep into your spirit. He said, *... and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith* (I John 5:4).

Your ability to overcome as a child of God—born of His Spirit—is through faith in Christ, Who has overcome the world, Satan, and the evil principalities and powers of darkness. However, your victory is not automatic. Christ has won the victory, but you must exert spiritual energy by acting in faith to claim it. Because He has won the victory for you, you cannot just sit back with your hands folded. You must face your circumstances, trials, and adversities, and wage war **in the Spirit** against the enemy based firmly upon faith in what Christ has accomplished for you.

Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to *Fight the good fight of faith ...* (I Timothy 6:12). As an overcomer, you must be willing to fight the fight of faith—not in your own power or limited strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit living within you.

The only time you will be defeated is if you give in to your circumstances and fail to fight.

In the problems you face in your personal life, in your family, on the job, in your finances, or in the ministry God has given you, are you fighting the fight of faith? Or are you relying upon your natural abilities, wisdom, or ingenuity to solve your problems?

Never forget, we are at war, fighting an enemy that has already been defeated! Paul said, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places* (Ephesians 6:12). Refuse to be intimidated by the enemy. Face him and every problem and situation **in faith**, knowing you cannot be defeated, because the Holy Spirit—Who is greater than your enemy, greater than all the forces of darkness, and greater than anything you will ever face—is working on your behalf to insure your victory!

For a moment, think about the circumstances, problems, adversities, and situations that you need to overcome.

- You may be facing a seemingly insurmountable problem in a family relationship.
- You may have a serious sickness or chronic health problem.
- You may face major problems on your job.

- You may feel like you are drowning in a sea of debt, with no hope in sight.
- Your marriage may be falling apart.
- Your teenage son or daughter may have a life-threatening addiction to drugs.

In whatever circumstance you now face, Christ has made it possible for you to overcome. But you must take your eyes off the seemingly impossible circumstance or situation you face, focus your eyes on Christ and the victory He has already won for you, and activate your faith to take hold of His promises.

Refuse to focus your eyes on the things you see with your natural eyes—the obstacles, the impossibilities you face. Focus your spiritual vision—your faith—on Christ, believing and expecting that He will fulfill His Word. Don't question God's promises, saying to yourself, "I wonder if God really meant what He said."

Don't question the promises He has given in His Word.

Accept them.

Believe them.

Embrace them. Be fully persuaded that what He has promised He will do!

As you wait for God's divine intervention and the victory in your circumstances, **fight** the fight of faith! Don't waver or become discouraged. James wrote, *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord* (James 1:6). When you focus your faith upon God and Who He is—His unlimited power, faithfulness, and the

infallibility of His Word—you will break through the barrier of fear and unbelief!

You will stop struggling!

You will stop questioning!

You will be able to persevere in faith until you have taken hold of God's promises and have overcome!

### **3. You Overcome Through the Blood of Jesus**

In the Book of Revelation, chapter twelve is one of the most powerful verses related to the Christian's overcoming victory. John was given a glimpse of the conquering Church:

*And they overcame and conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, for they did not love their life and renounce their faith even when faced with death.*

Revelation 12:11, AMPC

In this chapter, we see an end-time battle where Satan, knowing his time is short, pours out his fury and makes war against the saints. (Revelation 12:17.) John did not see a defeated Church, cowering in fear of the enemy. He saw a conquering, overcoming Church who won the victory through the Blood of the Lamb.

I pray that as you read, you will have a fresh revelation of the power of the blood of Jesus, and how it is the source of your victory over Satan—in every circumstance you face.

**Through Jesus' death and the shedding of His precious blood, He destroyed the works of the devil.** Jesus came into this world with a divine purpose—to destroy—not to just wound him—but to destroy his works—sin, sickness and death. (I John 3:8). Through the blood He shed, He destroyed Satan.

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same: that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.*

Hebrews 2:14

To win victory in your circumstances and in the battles you face, you must go on the offensive (more about this offensive strategy in chapter four). As you do, remember, you are facing an enemy that is defeated and, in the power of the Spirit, you are going out to conquer and take the victory in Jesus' Name. Tell Satan, "The blood of Jesus is against you! I apply the blood of Jesus to my life and overcome you now in His Name! Get on your side of the line!"

**Through His blood, you have direct access into the Holy of Holies, whereby you can enter into the very Presence of God.**

*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Hebrews 9:11-12

Through that one sacrifice—His broken, bleeding body—He removed the veil separating God and man, and has made it possible for you to not only enter the Holy of Holies—but to live continually in His Presence.

**Through the blood of Jesus, you have boldness to enter the Holy of Holies and live in the fullness of God's Presence.** There in His Presence, you can come boldly and receive supernatural

divine assistance in your time of need.

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near...*

Hebrews 10:19-22

*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:14-16

Your boldness in approaching the Father is not a matter of your own human confidence; it is a God-given right that the blood of Jesus bought for you. Your boldness is not in yourself, but in the power of the blood of Jesus. You have faith you will receive what you ask—not because of your own merit, but because of Jesus’ blood!

**Through the blood of Jesus, you are able to come to God “in full assurance of faith”—without wavering.**

*And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without*



wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:21-23

When you really know the power of the blood of Jesus and the victory He has won for you, you come before the Father without wavering, knowing you will receive whatever you need. Your faith is steadfast—unshakeable!

As an overcomer, remember the power of the blood of Jesus and apply it daily to your life! Declare the following aloud as a statement of your faith: **“I AM AN OVERCOMER!”**

- Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed!  
(1 Peter 1:18-19)
- Through His blood, I am reconciled to the Father. I stand acquitted before God. My sins are blotted out, and there is nothing to prevent me from approaching God. (Romans 3:24-25)
- Through His blood, I am cleansed from all sin!  
(1 John 1:7)
- Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified!  
(Hebrews 13:11-12)
- Through His blood, I am a king and priest unto God. I have the legal right to live in God’s Presence and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. Through His blood, I can approach God and obtain His blessings for others. (Revelation 5:9-10)
- Through Jesus’ blood, I overcome Satan and all his demonic powers and principalities! (Revelation 12:11)

#### **4. You Overcome by The Word of Your Testimony**

Not only are you an overcomer through your faith and the all-powerful blood of Jesus, but you also overcome by your testimony. In Revelation 12:11, after declaring that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb, John continued by saying, *and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

Your testimony of faith in Christ is a powerful weapon in overcoming. When you face obstacles, crises, or adversities, what is your testimony? What are you speaking into your situation? Are you speaking words of faith? Are you declaring God's faithfulness? As you walk through trials and testing, are you testifying to others of God's sustaining mercy and grace? Or do you give in to whining and complaining about your circumstances?

Remaining faithful to their faith in Christ, the disciples and believers in the Early Church continued to share the Gospel to others, even though it meant persecution and could cost them their lives. They were not fearful or intimidated by the pain, torture, or death they faced, but continued to proclaim Christ wherever they went.

They did not cling to their lives, but were so bound by their love for Christ that they were willing to lay down their lives for His sake. Matthew was killed by a sword. Mark was dragged by horses through the streets until he died. Luke was hanged in Greece, as a result of his preaching to the lost. Peter was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross. James, the Just (the leader of the Church in Jerusalem), was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. James (the son of Zebedee) was ultimately beheaded in Jerusalem. Bartholomew (also known as Nathanael) was martyred for his preaching in Armenia, where he was flayed to death by a whip. Andrew was severely whipped by seven soldiers before being crucified on an x-shaped cross. Thomas was stabbed with a spear

during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in India. Jude (the brother of Jesus) was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. Barnabas was stoned to death. Paul was imprisoned, tortured, and then beheaded by the evil emperor, Nero, at Rome, in AD 67.

These faithful, spiritual warriors were not defeated—they were overcomers! Satan tried to destroy the Church. Persecution could not defeat them. Torture could not stop their testimony. Death at the hands of the cruel Roman emperors could not defeat them. Their testimonies live on! In the midst of persecution, the Church grew stronger and multiplied.

Their faith, love for Christ, and faithfulness in declaring the Gospel are examples of the strong, enduring, overcoming faith the Church needs today. Regardless of the ungodly, anti-Christ spirits that have gained strongholds against the Church—and the strong persecution in many nations where Christians are being imprisoned and martyred for the Gospel—the Church of Jesus Christ is not defeated!

We are the conquering Church—we are overcomers!

Regardless of the difficulties or problems you face, take your position as an overcomer! Whatever you do, do not see yourself as being defeated or accept defeat. As you walk through trials, suffering, or affliction, continue to declare God's faithfulness. Speak His promises and continue to share your faith and the Gospel wherever you go.

**I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF SATAN  
“DOING A NUMBER” ON GOD’S PEOPLE!**

You can search the Word from cover to cover, and you will never find one verse—not even one word—that teaches God’s people must ever be defeated, or accept defeat.

For a moment, think about the problems you face right now—the financial problems that seem to keep growing every day; the family relationships that seem to be deteriorating instead of improving; your physical condition that may be growing worse instead of better; your spouse; or your children, who may be rebellious, or bound by drugs or alcohol.

If Satan has been telling you that the situation or problem you face is hopeless—that you might as well give up, that you might as well admit you are defeated—it’s time you tell him he is a liar, and to get on his side of the line!

Today is a new day of victory for you! God has made it possible for you to conquer—overcome—be 100% victorious in every situation you face. There is no reason for you ever to be defeated. God has purposed that you be strong ... *in the power of His might* (Ephesians 6:10).

God promised Moses and the children of Israel: *There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you* (Deuteronomy 11:25).

God promised Joshua: *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee* (Joshua 1:5).

Christ promised the 70 disciples He sent forth: *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enem: and nothing shall by any means hurt you*

(Luke 10:19).

These promises belong to you. You must base your victory on these and upon the truths I have shared with you.

You are an overcomer:

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you
- Through faith
- Through the blood of Jesus
- Through the word of your testimony

In this end-time hour, God is releasing new strength and bringing the Church into a new position of strength, faith, unity and power!

He is raising you up, as part of an army of men and women who are walking in His power and anointing, who are united and who form an impenetrable force that CANNOT and WILL NOT be defeated.

You are part of God's Victorious Army!

You **are** an OVERCOMER!

## **As An Overcomer, You are Fearless, Immovable, Unshakeable, and Invincible!**

During your time of prayer, ask the Lord to reveal the things in your life that you need to overcome. Ask Him to reveal things in your life you may not even realize you need to overcome. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and as He speaks, write them down.

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What does being an overcomer mean to you?

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Study the following verses, then write down what the Holy Spirit reveals to you:

**John 16:33:**

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**II Corinthians 2:14:**

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**Romans 8:37:**

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**I John 4:4:**

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*As An Overcomer, You are Fearless, Immovable, Unshakeable, and Invincible!*

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**I John 5:4-5:**

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As a result of that you learned after reading chapter one, what actions are you going to take?

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*Take Your Position As An Overcomer*

## Chapter Two

# None of These Things Move Me!

In this chapter, we continue the revelation concerning what it means to be an overcomer, as we look at the life of Apostle Paul. Although he was persecuted, beaten, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, and was thrown to the lions, he is one of the greatest examples of an overcomer in the Word. He was not fearful, discouraged, or defeated, but boldly faced his trials and afflictions knowing he would overcome.

Consider his confession of faith. Knowing that imprisonment and suffering awaited him Paul said ... *none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself ...* (Acts 20:24).

He told Timothy concerning the things which he suffered ... *I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day* (II Timothy 1:12).

When you face problems, disappointments, or adversities, are you able to say, “None of these things move me?”

When your faith is being tried and it seems there is no possible way out in your crisis, can you say, “I am persuaded... I know beyond all doubt that my God will keep me, and all that I have entrusted into His hands, and make me victorious?”

Apostle Paul was a fearless, seasoned, spiritual warrior, who refused to be intimidated by the enemy. As we follow him throughout his life, we learn some of the major characteristics of an overcomer and life lessons in living an overcoming life.

## **PAUL POSSESSED THE MIND AND ATTITUDE OF AN OVERCOMER**

Paul did not shrink back from persecution, suffering, afflictions, or the obstacles he faced in fulfilling the ministry for which God had called him. In his letter to the Corinthian church, he spoke of the things which he endured but made it clear that none of them had defeated him. He began by revealing the source of his victory over these circumstances. He said,

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV

The awesome treasure Paul was speaking of is Christ living in us, ... *the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:27). Paul acknowledged that it was Christ and His all-surpassing power working in him, and not his own power. This is the reason why he could say, “None of these things move me!” He knew he didn’t have power in himself, but there was an all-surpassing power from God that enabled him to overcome.

In II Corinthians 4:8, Paul continued by saying, *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed ...*

There are problems and troubles plaguing the nations—the threat of terrorist attacks on almost a daily basis, political strife and turmoil, racial prejudice and unrest, financial instability, increase

of natural disasters, famines, upheavals and increased violence, and the threat of nuclear war.

We face troubles of every kind in our daily lives at home, at school, on the job, in our finances, in our families, and in our personal lives. It seems we are faced with a myriad of troubles on every hand.

However, as an overcomer through Christ, you can face these troubled times and your personal troubles and not be distressed. When troubles arise, you do not need to give in to fear or stress. When you are convinced—persuaded—like Paul, that through Christ you are victorious, you will have Christ’s peace to sustain and strengthen you.

Just as Christ spoke to the storm when His disciples were tossed by the raging sea and said, *Peace, be still* (Mark 4:39), Christ is saying to you in the troubles you face,

*Peace I leave with you: My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]*

John 14:27, AMPC

Paul said, ... *we are perplexed, but not in despair* (II Corinthians 4:8).

The word *perplexed* means “filled with uncertainty, puzzled, bewildered.” In this verse, perplexed is translated from the Greek word *aporeo*, meaning, “to be without resources, to be in straits, to be left wanting, to be embarrassed, not to know how to decide or what to do.”

In the Amplified version, this phrase is translated, ... *we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair* (2 Corinthians 4:8, AMPC). There were situations and circumstances that Paul faced in which there seemed to be no solution—no way out. There was frustration and uncertainty, but he did not give in to despair or give up.

There may be situations that leave you perplexed—confused, uncertain, afraid, unable to determine what is needed or what actions you need to take. As an overcomer, you must not allow yourself to be driven to a point of despair, where you think there is no hope and you might as well give up. Stand on the Word and God’s promises. Depend on the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will in your circumstances. Trust and believe the Lord to direct you and make you victorious.

## **PAUL DIDN’T RUN FROM THE BATTLE**

**Paul told the Corinthians, we are ... *persecuted, but not forsaken* ... (II Corinthians 4:9).**

As an overcomer, he was not afraid of persecution. Paul knew he would face persecution. He was committed unto death. He knew and trusted the Lord to strengthen and sustain him. Paul faced intense persecution, but was an overcomer because he knew the Lord was with him. He was in prison for a total of approximately six years, but that didn’t stop him from fulfilling the ministry God gave him. During his first imprisonment in Rome, he wrote four epistles, strengthening the churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae, and exhorting Philemon.

As an overcomer, he did not run from the battle. He was prepared to face any challenge and courageously pressed forward, regardless of the difficulties and opposition he knew was before him. In Ephesus, knowing he would face persecution in Jerusalem,

He said,

*And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.*

Acts 20:22-23

The difficulties, afflictions, and persecutions Paul faced had no power over him. He continued by saying, *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God* (Acts 20:24). He wasn't worried about the persecution; he was focused on the Lord and the ministry He had given him.

Even in his greatest afflictions, Paul knew God would support him and would never forsake him. He had confidence God would deliver him. He told Timothy that he was deserted by all his friends,

*Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom.*

II Timothy 4:17-18

In the trials, problems, and troubles you face, can you say, **“None of these things move me!”**

## AS AN OVERCOMER, DEVELOP A COURAGEOUS ATTITUDE

In the Western world, we do not face the intense persecution and death that is happening in other parts of the world. It is estimated that somewhere in the world, a Christian is killed for his faith every five minutes. According to a study in 2001 by David B. Barrett, publisher of the World Christian Encyclopedia, from AD 30 through the year 2,000, there were 70 million Christian martyrs—45 million in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to *The Voice of the Martyrs*, in the 1990's, the number of Christians martyred each year worldwide for their faith was around 50,000. In 2016, that number almost doubled—reaching 90,000 (excluding India and China).

These martyrs for Christ were not defeated! They were overcomers!

Although we do not face this same type of persecution at this time, as overcomers we must have the same courageous attitude as Paul when we face fiery trials, discrimination, and intimidation from our enemies. Instead of fearing the consequences, as we take a bold stand for the Gospel, we must face all intimidation and opposition of the enemy with courage and confidence, **knowing** that the Lord is with us and will deliver us. Our focus must not be on the difficulties or afflictions we may face, but upon the Lord Who has promised to deliver us out of all our troubles.

David said,

*Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me  
from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with  
songs of deliverance. Selah.*

Psalm 32:7

*But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

Psalm 37:39

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Psalm 46:1

God has promised to deliver us in our time of trouble. And call upon me in the day of trouble: *I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me* (Psalm 50:15).

**Paul said, ... cast down, but not destroyed (II Corinthians 4:9).**

In the Amplified version verse nine is translated, *We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven,), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed* (2 Corinthians 4:9, AMPC). Paul and the other apostles were sometimes dejected or cast down; at times it seemed as if the enemy had prevailed. Yet, in the midst of what Paul faced, he was never defeated or destroyed. He said,

*... with all our tribulation and in spite of it, [I am filled with the comfort], I am overflowing with joy. For even when we arrived in Macedonia, our bodies had no ease or rest, but we were oppressed in every way and afflicted at every turn—fighting and contentions without, dread and fears within [us]. But God, Who comforts and encourages and refreshes and cheers the depressed and the sinking, comforted and encouraged and refreshed and cheered us by the arrival of Titus.*

2 Corinthians 7:4-6, AMPC



## **AS AN OVERCOMER, REFUSE TO GIVE IN TO DISCOURAGEMENT**

As an overcomer, Paul did not give in to discouragement, doubt, or fear in his troubles. He rejoiced in the midst of them! We cannot read anywhere in scripture where he complained or felt sorry for himself. He considered that the things he endured would result in the Gospel being multiplied, and the churches would be strengthened by seeing his example of faith.

After saying:

- We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed
- We are perplexed, but not in despair
- Persecuted, but not forsaken
- Cast down, but not destroyed (II Corinthians 4:8-9).

Paul concludes by saying: *Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear) ...* (2 Corinthians 4:16, AMPC). In other words, Paul was saying that regardless of what sufferings, afflictions, or persecution he might face, he would not give in to discouragement, exhaustion, or fear.

As an overcomer, this must also be your determination as you face pain, suffering, disappointments, seeming failures, and extreme difficulties.

Paul realized some very important keys in living an overcoming life. He knew:

- Satan was not in control
- God was with him and would deliver him in his time of trouble

- God would strengthen and sustain him
- God would be glorified through Him
- His afflictions were only temporary
- God would turn them around for his good

Paul said,

*Though our outward man is (progressively) decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being (progressively) renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory—beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!*

2 Corinthians 4:16-17, AMPC

In other words, Paul saw, with eyes of faith, his troubles and afflictions as a means of producing for him *a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory* (II Corinthians 4:17). He considered his afflictions to be light—temporary—and could not be compared to the surpassing glories prepared for him that he would enjoy for eternity.

His spiritual eyes were not focused on his visible, outward circumstances—which were only temporary—but upon the invisible, eternal God in Whom He believed and trusted would fulfill all He promised. He said,

*Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for*

*the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.*

2 Corinthians 4:18, AMPC

## **AS AN OVERCOMER, FOCUS YOUR FAITH**

As an overcomer, you must also refuse to keep your eyes focused on your problems, difficulties, and afflictions. Think about the fact that Christ has already won the victory for you and the promises God has given you.

You may have a sickness—crippling arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, or some incurable condition. You may be confined to a wheelchair or disabled, unable to walk. Your loved one may be suffering from a life-threatening sickness or a debilitating disease. Focus your faith on God’s faithfulness to His Word and His promises. Remember, it is *through faith and patience (you) inherit the promises* (Hebrews 6:12).

God has sealed His promises with His oath.

*Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise, the immutability of his counsel, confirmed by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

Hebrews 6:17-18

Focus your faith on His promises of healing:

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

I Peter 2:24

If you continue to focus on your physical condition, pain, or physical disabilities—the medical report and the impossibilities of your condition—you will open the door to fear and doubt. These will be walls of obstacles to receiving the fulfillment of God’s promises. A spirit of fear will grab hold of you and will tell you your condition will grow worse—that nothing can be done—that you might as well give up hope of ever being whole again. As fear sets in, your faith will begin to waver and you will begin to question God: “Why hasn’t God healed me? Why has He allowed me to suffer?”

Refuse to allow fear to gain an entrance into your heart and mind. The devil is a liar!

To receive the fulfillment of God’s promise of healing for your life or for your loved ones, you must continue to focus your faith on His promises and His unfailing record.

*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

Numbers 23:19

The same is true if you are facing a financial need. If you focus on your mountain of debt, your impossible circumstances, your limited income, your great financial need, or your lack—fear and doubt will fill your mind and you be unable to take hold of God’s promises to meet your financial needs.

God may have given you a promise, or a *Rhema* word regarding your ministry, which in the natural may seem impossible. You may even have shut it away in the back of your mind, because you have waited for years, and have not yet seen the fulfillment of His promise to you.

Don’t let go of His promise, beloved. Don’t get disheartened or weary. Persevere in faith. This is your year to overcome in every trial, every problem, and every situation you face. Like Paul, focus your faith to see beyond the natural into the invisible!

Remember, only when you see into the invisible will you dare to do the impossible!

## **THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THAT COULD DEFEAT PAUL!**

Like a well-seasoned warrior, Paul refused to retreat. He persevered and endured with great faith and joy even in his sufferings. Writing from prison in Rome, Paul told the believers in the Colossian Church, *[Even] now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf...*(Colossians 1:24, AMPC). He instructed the believers in Rome to not only rejoice in hope of the glory of God, but to also rejoice **in** their tribulations.

He said:

*Moreover—let us also be full of joy now! Let us exalt and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in*

*our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character—that is, approved faith and tried integrity. And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.*

Romans 5:3-4, AMPC

You may be thinking, “Brother Cerullo, how can I possibly rejoice in the desperate circumstances I face? I have reached a point where I don’t know what to do. In the natural, there is no solution to the problems I face in my financial situation. I don’t have enough money to pay all my bills, to buy food, or my basic necessities. The bills have piled up and my creditors are calling me on an almost daily basis.”

Through experience, Paul learned to rejoice in his tribulations because he knew he would overcome in every situation. He said, *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ ...* (II Corinthians 2:14). He knew he would not be defeated. He knew God would always—at all times—cause him to triumph in Christ. He knew that the pressures, suffering, and hardships God enabled him to endure would result in raising him to an even greater level of strength.

Paul said you can rejoice in your hardships and troubles because it will produce in you:

- Patience
- Experience
- Endurance

- Maturity of character
- Hope

Charles Spurgeon gave a special word for those going through hard times. He said, “The Lord trains his soldiers, not by allowing them to lie on beds of ease, but by calling them to difficult marches and service. He makes them wade through streams, swim across rivers, climb steep mountains, and walk many long marches carrying heavy backpacks. This is how He develops soldiers—not by dressing them in fine uniforms to strut at the gates of the barracks. Soldiers can only be made in battle and are not developed in times of peace. The education of true warriors requires the smell of gunpowder and fighting in the midst of flying bullets and exploding bombs—not by living through pleasant and peaceful times.”

As a soldier in God’s Victorious Army, God is raising you up as a strong, powerful spiritual warrior.

You know who you are in Christ.

You have heard the call of the Spirit and are taking your position as an overcomer.

You will never give up or retreat.

You are in training to overcome—in every circumstance, every obstacle, every hindrance, in every battle!

### **PAUL SAID, “I AM READY!”**

When we look at the life of Apostle Paul, we wonder, “What was it that enabled him to endure pain, sufferings, afflictions and all types of persecution and eventually martyrdom as an overcomer?” Paul was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at

Rome in AD 67. He was triumphant to the end! As he faced death, this was his testimony:

In his final farewell to the elders in Ephesus, knowing he would face afflictions and imprisonment, he said:

*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

Acts 20:24

In Caesarea, when the prophet Agabus prophesied he would be bound by the Jews in Jerusalem and would be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles, Paul said:

*... What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*

Acts 21:13

As he approached the time of his death, He told Timothy, his son in the Gospel:

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

II Timothy 4:6-8



Paul said, “I am ready!” He faced his impending torture and death as a mighty overcomer! He knew his time had come to offer his life for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. He knew He had endured—fought a good fight of faith and finished the ministry Christ had given him. And, he knew where He was going. He had told the Corinthian Church, *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight: ) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord* (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Consider what Paul had endured throughout his ministry. He summarized to the Corinthian believers what he had faced:

*Five times I received from [the hands of] the Jews forty [lashes all] but one; Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been aboard a ship wrecked at sea; a [whole] night and a day I have spent (adrift) on the deep; Many times on journeys, [exposed to] perils from rivers, perils from bandits, perils from [my own] nation, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the desert places, perils in the sea, perils from those posing as believers [but destitute of Christian knowledge and piety]; In toil and hardship, watching often [through sleepless nights], in hunger and thirst, frequently driven to fasting by want, in cold and exposure and lack of clothing. And besides those things that are without, there is the daily [inescapable pressure] of my care and anxiety for all the churches!*

2 Corinthians 11:24-28, AMPC

## **PAUL WAS NOT DEFEATED ONE TIME!**

Paul faced every possible type of adversity, but was not defeated one time. He was stoned at Lystra and left for dead, but God miraculously raised him up. Being stoned and left for dead didn't stop him! He went back into the town where he was stoned and the next day continued on his ministry with Barnabas to Derbe.

*But some Jews arrived there from Antioch and Iconium; and having persuaded the people and won them over, they stoned Paul and [afterward] dragged him out of the town, thinking he was dead. But the disciples formed a circle about him, and he got up and went back into the town; and on the morrow he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.*

Acts 14:19-20, AMPC

He spoke of the things he endured, and exhorted Timothy to also endure:

*Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

II Timothy 3:11

Paul's personal testimony was that in all the persecutions and afflictions that he had endured, the Lord delivered him out of them all. Then he told Timothy, *But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry* (2 Timothy 4:5, NIV). He didn't tell Timothy to run from hardships, but to **endure** them for the sake of the Gospel. He said,

*For that [Gospel] I am suffering affliction and even wearing chains, like a criminal. But the Word*

*of God is not chained or imprisoned! Therefore I [am ready to] persevere and stand my ground with patience and endure everything for the sake of the elect [God's chosen], so that they too may obtain [the] salvation which is in Christ Jesus with [the reward of] eternal glory.*

II Timothy 2:9-10

Patience—perseverance—endurance—are all characteristics of the overcomer! Paul told Timothy, *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ* (II Timothy 2:3).

## **PAUL'S EYES WERE FIXED ON CHRIST**

What was it that enabled Paul to endure?

Paul's eyes were fixed upon Christ, Who endured the cross, overcame the world, and defeated Satan and all the powers of darkness. He exhorts us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and run the race set before us with **endurance** and **perseverance**:

*... let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also the Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you*

*may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.*

Hebrews 12:1-3, AMPC

The word *endured* in this passage is translated from a Greek word meaning to “bear trials, have fortitude, persevere, endure.”

In the above passage, Paul sums up three things we must do as an overcomer:

1. Get rid of every hindrance and sin. In the NIV translation: *... throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles ...* (Hebrews 12:1, NIV).
2. Run with patience and endurance the race set before us.
3. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus: *fixing our eyes on Jesus ...* (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).

Paul was able to endure because his faith was firmly fixed on Christ. He was convinced, beyond all doubt, that nothing would be able to defeat him. He knew he was an overcomer through Christ. In Romans, chapter eight, speaking from his own experience, he clearly explains that there is nothing that can separate us from Christ’s love—and as a result, we are conquerors ... overcomers.

In this chapter, after summing up the awesome privileges we have as believers, in verse 31, Paul first asks a very penetrating question: *... If God be for us, who can be against us?* (Romans 8:31). In other words, if God, Who was willing to send His only Son to die on the cross for us, is for us, there is absolutely no one—no power, no force on earth or in hell that can stand against us!

When you have a full revelation of God’s unlimited, immeasurable power—His great love for you, what He has

provided for you, and the victory Christ won for you—you will realize that no matter who or what may come against you, they will not prevail! Satan and all the forces of hell cannot destroy a child of the living God!

## **NOTHING CAN DEFEAT YOU!**

Paul continued in verse thirty-five by asking one of the most vital questions you must answer for yourself as an overcomer, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Paul continues by listing major obstacles that we all face—at one time or another—in one form or another: Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword. In verse thirty-seven he answers this question with an emphatic “NO!”

Pause for a moment and think about it. Think about the circumstances you face. Ask yourself these questions: “Is there any trouble, problem, affliction, persecution or situation that can separate me from Christ’s love? Can Satan or any of the things he uses to attack me defeat me?”

Look at the translation of Romans 8:35, 37-39 in the Amplified version, which gives us a clearer understanding:

*Who shall ever separate us from Christ’s love? Shall suffering and affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution, or hunger, or destitution, or peril, or sword? Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded beyond doubt—am sure—that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor things impending and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, Nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation*

*will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Nothing—absolutely nothing—can separate you from the love of God that is through Christ. Paul said, “For I am persuaded beyond doubt!” Your faith must be so rooted and grounded in the knowledge of God’s unfailing love, and all that Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection, that you will be persuaded BEYOND ALL DOUBT that nothing can defeat you!

Not only do you have the assurance that nothing can separate you from Christ’s love, but that **in all these things**: tribulation (troubles, afflictions), distress, persecution, scarcity, hunger, lack of clothing and the essentials of life, danger, or death, you are a conqueror and win “a surpassing victory” through Christ. The New American Standard translation reads, *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us* (Romans 8:37, NASB).

This means that whatever troubles, heartaches, problems, or trials you may be going through right now, or may face in the future—YOU OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER! This does not mean that you are immune from hardships, suffering, or trouble, or that God will remove all of these from you. Remember Jesus said: *... In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world* (John 16:33).

As an overcomer, you don’t complain, whine, or question why God has allowed hardships, sufferings, or trouble to come into your life. Like Paul, in every circumstance, you are able to say, ***“None of these things move me! If God be for me, who can stand against me! I am a conqueror—an overcomer through Christ. I overwhelmingly conquer! I win a surpassing victory!”***

## **BECAUSE CHRIST HAS OVERCOME, YOU WILL TOO!**

In taking your position as an overcomer, like Paul, you must be persuaded beyond all doubt that because of Christ's overwhelming victory and defeat of Satan on the cross, you will overcome in every circumstance—in every area of your life. And, you must face troubles, trials, afflictions, and problems knowing that you are—not maybe, not sometime in the future—but you **are MORE THAN A CONQUEROR** through Christ.

Your position as an overcomer is not something that is based on wishful thinking. It is not based on emotion or feeling. When you go through the heat of the battle and it seems as if you are being overwhelmed by your circumstances, you may not feel, sense, or see the victory. Your ability to overcome is through your faith that is firmly established on God's Word.

In the form of human flesh, Jesus faced and conquered Satan and all the forces of hell. He entered the arena of spiritual warfare against Satan knowing He would conquer and utterly defeat him. He knew there was no possibility of defeat.

There was not one occasion in His life where He ever doubted or wondered if He would fail. The forty days Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he did not worry about whether or not He would yield to temptation. When He began His ministry, He did not think about failing. When He healed the sick, commanded the winds to be still, cast out demons, and raised the dead, He did not one time wonder if what He spoke would come to pass.

Jesus, the Great Conqueror, knew He would not fail. He faced Satan knowing that all of heaven was backing Him up. He knew the Father would not leave Him in the grave. He knew on the third day He would rise again—triumphant over death, hell, and the grave.

Jesus did not look upon His death as a time of defeat. Earlier in the week preceding his death, Jesus had told His disciples:

*... The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

John 12:23-24

## **JESUS CONQUERED SATAN, DEATH, HELL AND THE GRAVE FOR YOU!**

The world considered Jesus' death as a time of defeat. Satan appeared victorious—the scribes and Pharisees succeeded in condemning Him to death, and His disciples and followers had forsaken Him. They had given up all hope for the establishment of a new kingdom.

Jesus looked beyond the pain and agony of the cross and his death to the victory before Him. Paul said, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus' eyes were on the goal set before Him.

Jesus came to earth with a divine purpose: *... that he might destroy the works of the devil* (I John 3:8). He willingly laid down His life. He came *... to give his life a ransom for many* (Matthew 20:28). Jesus had power to lay down His life and take it up again. He said, *No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father* (John 10:18).

As Jesus faced Satan, He did not run or hide. He did not waver. He said:



*“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!” “ ... Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of the world will be driven out.*

John 12:27-28, 31, NIV

Jesus wasn’t worried. He knew the outcome of the battle. He said, “The prince of this world—Satan—will be driven out!” Notice, Jesus did not say Satan would be driven out at the end of the world. He said **now**.

Through Christ’s blood, Satan was forever defeated! On the cross, when Christ cried, “*It is finished!*” (John 19:30) your victory and mine was won.

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Hebrews 2:14

Through His death, He fulfilled His purpose—He **destroyed** Satan. And it is through His precious blood you overcome!

## **CHRIST, THE MIGHTY CONQUEROR, LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE**

Christ ascended into heaven, where He entered into the Holy of Holies and offered His blood upon the altar of God. *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us* (Hebrews 9:12).

The Father accepted His blood as the one, all-sufficient sacrifice to redeem man from his sins. I can almost hear the cry ring out through the heavens, “The blood of the lamb is sufficient! Satan is defeated! Man is redeemed—set free from Satan’s power!”

Christ, the Great Conqueror, having defeated Satan, descended into the unseen world, where He proclaimed His victory:

*For Christ died once for our sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—*

1 Peter 3:18-19, NIV

As the Great Conqueror, Christ ascended into heaven, leading behind Him a trail of vanquished foes: Satan, sin, and death. ... *When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive [He led a train of vanquished foes] and He bestowed gifts on men* (Ephesians 4:8, AMPC). He took the keys of hell and death. Christ said, ... *Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death* (Revelation 1:17-18).

In a bold display, Satan and his principalities were defeated! They were stripped of their power over us.

*[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].*

Colossians 2:15, AMPC

**AS AN OVERCOMER, THERE IS A  
POWERFUL LIFE SOURCE WITHIN YOU  
THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED!**

Satan has no power over you! He is a liar, a thief, and a usurper! He does **not** have the power to make you sin, defeat you, or take dominion over you through your circumstances. Through Christ, you have power and authority over all the power of the enemy. (Luke 10:19.)

Death and the grave have no power over you! Christ has conquered death for you. Paul told the Corinthian believers,

*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I Corinthians 15:55-57

Hell has no power over you!

As an overcomer, through the power of the Holy Spirit living within you, you cannot be defeated! There is a life—a power, a life source—living in you that cannot be defeated, ... *greater is he that is in you, that he that is in the world* (I John 4:4).

Christ is now seated in a position of supreme power and authority over all things:

*... He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this*

*age and in this world, but also in the age and in the world which is to come.*

Ephesians 1:20-21, AMPC

All power, authority and dominion, not only in this world, but in the world to come are subject unto Christ.

There is no greater power!

This, beloved, is the strong foundation upon which you stand as an overcomer!

There is no reason why you should ever be defeated, regardless of the circumstances or problems you face.

There is no reason why you should ever again limit what God can and will do in and through you!

## **AS AN OVERCOMER, THERE IS NO ROOM IN YOUR LIFE FOR DEFEAT!**

Jesus paid a 100% price so that the Church would have 100% victory over 100% of the enemy, 100% of the time!

He did not leave you vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. He has anointed, equipped, and empowered you to live as an overcomer—in every area of your life.

As an overcomer, there is no room in your life for defeat!

Do you know why Paul could go through the trials and the circumstances he faced—imprisonment, beatings, shipwreck, stoning—yet not be defeated? Because he was able to say, I know in whom I have believed.” He said, “I’m persuaded—it doesn’t make any difference whether I face shipwreck or whether I face all kinds of beatings and sufferings throughout my life.”

He said, “None of them can be compared” ... Compared to what? To what I know! I know there is glory waiting for me! It’s inside me! It’s the manifestation of God Almighty, and nothing can be compared to that glory! I can go through every test, every trial, and every circumstance knowing I won’t be defeated!

Jesus was never defeated because He faced Satan knowing He was the Son of the living God. He knew the Father was in Him and would make Him victorious over Satan.

The Father intends for you to face Satan and conquer him in the same power and anointing Jesus faced and defeated him.

When you face sickness and disease in your body, or in the body of your friends and loved ones, face it as an overcomer. Cast out all fear and doubt, knowing that Christ has already won the battle for you. Speak to the sickness and disease and command it to leave, knowing that the all-powerful life-giving flow of God lives in you.

When you are pushed into a corner by mounting financial problems, you don’t need to panic or spend sleepless nights worrying how you are going to survive. Face them as an overcomer, with faith and confidence, knowing the same powerful life-source that was in Christ when He multiplied the fish and loaves of bread is living in you, and will make you victorious.

There is a life within you that faced Satan, conquered him, and destroyed the powers of sin, sickness, and death. The same unlimited, immeasurable power that was in Jesus Christ is in you!

The Father did not call you by His Spirit, cleanse you of your sins, and leave you on your own to live your life and serve Him as best you could. God has placed His life and the very life of the holy, all-powerful, eternal Son of God within you. And, just as

Jesus lived His life on earth by the Father—Who sent Him, Who lived and dwelt in Him—you must live your life by Christ Who now lives and dwells within you.

## **YOU OVERCOME THROUGH YOUR UNION WITH CHRIST**

To live as an overcomer, there must be a continual dependence upon Christ, a continual drawing of strength, a continual “abiding” in Him and His Word. It is in this union in Him that His overcoming life will be lived in you.

Jesus lived His life on earth by the Father Who sent Him. He said, *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone ... (John 8:29); ... the Father is in me, and I in him (John 10:38); Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? (John 14:10).*

Jesus’ words, His actions, and His works were all a result of the Father living in Him. He said,

*... the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

John 14:10

Because you are born of the Spirit and are a child of God, you are now able to live your life through Christ, Who dwells in you. Jesus said, *... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23).* It is in this union—God the Father, dwelling in Christ; Christ the Son of God, dwelling in you—that you, as a child of God, are able to live in the express image of Christ on this earth.

*For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and have come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead— Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority ...*

Colossians 2:9-10, AMPC

Jesus prayed that we would come into this unity in Him. He said: *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee that they also may be one in us ...* (John 17:21).

Jesus was not just talking about the unity of the Church in this verse. He was praying that you and I would enter into this close union—God the Father in Christ, and Christ in us—where we would be one in them. *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one ...* (John 17:23).

In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead. Therefore, since Christ dwells in you, the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—dwells in you! Now look at God's purpose for this close union: *... that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me* (John 17:23).

## **YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO WALK IN 100% VICTORY**

When you come into this close union with Christ where you are continually abiding in Him, where you know the fullness of the Godhead is in Him and is in you, the world is going to sit up and take notice! They will know that Jesus Christ was sent by God, and they will know that just as God the Father loved His Son, Jesus Christ, He loves you.

You have been given everything you need to walk, talk, and live your life as Jesus did in 100% victory. You have been given “all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue* (II Peter 1:3).

Through your union in Him and through His promises, you can be a partaker of His divine nature. He has given you, *exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature ...* (II Peter 1:4). As you appropriate these promises by faith, you have access to His love, joy, peace, and longsuffering; His righteousness, His wisdom, His glory, and His power!

Not only are you a child of God, with the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in you, you are an heir of God. You are a joint-heir with Jesus:

*The Spirit itself bearing witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Romans 8:16-17

Christ was appointed heir—legal owner—of all things. The heavens, earth, kingdoms of the earth, and everything in them—He owns them all. As a joint-heir, you share legal rights with Jesus to all that belongs to Him.

Think about that. Everything that He has belongs to you!

Though we see this world filled with increased violence, devastation, great turmoil, and all kinds of evil, Satan is not in



control! The Father has not given this world over to Satan to do as he pleases. Christ, Who has defeated Satan and is now seated in a position of supreme power and authority over all the principalities and powers of darkness, has given His Church power and authority to totally demolish Satan's strongholds and to be the governing force upon earth!

It's time to rise up and take your position as an overcomer!

Knowing that through Christ there is no room for defeat, look at the hardships, afflictions, and problems you face and say, ***“None of these things move me! I overcome because Christ has overcome. Through Him, I am more than a conqueror!”***

### **GOD'S WORD TO YOU, DEAR PARTNER, IS “FEAR NOT!”**

The number one obstacle you must face in taking your position as an overcomer is fear. As a strong, seasoned spiritual warrior in God's Victorious Army, God has planned for you to be fearless, immoveable, unshakeable, and invincible!

God is saying to you:

*... Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy one of Israel ...*

Isaiah 43:1-3

The first obstacle the children of Israel faced as they entered the Promised Land was fear. God had promised, upon His oath, to give

them the land. It was legally theirs. He promised to drive out their enemies before them. God intended for them to go into the land as a mighty conquering force. He told Joshua, *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage ...* (Joshua 1:5-6).

But when the ten men sent to spy out the land saw the giants in the land and the large, fortified cities, they became fainthearted. A spirit of fear and intimidation gripped their hearts. Instead of rejecting the fear and setting their eyes upon God, Who had rolled back the Red Sea and miraculously delivered them out of Egypt, they allowed their minds to be controlled by a spirit of fear.

When they returned to give their report, they caused the spirit of fear to spread, until all of Israel was fearful. The people heard the bad report with fear-filled words and a spirit of fear entered their hearts and minds until they were controlled and dominated by it.

As a result of their fear and unbelief, they failed to take possession of the promises God had given them, and they wandered in the wilderness forty years. None of that fearful, unbelieving generation entered the Promised Land.

Only Joshua and Caleb, who had focused their faith upon God and His mighty power, were able to enter the Promised Land and take possession of God's promises. They had a heart of an overcomer and declared, ... *we are well able to conquer it* (Numbers 13:30, AMPC); ... *the LORD is with us: fear them not* (Numbers 14:9).

## **AS AN OVERCOMER, GOD INTENDS FOR YOU TO BE FEARLESS**

Fearlessness is one of the characteristics of an overcomer. When you face seemingly impossible circumstances, adversity, and

troubles, the first response is often to run from them in fear. As an overcomer, you must not run from them, but face them without fear.

Fear and perplexity are part of the signs Jesus said would be upon the earth before His coming. In our world today, we are faced on an almost daily basis with violence, natural disasters, and problems on a scale we have never seen before. Jesus said men's hearts would fail them because of fear and expectation of the things that are coming upon the earth.

When you face a serious disease, financial problems, a dangerous situation, or some unexpected problem, immediately a spirit of fear will try to gain a stronghold in your mind. If you fail to take authority over it, it will control and dominate your heart and mind concerning your circumstances until you are no longer trusting and believing God.

Although we are surrounded on every hand by fear, God does not want us to live our lives bound, tormented, or oppressed by a spirit of fear.

God does not want you to live your life in fear—to be fearful concerning the circumstances you face. He wants you to be set free from every fear that has you bound and to know how to reject and take authority over every fear that tries to gain a stronghold in your life.

At the very root of fear is a lack of trust and unbelief. If you are fearful, you are not trusting God. Trust in God is a bold confidence and total reliance upon Him that He will fulfill His Word.

Fear draws your focus off God and onto your circumstances. When an individual becomes fearful, it is because he no longer has his eyes upon the unlimited power of God, and is no longer believing and trusting Him to deliver him or meet his need.

If you allow it to, the spirit of fear will spiritually immobilize you until you are unable to release your faith and receive what you need from God. It will paralyze your faith.

A spirit of fear will torment your mind until you no longer have any peace. Your mind will be in a constant state of turmoil. If you fail to resist and take authority over it, it will gain entrance into your mind until you become obsessed—your thoughts, emotions, and will under its control.

As an overcomer, there is no room in your life for fear. God intends for you to be FEARLESS! He has made it possible for you to live your life free from fear. When you face infirmities, financial problems, trials, and tribulations, He expects you not to fear.

Fear is contrary to the nature of the children of God. You have not received a spirit of fear, but of power! Paul said, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind* (II Timothy 1:7). If you have fear, it is because you have allowed a spirit of fear to attack your mind, and you need to take authority over it in the Name of Jesus.

The fearlessness and boldness that God has planned to be manifested in your life is through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is imparted to you by the Spirit.

## **RESIST SATAN'S ATTEMPT TO FILL YOUR MIND WITH FEAR**

Satan will try to use a spirit of fear to attack your heart and mind, steal your peace and joy, and paralyze your faith. Resist every attempt of Satan to fill your mind with fear. Don't allow your mind to be filled with fearful thoughts—reject them and fill your mind with the Word. James said, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you* (James 4:7).

Peter exhorts us to resist the devil ... *steadfast in the faith* ... (1 Peter 5:9).

As an overcomer, you are not to be fearful of the enemy, but to keep the devil on the run!

The word “resist” is from the Greek word, *anthistemi*, which means “to oppose; to withstand.” The moment the spirit of fear tries to attack your mind, you must not give in to it, but resist—oppose, withstand it—in the Name of Jesus.

God has entered into a covenant with you. He has given you promises that provide for all your needs. He has promised to deliver you out of the hands of all your enemies, to protect you, heal your body, strengthen you, and supply all your needs.

The fearlessness God wants you to have is based upon your faith and trust in Him and His faithfulness to His promises to you. As you release your faith, and trust God to fulfill His promises, there is no fear! You are covered and protected by His mighty hand! God has said, ... *I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you in the shadow of My hand* ... (Isaiah 51:16, AMPC).

He has promised never to leave you, to fight for you, to go with you through the waters of adversity and fiery tribulation, and to give you total victory. He has promised,

*... I will not in any way fail or give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I wil] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]*

Hebrews 13:5, AMPC

As a result of this promise, you can boldly and fearlessly say: *The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized by alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?* (Hebrews 13:6, AMPC).

## **CAST OUT FEAR AND TRUST GOD!**

When fear of any kind attacks your mind, you must reject it and release your trust in God.

King David, a powerful, fearless warrior who faced many dangerous situations and formidable enemies said: *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me ...* (Psalm 3:6).

He said: *The LORD is on my side, I will not fear: what can man do unto me?* (Psalm 118:6).

The key to his fearlessness was not based on the fact that he was never afraid. There were times he became fearful. But, in those times, as an act of his will he learned to reject fear and trust God. David said,

*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*

Psalm 56:3-4

Over and over, David said, “I will not fear!” He refused to fear! He made a decision to cast out fear and trust God. As he released his trust in God, he won the battle against fear. In other words, David was saying, “When the time comes that I feel fear overtaking me, by an act of my will—regardless of the problem or situation—I will put my trust in God and I will not fear!”

God has promised to guard, protect, and keep you in perfect and constant peace as long as you have your mind fixed upon Him. God spoke through Isaiah, *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee* (Isaiah 26:3). The word “stayed” in this verse is translated from a Hebrew word which means, “to lean upon or take hold; established; steadfast.”

As long as your heart and mind are fixed upon God, you will not be afraid because God will cover your mind with His perfect peace. David said concerning the righteous, *He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid ...* (Psalm 112:7-8). Releasing your trust is the key that will enable you to fix your mind.

When you keep your mind fixed on God and fill your mind with His Word, God covers your mind with His peace. It becomes a powerful, supernatural shield, which guards your mind and will keep it in constant peace—free from all fear.

Let dangers come ...

Let man come against you ...

Let Satan unleash his fiercest attack ...

Let sickness, pain, affliction, and trials come ...

You will be able to say, ***“None of these things move me!”***

God’s peace will keep, guard, and protect your mind continually.

You will live your life as an overcomer!

## **None of These Things Move Me!**

What are the current circumstances, adversities, trials, and afflictions you face?

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Ask yourself the following questions:

Have I allowed fear and discouragement to become a stronghold in my mind?

Am I focusing my eyes on my circumstances, or focusing my faith on Christ and His promises?

Can you say concerning the problems, trials, and adversities you face, “None of these things move me?”

Paul said that the hardships and problems we go through produce patience, experience, endurance, maturity of character, and hope. Do you see these four things being produced in your life through the hardships you face?



Write down one of these and explain how that the hardships and problems you have experienced have produced this quality in you:

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Is there a circumstance, problem, or situation you face that Satan is using to attack your mind with fear? Write it down here and explain the offensive strategy you will use to overcome this fear.

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## Chapter Three

# Engage the Enemy in Combat and Conquer Him

As you take your position as an overcomer, you must remember that we are at WAR!

As MORE THAN A CONQUEROR through Christ, you must be ready at all times to engage the enemy in offensive warfare. Knowing who you are in Christ, you must be willing to go out onto the battlefield, engage the enemy in combat, and conquer him.

We have already established the fact that we face an enemy that has already been defeated. Through Christ's victory over him, Satan has been stripped of his power over you. When you were born again, you were delivered out of the kingdom of darkness under Satan's control, into the Kingdom of God and Christ's dominion.

*[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, In whom we have redemption through His blood [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.*

Colossians 1:13-14, AMPC

A heavenly transfer has been made! You are now part of a kingdom that can never be destroyed! (Daniel 2:44.) You are part

of an overcoming, conquering Church that cannot be defeated! Jesus told Peter that the “gates of hell” shall not prevail against His Church! (Matthew 16:18.) Many Christians interpret this scripture as the Church on the defensive. This is totally incorrect. Jesus is promising that the gates of Satan’s kingdom will not hold against the attack of the Church. The Church is not trying to keep Satan out, but Satan is failing to keep the Church out.

Satan no longer has power over you. That doesn’t mean that he won’t try to weaken and attempt to eventually destroy you. He will do everything within his power to attack and defeat you. However, the only time you will be defeated is when you fail to fight against him in the Spirit.

Offensive warfare requires aggressive action. It is not passively waiting for the enemy to attack and then responding in defense; it is warfare that takes the initiative of the attack. The enemy is identified, and offensive weapons are used to initiate the attack. Offensive warfare gains territory rather than defends it.

Prior to World War II, Winston Churchill grew increasingly frustrated with Britain’s defensive maneuvers. Later, after the war had begun, Churchill said, “Ever since the beginning of the war, we had let the initiative rest with Germany.” Germany was constantly on the offensive. Churchill said, “The offensive is three or four times as hard as passively enduring from day to day. It therefore requires all possible help in early stages. Nothing is easier than to smother it in the cradle. Yet here, perhaps, lies safety. If you want to be safe, go on the offensive.”

I must warn you, if you continually stay on the defensive, you will continually go from one defeat to another.

## **TO OVERCOME YOU MUST GO ON THE OFFENSIVE**

In the war Gideon and his army fought against the Midianites, we learn important truths concerning waging offensive warfare. After God promised Gideon that He would deliver the Midianites into his hands and confirmed it with signs (Judges 6:16), Gideon gathered an army of 32,000 to wage war. The Lord spoke to Gideon and told him that there were too many in the army to give them the victory over the Midianites.

*... The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast about themselves against Me, saying My own hand has delivered me.*

Judges 7:2, AMPC

God wanted Gideon and the people to know that it was not by their own strength or military might that they would defeat the Midianites. He wanted them to recognize and know it was because of Him that they would win the battle and give Him the glory.

Whenever you wage offensive warfare against the enemy, your faith and confidence must not be in your own strength, wisdom, or abilities. You must advance against the enemy in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, from a strong position of knowing. What do you know? You are facing an enemy that has already been defeated. Christ has already given you victory. You cannot defeat the enemy in your own power. Your faith and trust must be focused upon Christ and His power working through you to defeat the enemy.

## **FACE SATAN AND WAGE WAR IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

You must first recognize, locate, and identify the enemy. The war we are in is a spiritual war. Apostle Paul clearly identified our warfare is not a natural warfare. He said,

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Ephesians 6:12

The sooner the Church of Jesus Christ realizes that when we engage in warfare, we are not dealing with men or ideologies, the sooner we will have the greatest victory this world has ever seen. You must realize in the circumstances you face that you are not in a natural conflict, but in a spiritual one. This conflict cannot be solved by any natural means; it can only be met in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul said, ... *be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]* (Ephesians 6:10, AMPC). Do not depend on your own strength. God does not intend for you to face your financial burdens, physical sicknesses, or family problems in your own limited strength. He planned and purposed for you to face every problem, every circumstance, and every attack of the enemy in His unlimited, unsurpassing power.

Everything Jesus did, He did in the strength and power of Almighty God. He did not depend on His own strength. Jesus said, ... *the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works* (John 14:10). Jesus knew the Father dwelling in Him was working through Him. He said, *I and my Father are one* (John 10:30); ... *the Father is in*

*me, and I in him* (John 10:38). When He faced Satan and all the forces of hell, He drew upon the power of Almighty God.

On the cross, He did not depend on His own strength, but that of Almighty God. He faced death, knowing a powerful source, the Spirit of the living God within Him would raise Him from the dead.

That same mighty power that worked within Jesus, that broke the chains of death and raised Him from the dead is at work—right now—in you! Just as Jesus did not depend upon His own strength, but drew upon the power of God within Him as He faced Satan and destroyed His power, you must no longer depend upon your limited human strength, but you must draw upon that same unlimited power of God within you.

Once you realize that your battle cannot be won in the natural realm, but is a spiritual battle that must be won by the power of the Spirit, you must go the root cause and “lay the axe to the root of the tree”. You will gain the true power to lay the axe to the root of the tree, and steadfastly destroy the works of Satan, with the kind of prayer that moves the heart of God, moves the course of nations, and presses past defensive lines, where you take the victory.

## **FEARLESSNESS IN OFFENSIVE WARFARE IS A MUST!**

God further instructed Gideon to go and tell those who were fearful to return to their homes. He said,

*... proclaim in the ears of the men, saying, Whosoever is fearful and trembling, let him turn back and depart from Mount Gilead. And 22,000 of the men returned, but 10,000 remained.*

Judges 7:3, AMPC

Fearlessness in offensive warfare is a must. It is a powerful weapon in the Christian's arsenal in defeating the enemy. There is a fierce strength and an unshakable faith when you know that you know, that you know you are on the winning side.

Fear gained an entrance into the minds of the children of Israel as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. (Numbers 13:32-33.) When the spies saw the giants and the fortified cities, a spirit of fear attacked their minds. Instead of rejecting the fear and fixing their hearts and minds upon God, who had miraculously delivered them out Egypt, the children of Israel allowed their minds to be controlled by a spirit of fear. When they heard the fear-filled words of the spies, a spirit of fear spread throughout the camp. As a result, it led to unbelief, rebellion, and disobedience.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you do not ever have to give in to fear.

Fix your mind on God.

Refuse to listen to fear-filled words.

Do not speak fear-filled words, and don't focus your eyes on your circumstances.

When Jairus heard the report that his daughter had died, Jesus told him ... *Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole* (Luke 8:50). If Jairus had kept his heart and mind fixed upon the outward circumstances—that his daughter was dead—instead of fixing his heart and mind on Jesus and His power to heal, he would have been fearful and would not have been able to release his faith and receive the miracle he needed.

As an overcomer, and a soldier in God's Victorious Army, God is raising you up to be fearless! As long as you are fearful

of the enemy, you are vulnerable to his attacks. Regardless of the circumstances, trials, or troubles you face, you must bind the spirit of fear as soon as it attacks your mind. Fix your mind upon God, release your trust in Him, and say, ***“I will not fear! Spirit of fear, I take authority over you in Jesus’ Name and command you to go! God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of love, and power, and a sound mind!”***

Pause for a moment and think about the circumstances you face. Have you allowed fear to take root in your heart and mind? If so, identify those fears and take authority over them in Jesus’ Name!

## **YOU MUST BE ALERT, READY TO FACE THE ENEMY AND DEFEAT HIM**

After the fearful soldiers in Gideon’s army left the battlefield, there were 10,000 who remained. But God told Gideon,

*... The men are still too many: bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. And he of whom I say to you, This man shall go with you, shall go with you; and he of whom I say to you, This man shall not go with you, shall not go. So he brought the men down to the water, and the Lord said to Gideon, Everyone who laps up the water with his tongue as a dog laps it, you shall set by himself, likewise everyone who bows down to his knees to drink. And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the Lord said to Gideon, With the 300 men who lapped I will deliver you,*



*and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others return every man to his home.*

Judges 7:4-7, AMPC

The men who bowed down upon their knees to drink water were not prepared to face the enemy in battle. They were not ready to go on the offensive. When they bowed down to drink water, they let down their guard. But, those who lapped the water by putting their hands to their mouth, were alert—ready to face the enemy.

God is raising up seasoned, fearless soldiers who are not waiting for the enemy to attack. They are invading the enemy's camp, engaging the enemy in battle and taking the victory that is theirs through Christ. As a member of God's Victorious Army, you are part of that army!

More than 30,000 people were not ready to go into battle; they were half-hearted. God had promised to give Gideon victory over the Midianites. He said, *Surely I will be with you, and you shall smite the Midianites as one man* (Judges 6:16). They didn't believe God, and were not ready to pursue and defeat their enemy. In warfare, if you are not wholehearted when you get out on the battlefield, you will begin to hesitate—to hold back—and you will get slaughtered.

God sent Gideon and the 300-man army out to wage offensive warfare, with the promise He would give them the victory. He told Gideon, *Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered into thine hand* (Judges 7:9).

## **GO ON THE OFFENSIVE WITH A MILITANT MIND**

This story of Gideon and the fearful, half-hearted soldiers illustrates the importance of having a militant mind during

offensive warfare, facing Satan and his principalities. As an overcomer in God’s Victorious Army, you must not be intimidated by the power of the enemy. You must not be fearful or cowardly, but go on the offensive with a new spiritual aggressiveness and determination to face and defeat him in every area of your life.

The most vulnerable, dangerous position for any Christian in spiritual warfare is a passive mind. The word *passive* means “lacking in energy or will; exhibiting no gain or control; submissive; receiving or enduring without resistance.” Christians who have a passive mind are easy targets for Satan and are positioned for defeat. When their minds are in a state of passivity, their spiritual senses are dulled and inactive. They are vulnerable to every attack—deception, fear, temptation, oppression, and depression—and eventually will lose control over their thoughts and will.

Apostle Peter, in writing to believers who were distressed because of the tremendous trials they were going through, said: ... *gird up the loins of your mind* ... (I Peter 1:13). In essence, he was telling them to prepare their minds for aggressive action—to strengthen and brace their minds for the battles they faced.

The first piece of armor the Roman soldier put on as he prepared for battle was his belt. The belt was a very significant part of the armor, tied around the soldier’s waist, to gather in the short tunic he wore. It helped keep the breastplate in place, and also held his sword. The soldier’s belt strengthened his loins and enabled him to fasten his armor close to him, whereby he was strengthened to fight.

To tighten or “gird up” the belt indicated the soldier was ready for action. To loosen or slacken the belt was to go off duty.

It is time for soldiers in God’s Victorious Army to prepare for battle by “girding up”—strengthening the loins of their minds. If

you fail to do this, you will be unable to walk in the victory God has planned for you in this end-time hour.

The “loins” refers to the chief seat of bodily strength. The body is knit to the loins. If the loins fail, the whole body fails. The loins we are to gird up and strengthen for offensive warfare are our hearts and minds.

Your heart and mind—your inner man—is the acting, ruling part of you. It is the center of your existence, where all the issues of life flow forth. It is where your thoughts, emotions, will, desires, understanding, reasoning powers, and intentions reside. *For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he ...* (Proverbs 23:7).

If your heart and mind is strong and disciplined—

If you know God’s Word—

If you have a clear understanding of His will—

If your mind and will is set to obey and do His will—

If your thoughts are constantly being brought into obedience to Christ—

You will be strong and immovable, even during the greatest trial, temptation, or attack of the enemy!

## **GIRD UP—STRENGTHEN YOUR MIND TO WIN THE WAR!**

In offensive warfare, you must realize where the real battlefield is before you can effectively engage the enemy in combat and defeat him. The real battlefield where Satan is waging war against you is in your heart and mind. Your mind is Satan’s major point of attack! And, it is here where the war must be fought and won.

The war where we are fighting, wrestling against Satan and his evil powers and principalities, is not against flesh and blood. It is not a mental battle fought with our mental abilities—through the power of positive thinking, through head knowledge, psychological techniques or through our limited natural abilities. It is a spiritual battle in our minds, which must be fought and won by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Satan’s power has been broken over you. He only has the power to attack your mind when you fail to resist and allow him to have access into your mind. It is only when you fail to use your will to resist the thoughts Satan tries to plant in your mind, and give in to them, that he gains access and has control over your thoughts.

Paul told Timothy, *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind* (II Timothy 1:7). The Greek word for the word “sound” is *sophronismos*, which is a calling to a soundness of mind or self-control. It literally means “discipline.”

In this verse, Paul was not simply making a statement to Timothy, telling him that he had a sound, well-disciplined mind. The word *fear* in this verse means cowardice. He was encouraging Timothy not to be fearful or cowardly in preaching the Gospel, or in sharing the suffering that might come as a result of his witness and testimony for the Lord. Instead of being afraid or timid, Paul was admonishing and exhorting Timothy to have a strong, sound, well-disciplined mind by taking authority over the fear and to set his mind on fulfilling the ministry God had called him to.

To “gird up” and strengthen your mind to wage offensive warfare and defeat Satan and his powers and principalities, you must take aggressive action against Satan’s attacks on your mind.

- Recognize, resist and cast out all thoughts he tries to plant into your heart and mind.
- Continually bring every thought into captivity and obedience to Christ.
- Continually be renewed in your mind by putting off the old carnal nature, with its carnal mind, and bringing your thoughts, will, and desires into control of the Holy Spirit.
- Fill your heart and mind with God's Word and a knowledge of Christ.

Stop and think about the circumstances, problems, trials and battles you are facing. Ask yourself, "Am I facing them with a passive mind—allowing Satan to fill my mind with every negative thought and doubt? Am I resisting his attacks? Am I taking control through the power of the Holy Spirit and bringing my thoughts into captivity?"

## **YOU MUST HAVE A PREDETERMINATION TO WIN!**

God is going to have a well-disciplined, end-time army that is saturated and fully controlled by the Holy Spirit in every area of their lives. He is going to have an end-time army of people who have been trained and disciplined to hear and obey His commands, at all costs. He is going to have strong, seasoned spiritual warriors who have disciplined their heart and mind to be receptive to hear His voice, and who have disciplined themselves to speak the words He gives them to speak.

To win the war Satan is raging against us, we must discipline ourselves! This is not a time to become lax in our relationship with God or our commitment to Him. In the midst of apathy and

lukewarm attitudes that have taken hold within the Church, we must arise and shake off all the lethargy and slothfulness. Paul warned the Thessalonians, *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober* (I Thessalonians 5:6).

It will take a well-disciplined army to face the onslaught of Satan and his demonic forces, tear down his strongholds, and to evangelize the world.

Wars are won by armies that are trained, equipped, and disciplined!

As part of God's Victorious Army, not only are you being trained to take your position as an overcomer—you are being used by God to help me build the Legacy Center, where we will be able to continue the spiritual training and equipping of Nationals worldwide!

How long do you think an army would last on the frontlines—where fighting is the heaviest—if the soldiers were undisciplined, disregarding orders, doing their own thing, and all going in different directions? They wouldn't last ten minutes!

There are Christians today who have become undisciplined and have allowed their heart and mind to be continually filled with evil desires, negative thoughts, fears, jealousy, bitterness, and resentment. There are those that have become lax and indifferent concerning their speech and the words coming out of their mouth. They use off-color remarks, cursing, vulgarities, boasting, deceit, lies, criticism, and all other forms of evil speech. Do not think that Christians who have become slothful and undisciplined will be able to stand against Satan's onslaught in this end-time hour. They will not be able to!

As overcomers, knowing the lateness of the hour, and what is coming, we must discipline our lives so that we are ready at all times to wage war and overcome the enemy. We must be busy doing the will of the Father by winning the lost, spreading the Word, healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, and building the Kingdom of God! Paul told the Corinthian Church,

*But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].*

1 Corinthians 9:27, AMPC

## **DISCIPLINE YOURSELF!**

One of the major keys that enabled Paul to overcome in every circumstance, hardship, and trial he faced was that he did not allow himself to become slack or spiritually lazy concerning His commitment to God or his relationship with God. He did not give in to his carnal appetites or the desires of the flesh. He did not allow his heart and mind to be filled with ungodly thoughts or desires. He took authority over them and brought them into submission to the Word of God. He disciplined himself. He said, *But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it ...*(1 Corinthians 9:27, AMPC).

As an example of the way we are to discipline ourselves, Paul used well-trained, disciplined athletes, who were running as hard as they could in a race to win the prize. He said:

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize]*

*and make it yours. Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately and restricts himself in all things. They do it to win a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a crown of eternal blessedness] that cannot wither. Therefore, I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary. But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it...*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, AMPC

How did Paul say you are to run the Christian race?

You are to run the race with the predetermination in your mind that you are going to WIN!

We are destined to WIN!

Runners, boxers, wrestlers, and all professional athletes who are determined that they are going to win prepare themselves by subjecting their bodies to an intensive training program. They discipline their bodies by setting specific goals and pushing their body, almost to a point beyond their endurance, to achieve those goals. They do not indulge themselves and their own fleshly appetites, but restrict themselves in their diet, activities, and in every other way. They discipline their bodies and get in shape through a rigid daily exercise routine and intensive practice sessions. Not only do they follow a rigid routine, they subject themselves to hardships in an attempt to strengthen themselves for the upcoming competition.

If athletes are willing to subject themselves to this strict regimen of discipline to obtain a worldly prize, or the fame and/or wealth of



this world, how much more should Christian soldiers be willing to discipline themselves to win the war and obtain eternal life?

Paul had his mind set on winning the war! There was no thought whatsoever about turning back! He had not made any provision for failure.

To position yourself as an overcomer, you must have a predetermination to win!

Just as an athlete disciplines his body to win, you must discipline yourself in order to win the war. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you must take control and subdue all of the fleshly desires and appetites, ungodly thoughts, and all forms of evil speaking. You must not make any provision for the flesh, but continually walk in the Spirit. Paul said, ... *Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh* (Galatians 5:16).

## **ARM YOURSELF WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST**

As an overcomer, you must discipline your mind and wage offensive warfare with the mind of Christ. Paul told the believers in the Corinthian Church:

*For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.*

1 Corinthians 2:16, AMPC

What did Paul mean when he said, “But we have the mind of Christ?”

The mind of Christ is His thoughts, will, and purposes. Paul was referring to the vast depth of the riches in both the wisdom and knowledge of God—His judgments. God has placed His Spirit within you so that you can know His thoughts, desires, will, and purposes. Paul said:

*“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.” For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the things freely given to us by God,*

1 Corinthians 2:9-12, NASB

What is the reason Paul said that God has placed His Spirit within us?

He wants us to know—to have a revelation within our spirits and our minds—what His will, plan, and purposes are toward us. He has revealed the mind of Christ to us through His Word. As you fill your heart and mind with His Word—and bring it into submission to His thoughts, will, purposes, and desires—you are transformed and your mind renewed. You have His mind and are able to walk in power and victory.

However, if you allow your heart and mind to be governed by carnal thoughts, desires, and attitudes, you will live from one defeat after another. Paul told the believers in Rome,

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Romans 8:6-8

The word “minded” in verse 6 is translated from the Greek word *phronema*, which refers to what is in the mind.

The word “carnal” is translated from the Greek word *sarkikos*, which means “sensual; controlled by the animal appetites; governed by nature instead of by the Spirit of God.”

A Christian who is “carnally minded” is one who has allowed his mind to be filled with the carnal thoughts and desires of his old carnal nature and is living according to the dictates of his carnal mind. The carnal mind is hostile—in direct opposition—to the mind of Christ. It is impossible for the carnal mind to be subject to or in submission to God. The carnal mind rebels against His authority and opposes His plan and purposes.

To be carnally minded is to set one’s mind on fulfilling the desires of his flesh and obtaining the things of the world—wealth, prestige, and all the other things that the people of this world are seeking. As long as a Christian is carnally minded, it is impossible for him to please God. Look at Romans 8:8 in the Amplified version:

*So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.*

Romans 8:8, AMPC

The extent to which a Christian is carnally minded is the extent to which he will be living in defeat.

## **TO OVERCOME, YOUR MIND MUST BE CONTINUALLY RENEWED**

This is your year of overcoming everything that hinders you from walking in victory in every area of your life. This includes having 100% victory in your heart and mind.

To win the battle for your mind and live an overcoming life, your mind must be renewed daily. Having the mind of Christ is not automatic. Simply because you have been born again and have been given a new nature does not mean that you automatically have the mind of Christ, or that you will automatically have victory over Satan and your carnal desires and nature. Jesus has broken the power of Satan over you so that it is possible. The power of sin, which once ruled in your heart and mind, has been broken and you are no longer a slave to your old carnal nature. Paul told the believers in Rome, *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace* (Romans 6:14).

However, to have the mind of Christ, you must continually take authority over your carnal nature. A change must take place in your mind! Paul told the church in Rome,

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2, NASB

The renewing of the mind Paul was referring to in this verse is the adjustment of the thoughts, will, emotions, and desires to the

mind of God, which requires a conscious effort on the part of the believer. It requires discipline!

You must “put off” the old man, with its carnal nature and carnal mind, and “put on” the new man with its new nature and renewed mind. This is something **you** must do! You must discipline your mind.

You may be thinking, “Brother Cerullo, how do I discipline my mind?”

Paul told the believers in the Ephesian church:

*Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], and put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.*

Ephesians 4:22-24, AMPC

Do not be deceived! There is no way that you will be able to live as an overcomer, in the power and victory Christ has provided for you, unless you are constantly being renewed in your mind. Christ expects you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to put off the carnal nature—with its carnal attitudes, thoughts, and desires. He expects you to put on the new nature—with its renewed mind, will thoughts and desires.

Christ expects you to crucify—put to death—the desires of your flesh. *And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah)*

*have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires (Galatians 5:24, AMPC).*

As an overcomer, you can have a 100% free, victorious heart and mind, but it's up to you to continually be renewed in the spirit of your mind. It's up to you to discipline your mind.

Don't allow Satan to make you think that you can't do it. You can! Don't listen to his lies. Don't allow the carnal desires and lust of the flesh to have control over you. Paul said, *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed ... (Colossians 3:5, NIV).* He said, *... rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips (Colossians 3:8), NIV).* He said *... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12, NASB).*

As an overcomer, you are called to *walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:4).*

*For those who are according to the flesh and controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit.*

Romans 8:5, AMPC

Life lived in the Spirit is an overcoming life!

## **WE OWE A DEBT!**

Because Christ paid the ultimate price to free us from the bondage of sin and give us total victory over Satan, sin and the flesh, we owe a debt!

Paul said:

*So, then, brethren, we are debtors, but not to the flesh [we are not obligated to our carnal nature], to live [a life ruled by the standards set up by the dictates] of the flesh. For if you live according [to the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct, deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.*

Romans 8:12-14, AMPC

You and I owe a debt, to no longer live our lives dominated and controlled by the flesh. Peter told the believers in the Early Church:

*So, since Christ suffered in the flesh for us, for you, arm yourselves with the same thought and purpose [patiently to suffer rather than fail to please God]. For whoever has suffered in the flesh [having the mind of Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [has stopped pleasing himself and the world, and pleases God]. So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by [his] human appetites and desires, but [he lives] for what God wills.*

1 Peter 4:1-2, AMPC

Peter said to “Arm Yourself!” Like a soldier picking up his weapons before going out into battle, you must arm yourself with the mind of Christ—His will, thoughts, desires, and purposes. You must recognize the works of the flesh whenever they are manifested in your life and take authority over them in Jesus’ Name. Repent, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, guard your mind and refuse them access into your life.

In Galatians 5:19-23, Paul clearly identified the works of the flesh:

- Immorality
- Impurity
- Indecency
- Idolatry
- Sorcery
- Enmity
- Strife
- Jealousy
- Anger (ill temper)
- Selfishness
- Divisions (dissensions)
- Party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies)
- Envy
- Drunkenness
- Carousing

After enumerating the works of the flesh, Paul said,

*... I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:21, AMPC

As God reveals areas of your life where you are allowing your flesh to have control, you must take action:



- Abstain from fleshly lusts:

Peter exhorts us to ... *abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul* (I Peter 2:11).

- Cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh:

Paul told the Corinthian believers, *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (II Corinthians 7:1).

- Make no provision for your flesh:

He told the Romans, *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof* (Romans 13:14).

Notice that YOU must take action. YOU must abstain from fleshly lusts. YOU must cleanse yourself of filthiness of the flesh. YOU must not make provisions for the flesh.

## **RENEW YOUR MIND DAILY WITH GOD'S WORD**

As an overcomer, you must be willing to die to self. Your will must be totally surrendered to God, and your life totally consumed in fulfilling His will. You must continually take authority over every aspect of your heart and mind—thoughts, desires, emotions, and intentions—and bring them under the control of the Holy Spirit.

You must daily renew your mind by filling it with God's Word, which fully reveals the mind of Christ.

I'm not talking about simply reading the Word. Paul said to ... *be renewed in the spirit of your mind* (Ephesians 4:23). The renewal mentioned here is not referring simply to the natural mind with its natural abilities in retaining knowledge.

He was not talking about filling your head with:

- Head knowledge of the Word
- Head knowledge of Christ
- Head knowledge of the power Christ has given us over all the power of the enemy
- Head knowledge of who you are in Christ

The “spirit of your mind” refers to the aspects of your mind—thoughts, attitudes, and desires—which have been brought under the dominion and control of the Holy Spirit. It is the portion of your mind that brings you into fellowship with Christ, and directs its energies toward pleasing God and fulfilling His will. To be renewed in the spirit of your mind, you must fill your thoughts with God’s Word and meditate on it continually until it becomes an integral part of your life, until your thoughts, desires, intentions and purposes are continually being transformed.

Pause for a moment and take spiritual inventory by asking yourself these questions: “Is my heart and mind fixed—firmly established—on God and His Word? Is my mind set for victory, or have I allowed my circumstances or other people to program me for defeat? Do I feel defeated and think there is no way out in the circumstances I face?”

## **LAUNCH YOUR COUNTER-ATTACK**

Here are five offensive strategies in defeating Satan in the battlefield of your mind:

- Set your mind for victory.

*If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead],*

*aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Colossians 3:1-3, AMPC

To set your mind on things above is to desire and seek after those things. You must see to it that your interests and desires are centered in Christ. Setting the mind means that a person fills his thought life and sets a thought pattern upon Christ, the Word, God's will, and His plan and purposes. You must make a predetermined effort to set—to program your thoughts—and keep them centered upon Christ and things above, instead of allowing them to be constantly filled with the cares of this life—with your selfish desires, or with thoughts of fear, unbelief, worry, doubt, or the temptations Satan uses against you.

Reject every negative thought, every fear, every worry, every defeated attitude, and every thought of failure.

- Resist Satan's attempt to gain access to your mind.

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith ...*

I Peter 5:8-9

You are not a helpless victim that has no choice. Satan's power over you is broken. He has no control over your mind. You do not have to accept the thoughts he tries to place in your mind. He only has the power to attack and infiltrate your mind when you fail to resist and allow him to have access into your mind through your thoughts and imaginations.

The moment you feel yourself becoming fearful, worried, tempted, discouraged, or depressed, recognize it as one of Satan's attacks on your mind. When he attacks, you don't have ten minutes or even ten seconds. The instant you recognize Satan's attack on your mind, you must launch a counterattack. Go deep into the spirit realm and resist the thoughts he is using against you, in the Name of Jesus. Peter said "to resist, steadfast in the faith!" exercise your faith based on the victory Christ has won for you.

- Arm yourself with the mind of Christ.

*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

I Peter 4:1-2

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Philippians 2:5

You cannot win the battle for your mind using your natural mind or the power of positive thinking. Paul said ... *be renewed in the spirit of your mind* (Ephesians 4:23).

You must fill your thoughts with God's Word and meditate on it continually, until it becomes an integral part of your life, and your thoughts, desires, and will are being renewed and transformed—Christ's thoughts, desires, and will becomes yours. As you go into battle against Satan, armed with the victorious mind of Christ, you will not be worried or fearful, and you will not become weary and faint in your mind. You will be strong, immovable, and victorious over every attack, every obstacle, and every circumstance Satan may use against you.

- Strengthen your mind for battle.

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

II Timothy 1:7

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13, NASB

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

Ephesians 6:10

You must be prepared to fight and win the war. You must not be fearful or weak when the enemy attacks you. You must not be surprised, run and hide, feel sorry for yourself, whine, complain, or wonder why you are being attacked. You are an overcomer! You are not on the defensive, but on the offensive. You must be spiritually and mentally prepared to fight and withstand Satan and his forces until victory is yours. Strengthen yourself to face the enemy in the power of the Holy Spirit within you. Prepare to fight, knowing that He is sending you forth in His strength, Paul said,

*Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].*

Ephesians 6:13, AMPC

- Guard your heart and mind.

*Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.*

Proverbs 4:23, AMPC

One of the most important offensive strategies in winning the war against Satan is in guarding and protecting your heart and mind. Unless you consistently and faithfully do this, you are defeated before you even get out on the battlefield! Your heart and mind is the center of your existence, where your entire moral and mental activity originates.

It is where your thoughts, will, emotions, desires, and all your mental abilities are located. *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ...* (Proverbs 23:7). To keep your heart and mind is to set a constant guard against all of Satan's attempts to gain access into your heart and mind. It involves not only guarding against Satan's attacks and resisting the thoughts, deceptions, and temptations he will try to use to defeat you, but it is also a watchfulness regarding the carnal thoughts, desires of the flesh, and selfish motives, instead of setting your mind to seek God's will. When these carnal attitudes and desires are detected, there must be aggressive action in ridding yourself of them.

## **GUARD YOUR MIND AGAINST UNBELIEF**

One of the first strategies Satan will use in his attempt to defeat you is to attack you in your circumstances. His objective is to cause doubt and unbelief to fill your heart and mind, which eventually leads to disobedience and defeat.

God had specifically promised Israel, through Moses, that He would drive out all their enemies and give them the land of Canaan as their inheritance. (Deuteronomy 4:38.) Yet, when they came to Kadesh-barnea and saw the giants in the land, they were afraid. At that point, the people heard three voices:

- The voice of God
- The voice of unbelief
- The voice of faith

**The children of Israel heard the voice of God.** God had positioned them for victory. They had heard His promise that He would give them a land flowing with milk and honey and heard His command, *See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land ...* (Deuteronomy 1:8, NASB).

**They heard the voice of unbelief.** The ten spies told Moses, *We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey, This is its fruit. But the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak [of great stature and courage] ... We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we* (Numbers 13:27-28, 31, AMPC).

**They heard the voice of faith.** Caleb encouraged the people and said, *Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it* (Numbers 13:30, AMPC).

God had promised to give them the land and that He would fight for them and drive out their enemies. And, He commanded them to go and take possession of the land. No further discussion or consideration was necessary. All that was necessary was for them to hear the voice of God and, in simple faith, obey.

They had a choice to listen to God's voice and the voice of faith and obey, or to listen to the voice of unbelief and rebel against God.

God had proven His faithfulness through mighty signs and wonders, greater than anything the world had ever known. He had delivered them out of the land of their enemies. He had revealed Himself to them in lightning, fire, and smoke on top of Mount Sinai. He had spoken to them in an audible voice.

Yet at this crucial point of spiritual destiny, they forgot God. They forgot the miracles. Instead of listening to the voice of God, they listened to the voice of unbelief. Moses had told them not to be afraid, that the Lord had gone before them and would fight on their behalf. (Deuteronomy 1:30.) But the Israelites rejected God's promise and rejected the word that God had given to His prophet, Moses. Their hearts were filled with unbelief.

This unbelief was the root cause of their sin and it prevented them from entering into their Promised Land. Their unbelief was the cause of their hardened hearts and ultimately brought their destruction.

Paul said we must examine ourselves to see if we have ... *an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God* (Hebrews 3:12). We must recognize unbelief for what it is—sin. If we allow any of it to remain in our hearts, it will lead us away from God; it will cause us to disobey Him and, like the children of Israel, we will not take possession of all that God has provided for us.



Take time right now to take an honest look and examine your heart. Ask yourself, “In my circumstances, difficulties, trials, and afflictions, have I allowed a root of unbelief to remain in my heart? Am I acting in faith on God’s promises, or am I listening to the voice of unbelief?”

**LAUNCH YOUR COUNTERATTACK:  
ACT IN FAITH ON GOD’S PROMISES TO YOU**

Your counterattack against unbelief must be:

- To take heed—be on guard
- To develop a sensitivity to God’s voice
- To cast out all unbelief
- To act in faith on God’s promises

Faith is a life to be lived! Paul told the believers in the Corinthian church: *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)* (II Corinthians 5:7). Your life is not to be regulated by what you see, think, or feel. You are not to be controlled or guided by your natural senses.

This is exactly what many Christians are doing today. When they feel good, things are running smoothly, there is money in the bank, they are healthy, and their family is at peace, then their faith is strong. When the circumstances are reversed, then their faith is weak. One day, they are up; and the next day, they are down.

As an overcomer, you must regulate your life by the faith of Almighty God! Paul said: ... *the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me* (Galatians 2:20).

God is speaking to us today to strengthen ourselves for the battle. That is why it is so important for you to know that God's faith is in you and how to release it in your life. He has placed His faith within you so that you can overcome every obstacle, circumstance, and attack of the enemy!

The battle that we are waging against Satan cannot be fought in our own strength. It is a fight of faith. In training and mentoring Timothy, his son in the Gospel, Paul instructed him to *Fight the good fight of faith ...* (I Timothy 6:12).

The fight of faith is not easy. It wasn't easy for Paul. There were times when he suffered intense pain from being beaten and stoned. There were many times that he was almost overcome with weariness and exhaustion. (II Corinthians 11:24-28.)

God's Word does not say that if you have faith, you will never be sick, never endure affliction or suffering, or never need anything. But through faith in God's Word and His promises, you can overcome in the midst of them. Remember Christ's promise, ... *In this world, ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world* (John 16:33).

Paul demonstrated that you and I have the ability to demonstrate a faith that conquers, a faith that never wavers, a faith that overcomes!

Paul did not ask God to change his circumstances. There is nothing that you and I cannot overcome through the faith that God has given to us.

There is nothing that you and I cannot conquer in the Name of the Son of the living God, Who lives in us!

## **CONQUER THROUGH THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST LIVING IN YOU**

Having the faith of God does not mean that you will not face times of testing or adverse circumstances, but the faith of God in you will keep you strong and immovable. The world will be able to see the faith of Jesus Christ living within you as you overcome in the midst of disappointments, losing a job, financial difficulties, sicknesses, and heartaches.

God's purpose for you as a strong, powerful overcomer in His end-time army is for you to be strong in faith. Don't depend upon a faith that you can somehow produce; draw upon the faith of God that is living within you. There will be times in your life when you will not feel as if you have any faith at all. The problems that you may face may seem to be too much for you to bear. It is during those times that you must live and conquer by the faith of Jesus Christ living within you.

God will prove Himself strong on your behalf in every circumstance you face. Begin to take hold of the supernatural faith that He has given you, and put it into action. We are to live by God's faith. Paul said, ... *The just shall live by faith* (Romans 1:17). Instead of giving in to unbelief, you must regulate your life by the faith of God, not by your five senses.

Don't look to your own conjured-up faith or depend upon a counterfeit faith that is based on your ability to believe. When God imparts His faith, you will not need to struggle to believe. There will be a deep, inner knowing that what you ask for will come to pass.

Launch a counterattack against Satan! Appropriate faith daily. Trust in and depend on God to meet all of your needs. Whatever circumstances you face right now, release and act in faith on His promises to you.

Jesus said:

*Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].*

Mark 11:23-24, AMPC

Once you have asked God in faith, you must consider it to be done. Trust God to bring it to pass, regardless of any visible circumstances that would try to discourage you or cause you to doubt.

Act on the Word of God, or the *Rhema* Word He has spoken directly to you. Regardless of what your needs or desperate circumstances may be or how impossible they may seem. God has given you a powerful, living, supernatural faith that does not waver and never fails to produce results. As you release God's faith, there is no problem, no circumstance, no trial, and no attack of the enemy that can defeat you.

You are an overcomer!

## ENGAGE THE ENEMY IN COMBAT AND CONQUER HIM

Write down some of the characteristics of a “passive mind”.

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Study I Peter 1:13, with Paul’s instruction to ... *gird up the loins of your mind* ... Search out other passages of scripture and write them down here.

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What are some action steps you can take to strengthen your mind for spiritual warfare?

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What does the Word teach concerning having a carnal mind?  
Write down the verses you use to come to your conclusions.

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What are some action steps you must take in renewing your mind?

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Review the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-23. Write down any of these that you recognize as being manifested in your life.

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Repent and take authority over them in Jesus' Name. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, guard your mind and refuse them access into your life!

## Chapter Four

# Offensive Strategies That Win 100% Victory

This is your year of overcoming in every area of your life!

God wants bring you to a new place—to raise you to a higher level of His power, spiritual maturity, strength, endurance, and 100% victory.

You are an overcomer, through the blood of Jesus, through your testimony, and not selfishly clinging to your life. (Revelation 12:11.)

You are an overcomer through Christ, Who has already defeated Satan and has overcome the world. (John 16:33.)

As you begin this chapter, as a statement of your faith, say aloud, ***“I am an overcomer through Christ. I overwhelmingly conquer! God always—at all times—enables me to conquer and triumph in every circumstance, every problem every heartache, every situation I face.”***

God intends for you to be fearless, immovable, unshakable, and invincible!

As an overcomer through Christ, there is absolutely no one—no power, no force on earth or in hell—that can stand against you! You are only defeated when you fail to fight!

Receive God’s prophetic promise to you right now and start taking your position as an overcomer. As you read, let His Word



go deep into your spirit. Write down the *Rhema* words and things that God speaks to you. Act in faith on what He has revealed.

As you face your circumstances, know that:

- God's ultimate purpose is to turn your circumstances around for your good.
- Satan is not in control of your circumstances, God is.
- With every circumstance God allows to come into your life, He has made provision for total victory!

God is raising you up as part of an army of powerful, seasoned spiritual warriors who are willing to serve Him, regardless of the circumstances they face. Seasoned spiritual warriors who, like Paul, will say concerning their hardships, afflictions, and trials—**NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME!**

### **PAUL'S SECRET IN OVERCOMING IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**

There were times when Paul was hungry, thirsty, naked, and homeless; yet he had learned the key to overcoming in his circumstances. He told the believers in Philippi,

*... I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatsoever state I am. I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, to have a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything*

*through Him Who infuses inner strength into me ; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].*

Philippians 4:11-13, AMPC

What a powerful statement of his faith! Paul said ... *I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation ...* Can you say this in the circumstances you face?

What was Paul's secret?

He was self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency!

The secret to facing every circumstance was that He knew Christ was releasing His strength and empowering him.

Paul said, "I am ready for anything and equal to anything!" What about in your life? Are you worried and fearful in the problems and circumstances that come into your life? Or, can you say with Paul that you are ready to face anything and are equal—more than able—to conquer, regardless of what you may face?

Paul's sufficiency wasn't in himself. He wasn't trusting in his own strength, wisdom or natural abilities. His confidence and sufficiency was in the fact that Christ, living in Him, was releasing His strength and making him an overcomer!

Paul wasn't concerned about whether or not he had plenty, or whether he had to go without. He knew that Christ would enable him to face every situation in victory. His eyes were not set on any material blessing he would receive; he was ready to serve God regardless of the cost. It didn't matter to him whether he had little or much—whether he was poor or rich, whether he was in a dungeon, cold, hungry and tired; or well-fed and among his friends; whether he was in pain, or whether he was at ease.

## **CAN YOU SAY, “I’M READY TO FACE WHATEVER MAY COME, KNOWING I WILL OVERCOME?”**

Christians today, especially in the Western world, know all about how to receive from God, but very few know how to stand true to God when their faith is being tested and everything is being shaken and is crumbling around them. Many have become so prosperity-minded that they are more concerned about the material possessions they can receive from God than they are about what they are willing to give up for the sake of the Gospel.

Please don’t misunderstand me. I wholeheartedly believe God will bless and prosper His people. He will set us above the nations of the earth. God has planned for us, through the covenant promises, to enter into a relationship with Him where there is a continual flow of His daily provision for all our needs.

However, we must be careful to have a full understanding of what God’s Word teaches concerning prosperity and His provision for our lives. We must be careful not to get our eyes more on what we can receive from God than what we can do for Him.

We must not forget that there will be times when we will suffer. There will be times when our faith is tested, like Job. There may be times when Satan will attack us in our finances or in our physical bodies. We may face losses. But, we will not be defeated **IF** we know how to face our circumstances and wage offensive warfare.

God has always had a people who have served Him, regardless of the circumstances they faced.

Consider Job, who lost everything, yet he said, *Though he slay me, yet will I trust him ...* (Job 13:15).

What about Moses, who chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than all the riches of Egypt? (Hebrews 11:25).

Then, there are the three Hebrew children who said, *If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us out of Your Majesty's hand* (Daniel 3:17, NIV). They were convinced, beyond any doubt, that God was able and would deliver them. But they continued by saying, *But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up* (Daniel 3:18, NIV). They were fearless, immovable, unshakeable, and invincible!

We have a record of Paul, who faced imprisonment and death saying, *I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus* (Acts 21:13).

God is going to breathe new strength into the Church and bring us to a new level—a new position of power, authority, and victory where we are able and ready to face whatever may come, knowing we will overcome!

## **SET THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE TO LIVE IN VICTORY**

In chapter three, we dealt with one of the major strategies Satan will use in his attempt to defeat Christians from taking hold of all that God has provided for them. After seeing the visible evidence of God's promise that He would fight for them and bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey, the children of Israel listened to the negative report and rebelled against God. They were defeated by their unbelief.

*... And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.*

Hebrews 3: 17-19, NIV

As they listened to the negative report, fear and unbelief took hold in their lives. They not only received it into their hearts and minds, they also began to speak words of doubt and unbelief, and began to murmur and complain against Moses and Aaron.

Think about it! They heard the negative report and believed it instead of believing God's promises to them. They rejected God's promises! As a result, they began to speak words that eventually brought cursing and death upon themselves.

This major defeat of the children of Israel reveals another strategy Satan will use in an attempt to attack and defeat you in your circumstances. If you allow fear and unbelief to remain in your heart and mind, it will eventually come out in the words you speak concerning your circumstances. Jesus said, ... *For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks* (Matthew 12:34, AMPC).

## **DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF YOUR TONGUE!**

You must realize that, although through Christ you are an overcomer, you can bring defeat on yourself through the words you speak. *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]* (Proverbs 18:21, AMPC). Your words determine the entire course of your life! You are either speaking blessing or cursing, power or weakness, faith or unbelief, abundance or lack, victory or defeat, life or death!

If you continually speak negative words of fear, doubt, and discouragement, then you are setting the course of your life to live in discouragement and defeat.

If you constantly talk about your problems—your sickness, your lack of finances, your job, your marriage, your children, your parents—then you will continue to live with those problems.

However, if you take control over your tongue, get rid of the doubt and unbelief in your heart and mind, and begin to fill your mouth with faith-filled words and the powerful Word of God—and speak it forth—then you will be setting the course of your life to live in victory!

For a moment, stop and think about the circumstances you are facing right now. What are the deep needs in your personal life, family, at home, on the job, in your finances, or in your ministry? Ask yourself, “Am I speaking cursing—discouragement, fear, unbelief, failure, and defeat—into my life? Or, am I speaking blessing—faith-filled words, words of encouragement, and victory?”

Look carefully at the words of the ten spies Moses had sent out: *We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are stronger than we are* (Numbers 13:31, AMPC). They limited what God promised to do for them by the words that came out of their mouths. The negative words of fear, doubt, and unbelief that they spoke spread throughout the entire camp until the Israelites rebelled against God. The words the ten spies spoke brought cursing and death upon themselves.

*And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.*

Numbers 14:36-37

Not one of the generation that rebelled against God at Kadesh Barnea entered into the Promised Land. They wandered in the wilderness forty years, until that entire generation died. Only two men of that generation, Joshua and Caleb, entered into the Promised Land. Consider Joshua and Caleb’s faith-filled words. Caleb had said, ... *Let us go up at once and possess it; for we*

*are well able to overcome it* (Numbers 13:30). When Joshua and Caleb heard the unbelief and rebellion of the people, they tore their clothes and pleaded with the people not to rebel against God. They spoke faith-filled words.

*And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land with floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*

Numbers 14:7-9

The children of Israel began to murmur and complain against Moses and Aaron. They said,

*... Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in the wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return unto Egypt?*

Numbers 14:1-3

God heard their murmuring and complaining and said,

*Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in the wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me. Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I*

*sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunnah, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

Numbers 14: 28-30

## **MURMURING IS SATAN’S STRATEGY TO KEEP YOU LIVING IN DEFEAT**

Satan’s strategy is to gain control of your tongue so that you are continually speaking negative words of fear, doubt, and unbelief into your circumstances, which will bring cursing upon yourself instead of blessing.

Don’t fall into his trap!

There are many Christians who are living from one defeat after another because they are speaking words of fear, doubt, and unbelief into their circumstances. Instead of faith-filled words that bring life, they are murmuring and complaining. When they are sick, they murmur and complain about how bad they feel, about their symptoms, or their doctor’s report, instead of speaking faith-filled words based upon God’s promises. If they face financial problems, they murmur and complain, and talk about their lack, about how they never seem to have enough money, and about their inability to meet their financial obligations, instead of speaking God’s Word.

You must recognize murmuring as a strategy of the enemy to keep you living in defeat. When you murmur, you are doubting God’s provision and care for you. Moses told the Israelites, ... *the Lord has heard your grumblings which you murmur against Him; what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord* (Exodus 16:8, AMPC). When you murmur and grumble, you are not murmuring against people or your circumstances, you are actually murmuring against God—and He hears you! Not only does He hear you, but your unbelief hinders you from acting in faith upon His promises, and you cannot receive what you need.



Paul used the example of the Israelites defeat to warn the Corinthian believers not to grumble. He said,

*And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.*

1 Corinthians 10:10-11, NIV

Murmuring is an outward sign of unbelief, and it will keep you living in defeat. Just as it led the Israelites further into rebellion against God, it will lead you into rebellion and disobedience. When Satan tempts you to murmur about your circumstances, recognize it as one of his strategies to defeat you. Instead of murmuring, begin to praise and thank God for His faithfulness toward you. Release your faith and trust God to meet your need.

Just as murmuring kept the Israelites out of the Promised Land, murmuring will hinder and keep you from moving to a higher level of His power, strength, and anointing.

### **LAUNCH A COUNTERATTACK— SPEAK THE WORD!**

God's Word and His promises are eternal, infallible, and impregnable. His Word is alive! When you speak it forth in faith, a supernatural life force is released into your circumstances. God never intended for His promises to be dependent upon us, our faith, or abilities, or our strength. When you have the written and living Word of God within you, your heart and mind will be filled with His Word, and you will speak His Word into your circumstances.

To launch a two-fold counterattack against Satan's strategy to use the words coming out of your mouth to defeat you, place a spiritual guard over your mouth. If you have been murmuring or

complaining over your circumstances, repent. Refuse to allow any negative words of doubt, fear, or unbelief to come out of your mouth. David said, ... *I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me* (Psalm 39:1).

Secondly, change the course of your life by changing your words. Begin to speak blessing instead of cursing, life instead of death! Fill your heart and mind with God's Word and His promises to you, and begin to speak them into your circumstances. God's Word in your mouth is a powerful force that will not only defeat the enemy, but will also release a supernatural life force that will impact your circumstances.

Regardless of the problems you face—sickness, stress on your job, financial problems, problems in your marriage, problems with your children or other family members—begin to speak faith-filled words that are based on God's promises.

## **SPEAK THE WORD OF FAITH INTO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

Instead of murmuring and complaining, fill your mouth with praise and thanksgiving to God. When you are sick, do not go around murmuring and complaining. Continually declare with your mouth that you are healed by the stripes of Jesus Christ, and praise God! Speak to your sickness—the spirit of infirmity, the disease in your body that, ... *he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed* (Isaiah 53:5). Declare, ***“With His stripes I am healed!”***

When you are faced with overwhelming financial problems, do not murmur and complain or speak words of fear and unbelief. Speak to your financial problems! Jesus said,

*... if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

Matthew 21:21-22

He said: *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it* (John 14:13-14). Speak forth God's Word, ... *my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:19); ... *no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly* (Psalm 84:11). Fill your mouth with praise, and begin to praise God for sending the finances and meeting your need.

Speaking the Word or “confessing” the Word into your life is much more than simply repeating certain scriptures. It is not based on following a specific formula or man-made doctrine. We must have a confession of faith, but it is more than just being able to use our lips to confess the Word. You must use your lips to confess the words that are anointed with the power that comes from experience—that comes from a revelation of the Word.

Speaking the Word involves not only speaking the *Logos*—the written Word of God, but also speaking the *Rhema* words that God directs you to speak. It involves speaking for the words of healing and deliverance, in Jesus' Name, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, God has not planned for you to be defeated. He has given you His Word, and as you speak it forth, you will be victorious.

God's Word is not void of power. The power is in the Word to heal you. The power is in the Word to meet you right now at the point of your need. God has promised,

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Isaiah 55:11

## **GOD’S WORD IS A POWERFUL OFFENSIVE WEAPON INCAPABLE OF DEFEAT**

God’s Word in your mouth, spoken in faith, is a powerful offensive weapon against Satan and his evil powers and principalities.

After Paul lists the various pieces of the spiritual armor we are to put on, he encourages us to arm ourselves with ... *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God* (Ephesians 6:17). All of the other pieces of armor—the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation—are defensive weapons.

The Word of God is the one powerful offensive weapon that is incapable of being defeated.

In Ephesians 6:17, when Paul spoke of the word of God, he was not just referring to the whole Bible, he was referring to the *Rhema*—a word or a scripture the Spirit speaks to your heart and mind. It is this *Rhema*—the word spoken directly to you from God—that becomes a powerful weapon in your mouth. With it comes the faith you need. And, as you speak it out, it will destroy the enemy’s strongholds.

In the wilderness when Jesus faced and defeated Satan, He revealed this powerful strategy. He said, ... *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (Rhema) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4). It is this *Rhema*, the word that God speaks to your spirit, that will destroy Satan’s strongholds—not simply repeating verses you have memorized.

God may speak the *Rhema* directly to your spirit, or he may speak through another individual. The *Rhema* may be a word, a scripture from the written Word, or a specific promise to you from God. When the *Rhema* comes to you from God, the power to bring it to pass is already contained within it. When you receive it, all you need to do is simply accept it and speak it forth.

## **GOD’S WORD IN YOUR MOUTH WILL DESTROY THE ENEMY!**

To live an overcoming life, you must be a man or woman who knows the Word, knows the power of the Word, and uses it as an offensive weapon against Satan.

There is only one thing in this world that is incapable of being captured—the powerful, invincible Word of God. It is 100% infallible and impregnable! The word *infallible* means “no margin for error, incapable to mislead or deceive.” The word *impregnable* means “incapable of being taken by assault.” It cannot be captured. It cannot be bound!

- God and His Word are inseparable!
- His Word is eternal
- It has creative power
- It is unchangeable
- It is alive
- It cannot fail
- It cannot be taken by assault!

It is impossible to separate God and His Word. They are one. All that can be said about God can be said about His Word.

God is all-powerful—so is His Word!

God is holy—so is His Word!

God is faithful—so is His Word!

God is unchanging—so is His Word!

God is all-knowing—so is His Word!

God cannot fail—neither can His Word

God is everlasting—so is His Word!

God sent His Word—Jesus, the living Word—to this earth to destroy the works of the devil. The Word of God in your mouth today is alive with power! It is the same as when Christ spoke life, healing, and deliverance over two thousand years ago. It is the same!

The Word of God in your mouth will destroy the works of the devil! As you receive a greater revelation of the power of God's Word, fill your heart and mind with it and begin to speak it forth, you will be fearless, immovable, unshakeable and invincible!

## **WAGE SPIRITUAL WARFARE USING OFFENSIVE PRAYER STRATEGIES**

Among the spiritual weapons Paul lists that we must have to wage successful warfare against Satan and his principalities, he includes prayer. To overcome in every circumstance, every trial, every hardship, and every situation you may face, you must not only know the power of prayer but you must **live** a lifestyle of prayer. Unless you have a total dependence upon God and have developed a strong, consistent prayer life, you will face one defeat after another.

An overcoming life is a life of prayer!

Many times Christians wait until they get in the “heat of the battle” before they begin to cry out to God for help. They wait until they have exhausted their natural resources before they seek

God. Or, they pray, but when they don't see the answer or there seems to be no immediate change in their circumstances, they give up and stop praying.

The type of prayer that will enable you to overcome is strong, focused, persevering prayer that Jesus taught. *Also [JESUS] told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart and give up) (Luke 18:1, AMPC).* The type of prayer Jesus was referring to is not the typical 5-10 minute devotional prayer. It involves strong persistence and a refusal to give up until you receive the answer and have won the victory. Regardless of how long it takes, or how difficult your circumstances may be, you must be willing to persevere in prevailing prayer that takes the victory.

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul makes it clear that we are in a spiritual war, “wrestling” against Satan, principalities, powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world. Then, in verse eighteen, He focuses on prayer that will enable us to overcome in our circumstances. Paul said:

*Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).*

Ephesians 6:18, AMPC

The type of wrestling prayer Paul emphasized is persevering, wrestling in prayer. In the King James version this is translated, ... *praying always with all prayer and supplication* ... (Ephesians 6:18). He told the believers in the Thessalonica, *Pray without ceasing* (I Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus said, *Watch ye therefore, and pray always* ... (Luke 21:36). As our Commander-in-Chief, this is Christ's command to us today!

In other words, we are to remain in a state of spiritual readiness through prayer. We must be constantly on guard and alert. Through this type of persevering, wrestling in prayer, you must be looking for any signs of the enemy. Just as in the natural, a “watch” is set and the soldier is on guard for around-the-clock duty—twenty-four hours a day—you must not let your guard down for one minute under any circumstances!

The type of prayer God is calling us to is not just a matter of setting a specific time each day for prayer and going through some set formula. It is not a short five or ten-minute prayer prayed in the morning as you begin your day, or at night before falling into bed. God is calling us to be spiritually alert and remain in a constant attitude of prayer and communion with Him. In addition to special times of deep intercessory prayer, we must keep our hearts and mind—our thoughts, desires, and the meditations of our hearts centered upon God. Throughout the day, we need to be offering up prayer and thanksgiving—on the job, at school, driving the car, at home—whatever we may be doing.

## **PRAY WITH SHAMELESS PERSEVERANCE**

God desires to bring you to a new position of strength. Jesus said we are to pray and not faint! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He intends you to pray with such a boldness that you will not give up until you receive the victory. This calls for perseverance. If you do not receive the answer the first time you pray, you are to go back the second time. If you do not receive the answer the third, fourth, or even the hundredth time, you are to persevere in faith until you receive it.

George Mueller, the great Christian statesman, said, “It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believing, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer.”



The Father desires you to draw near to Him with a strong persistence and determination that will not give up by any seeming refusal or delay on His part.

In Jesus' parable of the unjust judge and the widow, He stressed the need for shameless perseverance in prayer that refuses to give up. He used a widow to emphasize a deep level of need. A widow during that time often had no family or resources they could depend upon. I imagine the widow in this story, no doubt, had reached rock bottom.

Can you identify with this widow? Have you ever come to a place where you feel like you have reached rock bottom—where you have faced one circumstance after another—where you have no one to turn to and you don't know what you are going to do?

In her desperation, the widow in Jesus' parable went to the unjust judge and pleaded her case saying, ... *Avenge me of mine adversary* (Luke 18:3).

Her cries fell on deaf ears. The unjust judge refused to do anything to help her, for a period of time. We do not know how much time passed, but the widow did not give up! She kept persevering with shameless persistence and determination not to stop until the unjust judge did something to help her.

The unjust judge, seeing that she was not going to give up and go away, said to himself, *'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice ...* (Luke 18:4, NIV).

The widow pressed her way through and broke through all resistance by her shameless perseverance.

In this parable, Jesus is not teaching us that God is like the unjust judge. He is teaching us to be like the widow—to continue in prayer until we have the answer. The widow had no other alternative. When we pray, we need to come to God in faith and a

total dependence on Him, knowing that He has bound Himself to His Word to answer our prayers.

Jesus explained the parable by saying:

*“Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly ...*

Luke 18:6-8, NIV

If the unjust judge responded to the persistent cries of the widow, whom he didn't know, how much more will God respond to his “chosen ones,” His beloved children, who persistently cry out to Him! God sees your faith that continues to persevere, regardless of the obstacles, and will honor it by granting your requests.

In the circumstances you face, you may have reached a point where you do not see the breakthrough or answer you need. Your resistance has worn down. You have been praying and waging war in the Spirit, but on the outward appearance, nothing has changed. The battle still rages and you are ready to give up. Don't do it! Cling to His promises, and release your trust in God that He will do what He has promised.

## **LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE PRAYER STRATEGY: PRAY GOD'S PROMISES**

God has promised: *Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me* (Psalm 50:15). David trusted and depended upon God to hear him. He said, *In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me* (Psalm 86:7).

Is this your “day of trouble?” Regardless of how difficult your circumstances are, how long you have been praying, or how desperate you may feel, refuse to become discouraged. Refuse to

allow your circumstances to overwhelm you or cause your faith to waver.

Launch an offensive prayer strategy by praying God's promises. Knowing that He has promised to be with you and make you victorious in every circumstance or trial you face, pray according to Isaiah 43:1-3:

***“I will not fear. You have redeemed me and called me by my name. Father, You have declared that I belong to You. You promised that when I walk through waters of affliction, You will be with me. You have said when I go through the rivers of adversity, they will not overtake me. You have promised that when I walk through the fiery trials, the flame will not even kindle upon me. You are the Lord my God, the Holy One of Israel, my Savior.”***

Pray according to Psalm 27:5-6:

***“Father, You have promised in the time of trouble you will hide me in Your tabernacle, where I am safe. You will strengthen me by setting me upon a solid rock. My head is lifted up above my enemies and I offer up sacrifices of praise to You.”***

According to Psalm 91:1-3, and 15 pray:

***“Father, I dwell in Your secret place and live under Your shadow. You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust. You will deliver me from the snares of the enemy and preserve me from deadly pestilence. You have promised that when I call upon You that You will answer me. You will be with me in my time of trouble and will deliver me.”***

Pray according to Psalm 40:29 and 31:

***“Father, You give power to those who are at a point of giving up. You increase my strength. As I wait upon You, You renew my strength. I mount up with eagle's wings. I will run—facing every***

***problem and situation in your strength. I will not be weary. I will walk in Your strength and will not faint or give up!”***

## **YOU WILL OVERCOME SATAN’S FIERCEST ASSAULTS AS YOU FULLY TRUST GOD**

Your ability to overcome is based upon a strong relationship you have developed with God, where your faith, confidence, and trust is in Him. When you face adversity and trouble, you will not be shaken, because you have placed your trust in God and His faithfulness to you and His Word. You can say, “I don’t know how or when, but I know and trust that God will make me victorious.”

When David was facing the Philistines who were coming against him, he said, *What time I am afraid, I will have confidence and put my trust and reliance on You. By [the help of] God I will praise His word; on God I lean, rely, and confidently put my trust; I will not fear. What can man, who is flesh, do to me?* (Psalm 56:3-4, AMPC).

In a time of great distress, when the enemy was closing in on him, instead of allowing fear to come in, David chose to trust and confidently rely on God. As a result of his trust in God and His faithfulness, he could say, *Then shall my enemies turn back in the day that I cry out; this I know, for God is for me ... In God have I put my trust and confident reliance; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?* (Psalm 56:9, 11, AMPC).

It is on the basis of his trust in God that David was victorious over his enemies and the evil he encountered. In all the situations and dangers he encountered, He was delivered. He said,

*They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.*

Psalm 125:1

*The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.*

Psalm 34:22

**Trust** is a “firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.” Trust is not just faith. In the Bible, trust is used to mean “assured reliance on the strength, ability, and truth of God and nothing else.” Trust is what we do because of the faith we have been given. It is by this trust in God that we are promised peace: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee* (Isaiah 26:3).

Beloved, when you don't see God's hand moving on your behalf, and it seems as if all hell has broken loose, continue to trust that God is **for you** and will not leave you defenseless. He will deliver you! Fear must be replaced by your trust in God.

Apostle Paul's unswerving trust in God enabled him to overcome the fiercest assaults of the enemy. His trust was totally in God's faithfulness and ability to do all He promised. He told Timothy concerning the things he suffered, ... *I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day* (II Timothy 1:12).

Paul said, “I know whom I have believed...” In other words, Paul was saying that regardless of the adversities and sufferings he experienced, he was not moved. He knew God was with him. He knew God's faithfulness. He knew the power of His love. He had experienced His deliverance in the past.

He said, “I'm persuaded that He is able...” He was persuaded, and had full confidence, total assurance, and trust in God that He was able to keep all that he had committed to Him.

Trust in God is a firm belief in His faithfulness and ability, and a firm conviction that He will fulfill His promises to you. Regardless of what you may face, as long as you are firmly trusting in God, you will not be defeated. You will not be overcome by stress or worry in the midst of your problems. Your mind will be at peace, even when everything around you seems to be falling apart.

Pause for a moment and think about the difficulties, problems and adversities you face. Take an honest look and ask yourself, “Am I fearful and worried or am I trusting God to work on my behalf? Am I stressed out, or do I have God’s peace covering my heart and mind?”

## **PRAISE GOD IN THE MIDST OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

As we look at the circumstances Paul and Silas faced when they were beaten and imprisoned, we see that they weren’t moved or shaken by what they experienced. They were trusting God.

As Paul and Silas were on their way to the place of prayer, a young demon-possessed girl who had been following them for days came running toward them shouting, *These men are the servants of the Most High God! They announce to you the way of salvation!* (Acts 16:17, AMPC). This girl had been doing this for several days. On this particular day, Paul became so worn out by this hindering spirit, he turned and said to the spirit within her, ... *I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out that very moment* (Acts 16:18).

When her owners discovered that the demon was cast out and their hope of profit was gone, they grabbed hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, where they falsely accused them.

The magistrates tore Paul and Silas' robes off and ordered them to be beaten with rods. The magistrates "police" attendants carried, as a symbol of their office, a bundle of rods with an ax inserted there among them. It was with these rods that Paul and Silas were beaten, with many stripes. After they had been beaten, they were thrown into the inner prison (dungeon), where their feet were fastened in stocks.

Working through the owners of the slave girl, the magistrates, and "police" attendants, Satan had attacked them through their circumstances. He had falsely accused Paul and Silas, beat them, and threw them into prison.

Think about them sitting there on the floor in that rat-infested, filthy dungeon. They were exhausted and hungry, their backs throbbing with pain. How would you have reacted to these circumstances?

Paul and Silas had every reason to experience stress—to be fearful, worried, and depressed under these conditions—but they weren't. Their eyes were not on their circumstances. They knew God was with them and were trusting in Him.

At midnight, the other prisoners heard strange sounds coming from the dungeon where Paul and Silas were chained. As the voices grew louder and louder, they could not believe their ears. Paul and Silas were not moaning or complaining. They were not sitting there feeling sorry for themselves crying, "O God, why have You allowed this to happen to us?" They were not fearful or worried about what was going to happen to them. They were not crying out, begging God to deliver them.

They were praying and singing praises unto God!

They were able to rejoice down in the dungeon because they had the perfect peace that passes all understanding that Jesus had promised. They rejoiced because they knew that Jesus had overcome the world, and there was nothing that could destroy them. Paul had learned how to face the circumstances in his life in total victory. He told the believers in the church in Thessalonica, *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV).

Paul and Silas were not worried about how and when God was going to deliver them out of the prison. They knew God was in control and would work all things for their good. They were not praising God **for** their circumstances—for the beating or their imprisonment—they were praising God **in the midst** of their circumstances. They were praising and worshipping God because of their love for Him and because of His great faithfulness.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know the song they were singing? Were they singing a hymn from one of David's Psalms? Was it one of the songs they had sang with other believers? I believe it was a song of praise coming directly from their hearts to God. As their praises ascended to God, He supernaturally intervened. He sent an earthquake to shake the foundations of the prison, opened all the prison doors, and broke the chains off them and all the prisoners.

This example in the life of Paul and Silas illustrates the awesome power that is released through praise and worship, especially during desperate times. God intends for us to face our circumstances and things coming upon the earth before the Lord's return, not with fear and trepidation, but with the "High Praises" of God in our mouths!



## **TAKE YOUR EYES OFF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND REJOICE!**

Years ago, one of my senior associate ministers, Alex Ness, shared with me the following true experience of a man he met from Nepal, who was thrown into prison for five years for the sake of the Gospel. Yet, despite his sufferings, he praised God in his circumstances and was victorious.

During the war between India and Pakistan, this man joined the Indian army; and while he was in India, he found Jesus Christ as his Savior. After the war was over, he returned to Nepal, where it is against the law to change one's religion. He wondered, "What am I going to do now? Am I going to tell my friends that I have become a Christian?"

For a few days, he wasn't sure what to do. But as he was going to work, he would pass a place where a woman sat. She was crippled and blind, and had been sitting and begging in that same place for years. He couldn't take that. One day he walked by this woman, put his hand on her, and said, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, be healed." The power of God hit that woman and she jumped to her feet, instantly healed! The man quickly went on his way.

As the woman jumped up, people came to her and said, "What has happened to you?" She answered, "That man that has gone down there touched me." The people ran after him and asked him what had happened. He had to tell them. Her sons and daughters came to his house and said, "We want to talk to you. We want to know more about this Jesus, Who is alive and healed our mother." So they met and read the Word of God. Then they said, "We want to be baptized."

"Oh," he said, "Do you know what is going to happen if I take you out and baptize you? We are going to be arrested." And they

said to him, “We feel sorry that you would be arrested, but we don’t mind. We want to serve Jesus.” So one morning, he took eight of these relatives of the woman who had been healed down to the water. When they came up out of the water, they were all arrested and taken to jail.

The man was placed in a cage inside his jail cell. The cage was only about four or five feet wide, and the same height. Although he was a little man, he could not stand on his feet. They put chains around his hands and around his feet and threw him into this cage, just like an animal. There were no windows or anything else in that room. His only sin, his only error, according to the government, was that he had preached the Gospel, and that was against the law.

## **PRAISING GOD IN A CAGE**

This man from Nepal was in that cage for one year, and during that time, he was worshipping and praising God. He didn’t know if it was day or night, for he couldn’t see the sun. He didn’t know whether it was months or years. The guards would come in as he was talking to Jesus and ask, “Who are you talking to?” He would answer, “I am talking to Jesus.” They would shine a flashlight in his cage and say, “We can’t see anybody in there.” “Oh no, but Jesus is here,” he would say. And they would listen to him.

One by one, guards were getting saved. The prisoners heard him worshipping God, and they started communicating. Before long, they accepted Christ and started following Him. Soon there was a Church in the jail among the prisoners.

The authorities got angry and moved him into another jail. So there he was, the same man, doing the same thing for five years, which was the length of his sentence. He finally got to the point where he had to be careful how he moved his body, because the lice had eaten away his clothes, and they would fall in patches and he couldn’t keep warm.

In five years, five churches were started in jails, because this man did not complain or find fault, but praised and worshipped God and found fellowship in sufferings with His Lord.

As he took his eyes off his circumstances, and rejoiced in his circumstances, God gave him the divine ability to endure, and made him victorious. God will do the same for you.

Satan's strategy is to wear you down until you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. He wants to steal your joy and take the song out of your heart. He wants you to become discouraged and depressed, unable to release your faith. The moment you feel your mind bombarded by fear and worry, take authority over those thoughts in the Name of Jesus. Cast them out and set your mind on God and His faithfulness. As you trust and commit yourself and your circumstances fully into His hands, His peace will flood over you as it did Paul and Silas. As God's supernatural peace fills your heart and mind, you will be filled with joy and will be able to rejoice and praise God in the midst of your circumstances.

## **PRAISE AND WORSHIP RELEASES GOD'S SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION**

Praise and worship in your mouth is a powerful weapon to defeat Satan. Paul Billheimer, who wrote, *Destined For the Throne*, said, "Satan is allergic to praise, so where there is massive triumphant praise, Satan is paralyzed, bound, and banished."

As you begin to praise God in the midst of your circumstances, something begins to happen in the Spirit realm. The shackles of fear, doubt, and worry begin to fall off. God hears your praise and moves on your behalf.

In the familiar story of Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel against the Ammonites and Moabites, we see the power of praise and worship in defeating the enemy.

The children of Israel were greatly outnumbered, and when Jehoshaphat heard the news that the great multitude of the armies of the Ammonites, Moabites, and their allied forces were coming to battle against them, he cried out and pleaded their case before the Lord.

As the people of Judah came together, the Lord spoke to them through Jahaziel. God told them, ... *Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's* (II Chronicles 20:15).

When the people heard the Word of the Lord, they all fell on their faces before God and worshipped! The Levites, who had been appointed singers, stood up and began to praise God with a loud voice.

## **THEIR PRAISE AND WORSHIP SET IN MOTION THEIR VICTORY!**

The following morning, as the army assembled to go out into battle, Jehoshaphat appointed singers to go before the army to sing praises to the Lord. (II Chronicles 20:21.)

They were tremendously outnumbered by a great multitude that was stationed, armed, and ready to attack and destroy them. In the natural, it might have seemed foolish to send singers out before the heavily armed soldiers. However, as they went out singing God's praises, they were positioned to conquer and overcome their enemies. Based upon their faith and trust in God, and His promise to fight for them, they faced their enemies without fear.

They were not in a defensive position; they were in an offensive position. Their weapons: praise and worship!

The moment they began to sing and praise God, something happened in the spiritual realm:

*And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*

II Chronicles 20:22

Through their praises, they were declaring their faith in Jehovah—the mighty, miracle-working God of Israel. Can you imagine the fear and confusion that must have spread into the enemy's camp as they heard the loud roar of praise coming from the children of Israel as they marched toward them?

As their praises reached God's throne, He supernaturally intervened on their behalf and brought confusion into the enemy's camp. In this confusion, their enemies began to attack and kill one another. No one escaped!

The people of Judah experienced such a great victory that it was unnecessary for them to lift their swords in battle. God used praise and worship in their mouths to defeat their enemies. God gave them such a great victory it took them three whole days to gather the spoils!

Regardless of the circumstances you face, or the greatness of your need, as you use the powerful weapons of praise, worship, and thanksgiving, God will supernaturally intervene and make you victorious.

## **GOD WILL RELEASE A NEW SONG OF VICTORY WITHIN YOU!**

Don't wait until you have won the victory to praise and worship the Lord! Praise and worship Him in the midst of your circumstances, regardless of how difficult it may seem. You may not **feel** like it. What you are going through may be so difficult you don't know how you can possibly praise and worship God. But, as an act of your will and expression of your faith and trust in God lift your voice and begin to declare His praises.

Face Satan and his demon principalities with praise and worship on your lips. As you do, God will fight for you as He did for Israel. The enemy will hear your worship and know he is defeated.

David said, *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD* (Psalm 40:3). In whatever battle or circumstance you face, wait before the Father in worship. Let Him fill your heart with a new song of praise, worship, and thanksgiving.

When the children of Israel were taken into Babylonian captivity, they lost their song. They hung up their musical instruments and said, *How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?* (Psalm 137:4).

You may be asking yourself the same question in the circumstances you face. "How can I have a song of joy and praise in my heart when my whole life seems to be falling apart? How can I sing a song to the Lord when my body is wracked with pain?"

Just like the Babylonians—who oppressed and tormented the children of Israel, and then mocked them and demanded them to sing songs of joy—Satan will use everything he can to suck the

life out of you and then mock you, saying, “Let me hear you sing praises to God now. Look what has happened to you. Where is your God now? If He loved you, why did He allow this pain and suffering to come into your life?”

You may be facing circumstances that seem impossible. The enemy may be coming against you with full force. Don't stop where you are! Do not give up. Face your circumstances and sing a song of victory in the devil's face!

Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and earth, and the great I AM is your strength! He will fight for you. He has promised to surround you with songs and shouts of deliverance. David's testimony to God was, *You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah* (Psalm 32:7, NKJV). He said,

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me...*

Psalm 138:7-8, NIV

Beloved, God is bringing you into a new, higher level of strength, power, faith and victory.

As you take your position as an overcomer, and apply the truths in your life I have shared with you, you will experience more and greater victories than ever before.

As a statement of your faith say aloud:

***“God has predestined me to be an overcomer! I am an overcomer! Through Christ, I win an overwhelming victory in every circumstance, every situation, every problem, every trial,***

***and every battle I face. By His Spirit living in me, I overcome Satan and every opposing force. I conquer and demolish every stronghold. I am an overcomer through Christ. God always—at all times—enables me to conquer and triumph in every circumstance!”***

### **COMING NEXT MONTH!**

In the Book of Revelation, there are eight divine promises Christ has given to those who overcome. Be watching for your next revelation in your Legacy GVA series, ***Eight Overcoming Promises For You!***, where I will take you into a revelation of each of these eight promises and how they relate to you.



## **OFFENSIVE STRATEGIES THAT WIN 100% VICTORY**

Study Philippians 4:11-13. What was Paul's secret in facing every circumstance as an overcomer? Write down your observations:

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The children of Israel faced a terrible defeat through their murmuring and complaining. When they heard the negative report of the ten spies, they began speaking words of doubt and unbelief. In the circumstances you face in your personal life, family, at home, on the job, in your finances, or in ministry, what are you speaking? Are you speaking cursing—words of fear, discouragement, unbelief, failure, and defeat? Or, are you speaking blessing—faith-filled words, words of encouragement and victory?

Are you murmuring and complaining about your circumstances, problems, adversities?

In your current circumstances, write down some of the things you have been speaking:

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Launch a counterattack: ***Speak the Word!***

Fill your heart and mind with God’s Word and His promises to you and begin to speak them into your circumstances. Research God’s promises that related to your current circumstances and write the verses down here:

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Daily speak these promises over your life, family, finances, ministry and in every situation you face.

Your praise and worship in the midst of your circumstances will set in motion your victory! Set aside time daily to worship God, regardless of what you may be facing.

You may not feel like worshipping, but as you begin to focus on God’s faithfulness and all that He has already done for you, you will break through and begin worshipping Him from your heart.

As you praise Him, He will fight for you and the enemy will be defeated!

*Take Your Position As An Overcomer*

# ABOUT MORRIS CERULLO



Dr. Morris Cerullo is a man with a heart that beats for reaching and winning souls. More than seven decades in the ministry have been spent in worldwide evangelism, going to the nations, preaching and teaching a powerful, uncompromising message of salvation, healing, and deliverance.

God has used Dr. Cerullo to pioneer overseas ministries and to open many countries that have been considered closed to the Gospel. His ministry is accompanied by a manifestation of God's miracle-working power.

Few ministers have had such an impact on the destiny of the nations of the world. Morris Cerullo's life has been sacrificially dedicated to training and equipping pastors, lay people, and evangelists to reach their nations for Christ with a supernatural endowment of God's power.

Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of divinity and humanities by academic leaders, spiritual leaders, and presidents of nations in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization.

God has anointed Dr. Cerullo with a unique ability to communicate to others the power and anointing that God has given to him. He proclaims an uncompromising message from the Word of God as it pertains to salvation, healing, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's Second Coming.

Dr. Cerullo is a worldwide evangelist and a father of the faith to many of today's renowned spiritual leaders. Affectionately known as *Papa*, he has personally trained more than five million Christian leaders (whom we call "Nationals") around the world to reach their own countries for Jesus Christ.

He is the prolific author of more than 200 classic Christian books and study Bibles, and has produced numerous DVD and CD training materials.

**Learn more about Morris Cerullo at [mcwe.com](http://mcwe.com). In Canada, [mcwe.ca](http://mcwe.ca); and in the United Kingdom, [mcwe.co.uk](http://mcwe.co.uk).**

# THE MORRIS CERULLO LEGACY INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Dr. Cerullo's God-given vision of reaching millions with the Gospel is now being fulfilled through the building of a worldwide, state-of-the-art training center. The Morris Cerullo Legacy International Center will offer ministerial training for ordination and individual course study.

This will be an 18-acre campus in the heart of Mission Valley, in beautiful San Diego, California.

Minutes from downtown San Diego, the Legacy Center will be host to conferences, seminars, and workshops—complete with a hotel, restaurant, and a host of other attractions and amenities. One of the premiere functions at the Legacy Center will be the Morris Cerullo Legacy School of Ministry.

The Morris Cerullo Legacy International Center is a place of education, inspiration, and enjoyment for families and church groups from around the world. **For more information on the Legacy Center, go to [legacysandiego.org](http://legacysandiego.org).**

# **THE MORRIS CERULLO LEGACY SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**

The Morris Cerullo Legacy School of Ministry has been called: “The school with a difference.” Multiplied millions have received extensive training and in spiritual warfare and instruction in how to work the works of God through Dr. Cerullo’s ministry.

The teaching at the Legacy School of Ministry goes beyond textbooks. It takes believers beyond the realm of head knowledge and into revelation knowledge. Through this school, there is an impartation and anointing of the Holy Spirit that mobilizes and equips students to reach their countries with the gospel in a demonstration of God’s power.

Many years ago, Morris Cerullo received divine instruction from God, “Son, build Me an army.” God revealed to him that the spiritual key to building His army would be to train lay people—doctors, lawyers, plumbers, farmers, ranchers, carpenters, housewives, sailors, factory workers—everyone is a potential minister. Since 1962, more than five million people, in 130 nations, have been trained!

**Learn more about the Morris Cerullo Legacy School of Ministry at [legacysom.com](http://legacysom.com).**

