

DESTINED TO OVERCOME (Prt 3) – WHO YOU ARE MATTERS

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us in the middle of a series titled **DESTINED TO OVERCOME**.

Last week we spoke about the importance of knowing your enemy – if you don't know what you are fighting, you will end up fighting the wrong battles.

This morning, I want to teach you on a subject matter: **DESTINED TO OVERCOME Prt 3 – WHO YOU ARE MATTERS**

1 John 5: 4 For everything that has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

All along, our teaching has been quite general but John is refining this process of overcoming. He says *Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.*

John is giving us some insights regarding the identity of the overcomer. It is not everyone that overcomes.

This is the essence of our teaching this morning –

1. Your ability to overcome something is determined by the way you see yourself (identity).

.1 Your identity determines the type of battles you can get involved in

.2 Your identity impacts how you fight and the type of results you will get.

1 Samuel 17: 32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of this Philistine. Your servant will go and fight him!" 33 But Saul replied, "You cannot go out against this Philistine to fight him. You are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

1 Samuel 17:36 Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

.3 Your identity affects your mood when you are standing in front of your enemy.

Numbers 13:33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, who come of the giants. And we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

Discussion Prompts

1. How do you view yourself and how has that affected your response to situations?
2. What experiences have you been exposed to that bring this point to light
3. What other bible stories bring this issue of identity to light.

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2. What John meant was this: true victory over the world is won by a life born of God

- Being born of God means that you have received and possess a supernatural life through faith in Jesus.
- A supernatural life (born of God) has the capacity to deal with all the temptations of the world.

1John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not continue to sin, but the one born of God guards himself, and the evil one does not touch him.

- Last week we found that our battles are not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers of darkness.
- In order to fight supernatural entities, you need the ability to tap into the supernatural as well.
- When you are born of God, you become a partaker of God's divine strength.
- It goes without say, that God is more powerful than anything you can face on this earth.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- There is no moral power that has achieved as much as what the gospel has done for humanity.

Ephesians 3:16 I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.

- How does one get to the point of receiving this identity – how do you become born of God?

1 John 5: 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- You overcome by being born of God and you are born of God by believing that Jesus is the son of God.
- If you want to walk in power, if you want to operate in victory, you need to be convinced that Jesus is the son of God.
- Bringing Jesus into your life gives you power over the world.

John 1:12 To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, which were born, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- In other words, your new identity is called born of God – when you are in Jesus, you take on a new identity.

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- When He comes into your life, your weak and poor self is revived and made strong enough to withstand the attacks of the devil.
- His transformational power brings new desires, new appetites, new motives and capacity to overcome temptations.
- Before you can claim victory over the world, you need to carry out an identity check on yourself.
- The question you need to answer is this; do you know Jesus personally.
- Please don't be quick to answer because if one looks at your life, it might be just that you know about Jesus but you don't know Him.

Discussion Prompts

1. Do you recall when you gave your life to Jesus – what happened, where were you.
2. What were some of the major changes you experienced after giving your life to Jesus
3. Jesus is the only way to God and the only source of true power and victory – in the context of our contemporary world, how easy is it to stick to this truth. How have you managed this dynamic in your life in a practical way.

- You need to move from just knowing about Jesus to knowing Him
- There are things that you should find in your life if you are a believer - if you believe that Jesus is the son of God:

3. The marks of a believer

3.1 The believer views Jesus not just as his savior but also as his Lord. There is honour due to the Lord. The Lord is allowed to speak into your life, you place weight on the Lord. You are a student of the Lord and you receive His input into your life.

1John 2:3 And by this we know that we have known Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, I have known Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His Word, truly in this one the love of God is perfected. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.

3.2 Jesus is the top priority for the believer – quoting my wife, who once said “do not treat your walk with Jesus as a side hustle”. Your side hustle is not your priority, your side hustle is often an afterthought, your side hustle is not your main source of income.

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- Paul did not treat Jesus as a side hustle

Philippians 3: 7 But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ.

3.3 What matters to Jesus matters to the believer

- When you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, you are firm believer in His mission on this earth.
- You are consumed by His mission – you enlist yourself. That is when you offer your body, your elements as instruments of righteousness. You refuse to be a bystander, to be a pew warmer, to be just a receiver.
- A believer is seen not by the size of the Bible He carries but by the size of the cross they are carrying.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

- You are soldier a soldier in the army of the Lord – the priorities of the Commander in chief are your priorities.

2 Timothy 1: 3 Join me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 A soldier refrains from entangling himself in civilian affairs, in order to please the one who enlisted him.

- Every serving soldier is provided with every ammunition he needs to confront the enemy. This is what happens when you are believer, you receive power to overcome the enemy around you.

1 Corinthians 9:7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Who tends a flock and does not drink of its milk?

- So, what is the point: who you are matters concerning how you fight and the level of victory you can experience.

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Discussion Prompts

1. What is the difference between knowing Jesus and knowing about Jesus?

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2. John says it is only a believer that gets to overcome the world – it looks like being a believer is the starting point and thereafter one goes on a journey on relating to Jesus. How does the quality of your relationship with Jesus affect the way you fight battles.