

OVERCOMERS!

STAND YOUR GROUND AGAINST THE ENEMY

A Five-Part Video Series

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Welcome Overcomers!

This five-part video series is designed to train you to discover your identity in Christ and your authority over the enemy. You can use it for your own personal benefit, as well as in your small group. As you begin this study, let me give you three guidelines.

Table of Contents

Welcome Overcomers!

Lesson 1: Your Identity as Overcomers

Lesson 2: How to Recognize the Enemy

Lesson 3: How to Resist the Enemy

Lesson 4: How to Break the Strongholds of the Enemy

Lesson 5: How to Walk in Freedom Over the Enemy

- Keep your focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. Never allow the enemy to distract you. The purpose of this study is not to train you to see a demon behind every bush. God forbid! Please keep in mind that every time you confront the enemy in Jesus' Name, it is Christ-exalting.
- Do not exceed your assignment. The only time we see Christ confronting the enemy in the Gospels, is when the enemy confronts him. You do not need to go out looking for demons. God forbid! On the other hand, when the enemy confronts you, you never need to back down. Stand your ground in Jesus' Name.
- Never grow weary of resisting the enemy. The reason Christ allows the enemy to challenge you, is to make you strong. Part the honor and nobility of being a child of Christ, is to resist the enemy. *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."*
1 Peter 5:8-10

It is now time to learn your identity in Christ and your authority over the enemy. Let's get started!

LESSON ONE

“Your Identity as Overcomers”

Many Christians fall into one of two errors when it comes to the enemy: either they underestimate the influence of the enemy and live in ignorance, or they overestimate the influence of the enemy and become obsessed. The way to avoid both errors is to understand your authority in Christ.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God sees you as an overcomer, and He wants you to see yourself as an overcomer. It does not matter if you are a brand new Christian, or if you have known Christ for 50 years, you are an overcomer.

“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” 1 John 2:14b

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

“I am certain that one of the main reasons of the ill state of the church today is the fact that the devil is being forgotten. All is attributed to us. We have all become so sociological in our attitude and thinking we are ignorant of this great object fact; the being, the existence of the devil, the adversary, the accuser, and of his fiery darts.” D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

“There are two equal opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” [C.S. Lewis Screwtape Letters (originally 1942; this edition, Harper Collins, 1996) ix.]

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:14-18

Put on the whole armor of God.

I put on the belt of truth — Jesus is the Truth.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness — Jesus is my Righteousness.

I put on the shoes of the gospel — Jesus is the Good News.

I take up the shield of faith — Jesus is the Faithful One.

I put on the helmet of salvation — Jesus is my Savior.

I take up the sword of the Spirit — Jesus is the Word of God.

I take up all prayer — Jesus is my Intercessor.

I stand complete in Christ and the Evil One cannot touch me!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 John 2:14b. What does this verse tell you about our identity in Christ?
2. What does the story of the 16-year-old young woman tell you about spiritual warfare?
3. What does the story of the father and son tell you about spiritual warfare?
4. What does the story about the semi-truck in Africa that came to a screeching halt tell you about spiritual warfare?
5. Read the quotes by D. Martin Lloyd-Jones and C.S. Lewis. What strikes you from these statements?
6. What do you learn about your authority in Christ from putting on the full armor of God?

LESSON TWO

“How to Recognize the Enemy”

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Revelation 12:11

Many Christians fall into one of two errors when it comes to the enemy: either they underestimate the influence of the enemy and live in ignorance, or they overestimate the influence of the enemy and become obsessed. The way to avoid both errors is to understand your authority in Christ.

“There are two equal opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” [C.S. Lewis Screwtape Letters (originally 1942; this edition, Harper Collins, 1996) ix.]

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” Ephesians 6:10

The Origin of the Enemy

“His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.” Revelation 12:4

Activity of the Enemy

“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” Revelation 12:9

“devil” = enemy

“Satan” = accuser

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read Revelation 12:11. What does this tell you about your identity in Christ and authority over the evil one?
2. What did you learn about the origin of the enemy?
3. Read Revelation 12:9. What do you learn here about the activity of the enemy?
4. Read John 8:44. What do you learn here about the activity of the enemy?
5. Read 1 John 3:8. What does this tell you about your authority over the enemy?

LESSON THREE

“How to Resist the Enemy”

“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

Once you place your life under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are now able to walk in the authority of Christ. You are now ready to resist the enemy.

Many Christians are more experienced at submitting to God than resisting the devil.

The key to resisting the enemy is to first submit ourselves to God.

On the next page you will discover our *Daily Warfare Procedure: How to Have a Battle Ready Mind*. You will want to become familiar with this. [Feel free to duplicate the Daily Warfare Procedure on cardstock. Put it in the front of your Bible, on your desk or nightstand, or somewhere within reach. Make it part of your daily routine.]

The Daily Warfare Procedure shows you how to submit to the supremacy of Christ, how to put on the whole armor of God, how to rebuke the enemy, and how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read James 4:7. What does this tell us about our authority over the enemy?
2. What does the punching bag illustration show you about the wrong way to respond to the influence of the enemy?
3. Discuss the clear distinction between the two words, *submit* and *resist*.
4. Why are you taught not to close your eyes when confronting the evil one?
5. Read Matthew 18:18. What did you learn in the video about binding and loosing?
6. Why is it Christ exalting when you appropriately resist the enemy in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?
7. What other essential principles did you learn in this lesson?
8. Discuss each of the four elements contained in the Daily Warfare Procedure. How do these steps firm your identity in Christ and help you exercise your authority in Christ?

Daily Warfare Procedure

“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

1. Submit to the supremacy of Christ
Loving Father, I submit my life to you-- spirit, soul, and body-- under the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. I present myself holy to you now.
2. Put on the whole armor of God
*I put on the belt of truth — Jesus is the Truth.
I put on the breastplate of righteousness — Jesus is my Righteousness.
I put on the shoes of the gospel — Jesus is the Good News.
I take up the shield of faith — Jesus is the Faithful One.
I put on the helmet of salvation — Jesus is my Savior.
I take up the sword of the Spirit — Jesus is the Word of God.
I take up all prayer — Jesus is my Intercessor.
I stand complete in Christ and the Evil One cannot touch me!*
3. Rebuke the enemy.
*“Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7
“Satan, I bind you and I rebuke you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I command you to be gone from me, for it is written, ‘Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’ I cancel all your plots against me, my spouse, my children (by name), and those colleagues with whom I work ... (Be specific). You be gone from us, never to return to us again. For it is written, ‘Greater is he who is in me than he that is in the world.’”*
4. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
“Father, right now, I receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Take control of every area in my life — spirit, soul and body. Take back from the enemy any ground that I had given over, that you might fill me with the presence of God and stamp ‘Holy to the Lord’ on every area of my life.”

LESSON FOUR

“How to Break Strongholds of the Enemy”

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” Luke 4:18-19

Today we learn how to apply the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ to our lives in a new way.

Everyone faces two enemies:

Sin (the enemy within)

Satan (the enemy without).

Christ died and rose from the dead to defeat both these enemies.

For the enemy of sin, Christ gives forgiveness.

For the enemy of Satan, Christ gives freedom.

As followers of Christ, most of us are familiar with confessing our sins and receiving forgiveness. Most of us are not familiar with confronting Satan and breaking off demonic strongholds.

The four-square diagram below illustrates the four major areas of your soul, particularly the four areas in which you can give ground to the enemy. As you watch the video explaining this diagram, be prepared to put a check next to everything that applies to you. Be honest. Be fearless! Christ loves you and Christ wants to set you free today.

1. Religious Strongholds (Idols)

- ☐ Witchcraft
- ☐ Sorcery
- ☐ Control
- ☐ Spiritual Apathy
- ☐ Religious Sleep
- ☐ False religions

2. Sexual Strongholds (Asherah Poles)

- ☐ Adultery
- ☐ Fornication
- ☐ Homosexuality
- ☐ Masturbation
- ☐ Bestiality
- ☐ Frigidity
- ☐ Pornography

3. Generational Strongholds (High Places)

- ☐ Idolatry
- ☐ Iniquity
- ☐ Familiar Spirits
- ☐ Hurtful Words
- ☐ Abuse
- ☐ Mocking
- ☐ Addictions

4. Emotional, Mental Strongholds

- ☐ Fear
- ☐ Bitterness
- ☐ Anger
- ☐ Suicide
- ☐ Low Self Esteem
- ☐ Self-Hatred

Ten Simple Guidelines:

1. Submit yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that the strongest person without Christ is weaker than the weakest demon.

“God made man a little lower than the angels.” Psalm 8:5

“Submit yourselves to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

2. Confess any and all sin. Receive Christ's forgiveness and cleansing. Before we take back ground from the enemy, we want to make sure we have received forgiveness so that the enemy does not have legal ground in our lives.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

3. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have authority over Satan. The strongest person without Christ is weaker than the weakest demon, but the weakest person in Christ is stronger than the strongest demon.

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” Romans 16:20

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:19

4. Use the full name, The Lord Jesus Christ, when confronting the enemy.

5. Bind Satan first. We are told to bind the strong man first (Matthew 12:29). We are then able to bind other spirits and command them to be gone.

6. Command evil spirits to come to attention. Tell them they cannot sleep or hide nor multiply or divide. Command them to go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. When you resist Satan, use scripture, "It is written..." Jesus did this (Matthew 4:1-11). Some helpful verses to quote when confronting Satan include James 4:7, Psalm 110:1, and Matthew 28:19.

8. Forbid evil spirit from ever returning to you again.

9. Enjoy your freedom in Christ.

"If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." John 8:36

10. Now that you are free, we recommend using the Daily Warfare Procedure.

Action Steps to Break Strongholds:

It is now time to put into practice what you have learned.

Review the four-square diagram. Every area in which you have put a check, it is now time to take your stand against the enemy and break off these evil strongholds from your soul.

• Prayer of Submission

"Heavenly Father, I give you control of my body, my mind, will and emotions. I invite you to be Lord of my life in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

• Confession of Sin.

"Father, I come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I confess to you the sin of giving ground to the spirit(s) of _____. This spirit is not from you and I do not want it in my life. I confess that I have sinned and right now I receive the forgiveness that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross and by the blood He shed for me. Thank you for forgiving me right now."

• Renounce the Evil One.

"Satan, I bind you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and I command you to be gone from me, It is written, 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you.' You evil spirit of _____, I call you to attention. You cannot sleep or hide, you cannot multiply or divide. You cannot manifest or influence me in any way. I take authority over you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I command you to loose me now and go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, never to return to me again. I am free from you now and forever, for it is written, 'When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.'"

• Pray to Receive the Infilling of the Holy Spirit.

"Father God, thank you for freeing me from the evil one. Right now, I ask you to take back all ground that I had given over to the enemy. Fill me now with your Holy Spirit from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. Take control of my body. Take control in every area of my life in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Fill me to overflowing with you Holy Presence. I receive. Thank you for keeping your promise to fill me and to control me. Hallelujah! Amen."

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. What stands out to you in this lesson?
2. How was the four-square diagram helpful for you? Be specific. Be personal. Be vulnerable.
3. Read John 14:18-19. What does this verse tell us about the ministry of Christ?
4. Which of the ten simple guidelines stood out to you.
5. Read John 8:36. What does it mean when it says, "You will be free indeed"?

LESSON FIVE

“How to Walk in Freedom Over the Enemy”

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

Once you gain freedom in Christ, it is essential for you to intentionally protect your freedom. You want to quickly close off every access point from the enemy. You want to memorize scripture that will be useful as you stand your ground in Christ. You want to grow to better understand your identity in Christ and how to exercise your authority over the evil one.

“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” 1 John 2:14b

- Utilize the Daily Warfare Procedure.
- Maintain a battle ready mind.
- Learn to bind and loose.
- Use the Bible as an offensive weapon. Memorize and meditate on Scripture.
- Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit so that you can take your stand against the enemy.

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” Romans 8:13

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What was a major benefit you received from this Overcomers Series? Be personal.
2. What do you like best about using the daily warfare procedure?
3. Which Bible verses covered in this five-part Overcomers Series have been beneficial to you?

4. What other Bible verses have been useful to you in resisting the enemy?
5. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?