

Sermon Notes

OVERCOMING THROUGH PRAYER & WORSHIP

— May 2021 | Pastor Jared Hunt —

Today we are considering how we can fight our battles through worship and prayer. In fact, there is a song we sing from time to time, titled Surrounded, that centers around this topic. The most powerful part of this song is that it comes directly out of scripture. Many of us know Psalms 23, and could even quote a line or two. When we pray and sing scripture there is an anointing that ministers to our spirit because it is God-breathed and God-inspired.

Surrounded, by Upperroom (Psalm 23)

Verse 1: There's a table that You've prepared for me in the presence of my enemies. It's Your body and Your blood you shed for me. This is how I fight my battles.

Pre-chorus: I believe You've overcome and I will lift my song of praise for what You've done

Chorus: This is how I fight my battles. This is how I fight my battles. This is how I fight my battles.

Verse 2: In the valley, I know that You're with me surely your goodness and Your mercy follow me my weapons are praise and thanksgiving. This is how I fight my battles.

Bridge: It may look like I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by You. It may look like I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by You

Colossians 1:9-23

JESUS IS REDEMPTION (vs. 15-17)

Colossians 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

JESUS IS SUPREME

"When we look at Jesus we see someone who is exactly like the Father in terms of beauty, holiness, moral character, and will. In Him we see God being God in human flesh. To begin with, we are told, 'He is the radiance of His (the Father's) glory and the exact representation of the of His nature.' Though we cannot see the Father because He is spirit, we can see His glory in Jesus who became flesh. Only momentarily did Jesus shine with divine light during the day of his earthly ministry— which we can find in Matthew 17— when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration. Yet to see Him in His humanity was to see the holiness of God which such light emanates. This is what Jesus was trying to explain to Philip when He said, 'Have I been with you so long, Philip, yet you have not come to know me? He who has seen me has seen the Father.' (John 14). He accurately reflected on earth the heart and personality of God. In Him the image and likeness of God are fully and perfectly formed (Gen 1:26). Being joined to human flesh did not diminish Jesus' role as the eternal son of God, instead, it actually increased it. The next statement of this verse is an example of His exalted position, it says, 'He upholds all things by the word of His power.' This means the universe continues to exist because He has commanded it and it will be destroyed when He commands it. The decision of when that takes place is up to the Father (Matt. 24), but the command itself will be spoken by the Son (Rev 19). In Colossians, Paul reveals another way by which Jesus 'upholds all things...' in that passage Paul says, 'In Him all things hold (stand) together,' in other words, it is by Jesus' authority and command that the very atoms of the physical universe hold together." (Dr. Steve Schell 2-17-2008)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you are under attack from the enemy do you worship? How do you worship God?
2. Do you have regular rhythms of prayer and worship in your life?
3. How is God leading you to overcome trials, either for your situation or as you intercede for others? Have you considered making time to pray and worship as a way to wage war against the enemy?