



Learning to Overcome Defeating Discouragement

Romans 12:21 (NIV®)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Revelation 2:7 (NIV®)

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 21:6-7 (NIV®)

He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

- ❖ Overcoming is not optional
- ❖ Listening to the Spirit, the path to overcoming

I. Hope & Hopelessness

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NIV®)

...let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and **the hope of salvation as a helmet.**

A. 3 Ideas

- 1) One person with God's perspective can make a difference
- 2) We lose hope when we lose sight of the One who brings us hope
- 3) Our God is able

B. Courage required

Joshua 1:9 (NIV®)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

- ❖ Discourage = to be without courage
- ❖ Encourage = to have courage

II. Relationship between Discouragement and "Self"

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV®)

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and **to put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2 Timothy 3:1-2 (NIV®)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves . . .

A. Elisha & His Servant

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NIV®)

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "**O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.**" Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

B. Paul on Board Ship Bound for Rome

Acts 27:14-20 (NIV®)

Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. ¹⁵ The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶ As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. ¹⁷ When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. ¹⁸ We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, **we finally gave up all hope of being saved.**

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV®)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

C. Servanthood

John 15:12-13 (NIV®)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV®)

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

D. Inertia---

Def. = a property of matter by which it remains at rest or in uniform motion in the same straight line unless acted upon by some external force

Prayer

Almighty God, we call upon You who has the power to save and deliver. We are Your creation, the sheep of Your pasture and we pause to acknowledge You in Your glory and splendor. Thank You for the gift of life, may our days be pleasing in Your sight. Lead us in paths of righteousness. We rest in Your great strength and faithfulness. We rejoice in our God and His deliverance. Thank You for Your complete provision for our lives, in Jesus' name, amen.

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