

The Power to Overcome (Evil)

I. God's Word & You

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NIV®)

¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

2 Peter 1:3–4 (NIV®)

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

II. Joshua & the Judges

A. The Journey Begins with a Deliverance

Exodus 12:31–36 (NIV®)

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" ³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. ³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:40–42 (NIV®)

⁴⁰ Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. ⁴¹ At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. ⁴² Because **the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt**, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.

Colossians 1:12–14 (NIV®)

¹² ...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For **he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves**, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

2 Corinthians 1:10–11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ He **has delivered us** from such a deadly peril, and **he will deliver us**. On him we have set our hope that he **will continue to deliver us**, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

B. Egypt, Slavery, and the Exodus

C. Observations from Joshua's Journey

1. Entrance into the purposes of God is not a “partial commitment”
2. No story without the power of God as a routine part of the narrative
3. No shortage of challenges, opponents, and unanticipated obstacles
4. A tale of tremendous change
5. The challenge of obedience

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV®)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, **to offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Luke 9:23–24 (NIV®)

²³ Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Ephesians 1:18–20 (NIV®)

¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and **his incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

1 Peter 4:12–16 (NIV®)

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, **if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.**

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NIV®)

⁹ Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And **that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

1 Corinthians 9:26–27 (NIV®)

²⁶ Therefore **I do not run like a man running aimlessly;** I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

A Blessing

²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24–26 (NIV®)