



We've been talking about "war in Heaven" and "war on Earth"—a discussion about spiritual conflict and its consequences. You see, I want to ask you to use the freedom and liberty you have as a platform to share your faith, and that begins at your kitchen table. It can be uncomfortable and challenging, but it's necessary because when we refuse to have the courage to share our faith, we concede the arena to darkness. We need to recognize the spiritual struggle and have the courage to bring our faith forward to be an ambassador for Jesus. It's important.

Now, we're going to look at one of the wounds we garner amid this spiritual conflict—*rejection* and its impact upon our lives. First, let's begin with the basis of our freedom: *understanding why we imagine we can be free ...*

I. THE BASIS OF OUR FREEDOM

Hebrews 10:14 *Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Isaiah 53:6 *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

- A. What You Believe Makes a Difference
- B. Only Overcomers Admitted!

Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Revelation 2:7 *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.*

1. How does knowledge of God's Word affect your ability to overcome darkness?

II. SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

Ephesians 6:12 (MSG®) *This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.*

Guilt, Shame & Rejection

2. When you feel rejected, how do you tend to respond?
3. How have you seen the enemy use bitterness and unforgiveness to cause damage in your relationships and within yourself?

III. ACCEPTED BY GOD—We must value what God says about us more than our desired outcome!

- A. Great Value in God's Eyes

Romans 15:7 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Psalms 68:6 *God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*

- B. A Persistent Problem, Even for Our Heroes

Exodus 2:11–14 ¹¹ *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹² Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴ The man said, "Who made you*

ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

Numbers 12:1–3 *Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.* ² **"Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?"** they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. ³ (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

1 Samuel 8:4–9

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; **it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.**" ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

4. What is the difference in being affected by people's opinions and being influenced by them? Where have you seen this in your own life?
5. How does being accepted into God's eternal family bring freedom to your life?

IV. JESUS INTERVENED

Isaiah 53:3 *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Acts 2:22–24 ²² "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and **you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.** ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Matthew 27:20–22 ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!"

Psalms 22:1 *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?*

Jesus suffered rejection, that we might receive acceptance!

Hebrews 10:14 *because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

6. Is there someone you can share God's forgiveness and mercy with today who is struggling with rejection? Pray for them together as a group and step out in faith to encourage them this week.

Prayer

God, I thank You that You love me. That You gave Jesus, Your son to die on my behalf. That He bore my sins, that He took my rejection, that He took my penalty. Because I come to You through Him ... I am not unwanted. I am not excluded. I belong to the family of God. I belong to the best family in the universe. Heaven is my home. Thank You!