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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#2 Overcoming

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Overcoming

Overcoming the flesh, the Devil and his strategies

Session 2

~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~ **BELIEVE** ~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~

Introduction: In this session you will discover a balanced understanding of:

1. Your enemy
2. The promise of your victory over the enemy
3. How to walk in that victory.

<p>Book Nook <i>The Screw Tape Letters</i> By C. S. Lewis</p>
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First thing we need to understand is that our prevailing over all adversity begins with the simplicity of worship. There is only one God. Worshiping him without distraction or loss of focus will take us to victory.

I. God’s will for you is _____.

1. Because of Christ’s victory at Calvary over sin, death, and the devil, every believer has the right and ability to walk victoriously in life, free from guilt, condemnation, fear, bondage, and defeat (*I Corinthians 15:57*). God always leads you to triumph in Christ (*II Corinthians 2:14*), and He never leads you to defeat.
2. According to II Peter 1:3, God has given you everything you need for life and godliness. Before you were saved, the devil was your master, controlling your life (*Galatians 4:8*). Now that you have been “born again,” Jesus gives you whatever you need to live purely before God and men.

A. You can _____ the devil.

1. As a believer you can now resist the devil, and he will flee from you (*James 4:7*). Believers in the Bible overcame Satan, and so can you (*Revelation 12:11*). God will crush Satan's power under your feet (*Romans 16:19-20*).
2. The Bible says in *1 John 4:4*, that He that is in you (Jesus) is greater than he that is in the world (the devil). This should give you confidence to face life's difficulties, knowing God is on your side.

B. You must know the tactics, or tricks, of the enemy.

1. To wage spiritual warfare effectively you must know the tactics of your enemy. It is essential that you become aware of his schemes (*Ephesians 6:11*), not just the fact that he exists.
2. You will find that Satan assumes three basic roles in his attacks and uses three basic weapons with which he hopes to defeat you:

_ As the tempter he entices with _____ of the _____.

_ As the accuser he seeks to bring you under condemnation.

_ As the destroyer he attacks with _____ theft of resources, & emotional _____.

I. How to be victorious over temptation

In *Matthew 4:3* and *1 Thessalonians 3:5*, the Bible calls the devil the tempter. Satan has no power to make you do anything. He cannot force you to sin or to give up your faith. However, he does have a "bag of tricks" that he uses to get you to act independently of God and to go against His will. The strongest weapon Satan has is temptation.

A. How temptation works

From *James 1:12-15* we learn how temptation works.

James 1: 14,15

14. but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

B. His Devices

- 1. Draw you into the flesh**
- 2. Draw you to claim your rights**
- 3. Draw you to fight for you rights**

Wrath, vengeance, rebellion generating ill-will towards others will emerge. Then as you are engaged in these emotions the actions that result are sin. The very attitudes interrupt your communication through the Holy Spirit. Then once you are isolated the enemy begins to bind you in condemnation, anger and discouragement.

You first line of defense is to BE QUICKLY Restored!!!

Confess the attitudes to God. Put the old man back in the grave and put the new man back on. Renew your mind with the Word so that you take on the mind of Christ.

B. Three areas where believers are tempted (1 John 2:16)

- 1. The lust of the _____** - this area deals with the appetites of the flesh and includes such sin as sexual immorality, gluttony, drunkenness, drug abuse, and laziness. Any desire generated by the physical body that interferes with keeping your walk pure.
- 2. The lust of the _____** - this area has to do with a man's relationship to money and possessions. It includes such sin as greed, covetousness, stealing and lying especially for gain of property or possessions.
- 3. The _____ of life** - this area involves putting self at the center of all things and relationships. It includes such sins as pride, selfish ambitions, strife, anger, jealousy, idolatry, and murder. Often this is strong desires generated by your wounded

emotions that seek to exalt you above others. A victim mentality and un-thankfulness are often at the roots giving nourishment to the pride of life.

The fruit that lust produces is _____, _____ and _____.

Pride-emotional, soul centered arrogance. You believe you are right and God is wrong. It comes before the fall.

Rebellion – always motivated by pride, it is our attempt to rise above God by defiance directed against His rule and authority over us. The Bible says it is like witchcraft and an abomination.

Self-Righteousness - Our believing in our own ability and strength to be good or right before God outside of accepting Christ and His righteousness.

C. How to successfully overcome temptation:

1. Use a scriptural approach to spiritual warfare by daily putting on the whole armor of God (*Ephesians 6:10-18*).
2. Build yourself up spiritually through daily _____ and _____ study. The importance of this cannot be overestimated.
3. Stay away from _____ influences (*I Corinthians 15:33; I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:22; I John 2:15*). This may mean changing friends, entertainment, jobs, or anything else that could pull you back into the world and your old way of life.
4. Use the _____ of God as a sword against temptation and the devil's lies (*Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11*).
5. Get rid of all known sin in your life, especially un-forgiveness, bitterness, rebellion, or occult involvement, as these left alone can allow access to Satan to build strongholds in your life.
6. Be sure to stay in close fellowship with other believers through your local church (*Hebrews 10:25*).

7. Stand on the _____ of God that He will not allow Satan to tempt you beyond what you can handle but will give you a way of escape (*I Corinthians 10:13*).
8. After you have submitted yourself to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you (*James 4:7*).

II. How to overcome the accuser's condemnation

In Revelation 12:9-11, Satan is referred to as “the accuser of our brothers.” One very effective weapon of the devil is to cause you to believe that you have failed and have lost your salvation. He tries to convince you that you are no longer pure. He keeps you focused on the “Old man” and next thing you know you’re wearing the “old man” that was put to death and buried with Christ. (*Hebrews 4:16*). This serves to divert them from the work of God they are called to do. It is similar to trying to drive with your eyes always fixed on the rear-view mirror instead of the road ahead.

B. Satan wants you to _____.

The devil does all he can through accusations and condemnation to get you to give up and quit spiritually. If he can convince you that you are not changed, that God does not love you, or that you will never get victory, then what usually results is discouragement, depression, and dejection, all of which can lead to spiritual shipwreck.

C. Three areas of protection—Revelation 12:11 tells how the accuser of the brethren was overcome by believers.

1. The _____ -- They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.” When the devil accuses you of past failures, inadequacies, shortcomings, and sins, you are to point him to the blood of Jesus. The Bible says in I John 1:7, “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Your sins are gone because Christ took them away; therefore, the devil has no case against you before God. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

2. The spoken _____ “They overcame him by . . . the Word of their testimony.” This simply means that you are to speak (or testify) what the Word says about you, your sins and

your victories. When the devil attacks you with condemnation, speak the Word to the thoughts and accusations coming against you.

3. Absolute _____ to the Lord. “They overcame him . . . and they loved not their lives unto the death.” They were so sold out to the Lord that not even the threat of death could make them turn back. When your commitment to God is sure, the devil’s darts of accusation fall harmlessly off without hurting you.

III. How to turn back the enemy’s destruction

Satan is called the “destroyer” in I Corinthians 5:5 and I Corinthians 10:10. From I Peter 5:8, we learn the devil is like a “roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour.” John 10:10 speaks of the enemy as the one who comes “to steal, to kill, and to destroy.” From these passages and others, you can know that Satan is intent upon bringing devastation and ruin to God’s people.

A. Satan’s major areas of destruction

1. Physical sickness, Mental and emotional attacks
2. Bondage—especially to alcohol, drugs or sexual sins
3. Financial problems
4. Family problems

I. Spiritual ways to resist the devil

1. Stand on God’s _____. Find out what God’s promises are regarding your particular area of need and claim them for your own life. For example, if the devil is hitting you with sickness, study what the Bible says about healing and believe that for your life.
2. _____ the Word. Speak God’s Word to the need and to Satan when he attacks. This is what Jesus did when He was tempted by the devil in Matthew 4.
3. The _____ of Jesus. “*Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*” (Philippians 2:9) “*You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* (John 14:14)

4. _____ God. Make sure you are walking in obedience to the known will of God. In the book of Malachi, the people of God were seeing their finances devoured, and they did not understand why. God told them it was because they were not paying their tithes. In Malachi 3:10-11, He said that He would rebuke the devourer if they would obey Him.
5. Walk in _____. Without faith it is impossible for you to please God or defeat the devil. Faith is a shield that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (Ephesians 6:16; I John 5:4).
6. _____. Finally, stand your ground, and don't give up. "Stand against the schemes of the devil . . . and having done all . . . stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13). There is no room for cowardice in God's army. If you are afraid of the enemy and try to run from him, he will devour you, but if you stand against him using your weapons of spiritual warfare, he will flee from you.
7. _____ the Lord in all situations. No matter what is thrown at you let praise be your battle cry. Don't acknowledge the Devil's attempts. Simply stay steadfast in worship. Don't let him steal your joy.

Exercise:

1. Break into groups of two to four and share briefly a time when you experienced the greatest victory over the devil. Afterwards, pray for one another.
2. Memorize **Luke 10:18-20**

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Exodus

Use the Bible Study tool as you read. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

ANSWERS:

- Pg. 2 victory,
- Pg. 3 overcome, weakness, flesh, disease, conflict
- Pg. 4 flesh, eye,
- Pg. 5 pride, pride, rebellion, self righteousness, prayer, bible, corrupt, word
- Pg. 6 word, quit, blood,
- Pg. 7 Word, commitment, promises
- Pg. 8 speak, name, obey, faith, stand firm, praise