

Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

Overcome Evil With Good - Romans 12:22

Overcome Evil With Good

- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21
- The word “overcome” is a translation of a Greek word that literally means, “to conquer, subdue, prevail, overcome, get the victory.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- Last week we learned how to not be overcome by the evil that is all around us which is continually trying to steal, kill and destroy what God is doing.
- But we are not a people who are satisfied with merely having a firm defense against evil; we want to take our inherited place as overcomers of evil - becoming warriors that offensively take ground for the kingdom of God!
- King Jesus - You are the greatest Overcomer! Lead us by Your Spirit and power to subdue and conquer evil for Your Name and for Your Glory!

How??

1. Overcome Evil Where You Are Now

- The three young men in this story were slaves to an evil and Godless king. Human logic would say that this is not the time or place to overcome evil.
- “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘**With man this is impossible, but with God; all things are possible with God.**’” Mark 10:27
- Many Christians are waiting for a different time or better opportunity to become a victorious warrior for Christ... “when I know more Scripture...when I’m more mature...when I get a better job...when I get in a more Godly environment...when I feel stronger...when this dark time passes...”
- Stop waiting! God has orchestrated our current circumstances and He fully expects us to stand right where we are and overcome evil in His Name. He is big enough and strong enough to produce a victory in our weakest moments.

2. Refuse To Compromise

- Let’s read Daniel 3:16-18 again together.
- It truly saddens me to think how watered down the church has become in our day. We Christians have so compromised the standard of Jesus that we often look more like the world around us than like Jesus Himself.
- We’re supposed to be transforming the world by the power and love of God, and yet we find the world transforming us into a powerless and lifeless church.

Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

- I find it interesting that these young men refused to serve false gods and worship gold; and these have become commonplace in “Christianity” today.
- As we learned last week, if we want to become overcomers of evil then we’ve got to stop being overcome by evil. Compromise must stop! Resist the devil and he will flee. (James 4:7) Put to death sin by the Spirit’s power. (Rom 8:13)

3. Trust In God In The Midst Of Evil

- “They trusted in Him and defiled the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.” Daniel 3:28.b
- You and I do not have the power to overcome evil; but our God has all power to obliterate all evil in all circumstances! When we’re face to face with evil and it seems like an impossible situation - we have to trust Him to be God.
- Our current culture of comfortable “Christianity” wants God to rescue us from the fire; but He may have a greater plan to defeat evil and purify us with the fire.
- Anyone can become a soldier, but it takes battlefield victories and losses to become a proven warrior. Let’s stop trying to avoid difficult situations at all costs; and begin to embrace them as opportunities to conquer evil, draw closer to God, and gain valuable battlefield experience for His glory.

4. Enjoy Freedom And Closeness With God

- “He said, ‘Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’” Daniel 3:25
- If we can learn to trust God in the midst of evil and difficult circumstances, the payoff is unimaginable! Right there, in the midst of our most challenging situation, Jesus is there to love us and give us peace, freedom, and victory!
- Obedience always produces intimacy; but obedience in the most desperate situations produces moments with Jesus that change our lives forever.
- Are we robbing ourselves of freedom, victory over evil, and closeness with Jesus because we are running from hardship instead of trusting God? Are we choosing to rebel against God instead of enjoying Him in the flames? Let’s repent today and surrender our whole lives to His plans and purposes.

5. Steward The Victory

- “‘Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language that say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.’ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.” Daniel 3:29-30
- We should enter into every hardship asking two questions: “How can I glorify God in this situation?” and “What can I learn in this situation to become more like Jesus?”
- Obedience in fiery trials often produces promotion - physically and/or spiritually. We can be a good steward of these victories by giving God all the glory; and choosing to walk in complete obedience in our new promotion. In this way, we continue to be people who overcome evil with good.