

OVERCOMING BY FAITH **(1 John 5:4-5)**

I. We can overcome situations by faith.

- A. Abraham was surrounded by idolatrous people and was commanded by God to leave them and even his family behind.
 - 1. Hebrews 11:8 tells us that obeyed by faith.
 - 2. Despite the fact that Abraham's family had become idolatrous and his neighbors were as well, Abraham left them behind to be obedient to God.
 - 3. There are those who are tempted to stay in unbelief or denominationalism because their family and friends are in those same situations.
 - 4. Abraham shows that by faith that can be overcome.
 - 5. Matthew 10:37.
- B. Moses was surrounded by wealth and opulence (Hebrews 11:24-26).
 - 1. His faith in God did not allow these trappings to keep him from being obedient.
 - 2. The rich young ruler did and he went away sorrowful.
 - 3. There are those today who have given up wealth to be faithful.
- C. Hezekiah and Josiah are examples of people who had evil parents but by faith in God followed God and led people towards God instead of away from Him.
- D. All of these and others were in situations that would easily allow for unfaithfulness.
 - 1. However, their belief in God and His way and word allowed them to rise above their circumstances and be faithful.
 - 2. There is no situation in which we might find ourselves out of which faith cannot help us.
- E. We can be pleasing to God even when situations surround us with opportunities to be unfaithful.

II. We can overcome sin by faith.

- A. Hebrews 11 also tells us about a harlot named Rahab.
 - 1. Joshua 6 is the chapter where we meet her in the Old Testament.
 - 2. Being a harlot, we see that she led a very sinful lifestyle.
 - 3. We know the people of Canaan were wholly given to idolatry and she was immersed in that culture.
 - 4. However, when presented with an opportunity to show faith in God she acted on it.
 - 5. She is not commended for lying, she is commended for believing in the true God and acting on that belief.
- B. The Corinthian Christians were a group of people that came out of a very sinful lifestyle.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
 - 2. When presented with the gospel, they changed their way of life by faith in God and His Son.

- C. There is no sin out of which we can't come if we faithfully follow God's word.
 - 1. Faith allows us to sever ties with the world and look to heaven as a goal.
 - 2. Faith gives us the strength to overcome addictions and sinful lifestyles because we realize what God has in store for us and the better life He offers.

III. **We can overcome sadness by faith.**

- A. Notice vs. 36-38.
 - 1. These verses refer to the life the prophets led.
 - 2. They were treated horribly by the Jews.
 - 3. Jesus attested to this fact (Matthew 23:31) as well as Paul (1 Thessalonians 2:15).
 - 4. The sadness brought on by the rejection of God by their hearers could have caused these great men to falter.
 - 5. Their faith in God would not allow them to do so.
 - 6. Men such as Amos, who was told to go preach somewhere else, simply did what God told them to do.
- B. Elijah is another example of one who was sad at the denial of God by the Israelites.
 - 1. He wanted to die because of the reaction of the queen.
 - 2. God had to let him know there were others who had not given in to unfaithfulness.
 - 3. Despite his sadness he continued on eventually being translated into heaven.
- C. Paul was one who was hit with sadness.
 - 1. He had been in prison and others had forsaken him (2 Timothy 4:16).
 - 2. His faith in God allowed him to realize that God was still their with him despite the rejection by others (vs. 17-18).
- D. A lot of things happen in life that cause sadness.
 - 1. Death of loved ones or sickness and disease cause sadness.
 - 2. Unfaithfulness on the part of others leads to sadness.
 - 3. Our faith in God will allow us to get to happier days and better times if we hold on to that faith.
 - 4. We need to look for that abundant life that Jesus offers and hold on to it.