

Thursday Nights Going Deeper: “Finding Life in the Scriptures”

Week 4 – How to Overcome the Enemy Through the Scriptures



Opening discussion: Each week we will break into different small groups to engage in relational, easy-going conversation to discover how each of us process the topics at hand, consider what challenges we may be experiencing with this topic, and “crowd-source” solutions and ideas to take our engagement with God’s Word to the next level.

As we begin today, move rather quickly...spend just a minute or two with each person in your small group and discuss: *If you could have God supernaturally touch just one aspect of your life (or your loved ones) what would it be? If you had to focus on just one...what would you pick? What stands in the way of that breakthrough for you? Where might spiritual forces be working against God in that area? Have someone in your group write down the responses...we will need this a little later on tonight.*

The Key to Living as an Overcomer

“The Christian life from start to finish is based upon this principle of utter dependence on the Lord Jesus... “Sitting” is an attitude of rest. Something has been finished, work stops and we sit...we relax at once, because strain no longer falls upon our muscles and nerves, but upon something outside of ourselves. So also in the spiritual realm, to sit down is simply to rest our whole weight—our load, ourselves, our future, our everything—upon the Lord.”

(Watchman Nee, [Sit, Walk, Stand](#). CLC Publications, Fort Washington, PA, 1957. Page 15.)

It starts with recognizing that you _____ are an _____.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:35-39

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

1 John 5:4-5

In our modern North American, contemporary, evangelical Christianity, there is a tremendous amount of what might be called “**Christian Passivity**”. Many believers often feel they don’t know enough, don’t understand enough, don’t engage God effectively enough to truly live from a place of spiritual authority and victory. **Life happens “to” them** instead of **standing** from a place of **victory**, seated with Christ.

The Bible is the record of our overcoming position—it is the narrative of how we came into a position of authority and victory. The core question is whether we will choose to embrace that record by faith and therefore use it effectively in our lives.

Overcoming in Christ is more than a **defensive** position for us: We go on **offense**.

- **There are defensive texts in scripture:**

“They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.”

Jeremiah 1:19

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes....so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

Ephesians 6:11, 13

- **But there are also offensive texts...where we go on the offensive against the enemy:**

“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.”

Matthew 11:12

“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy.’”

Luke 10:17-19

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

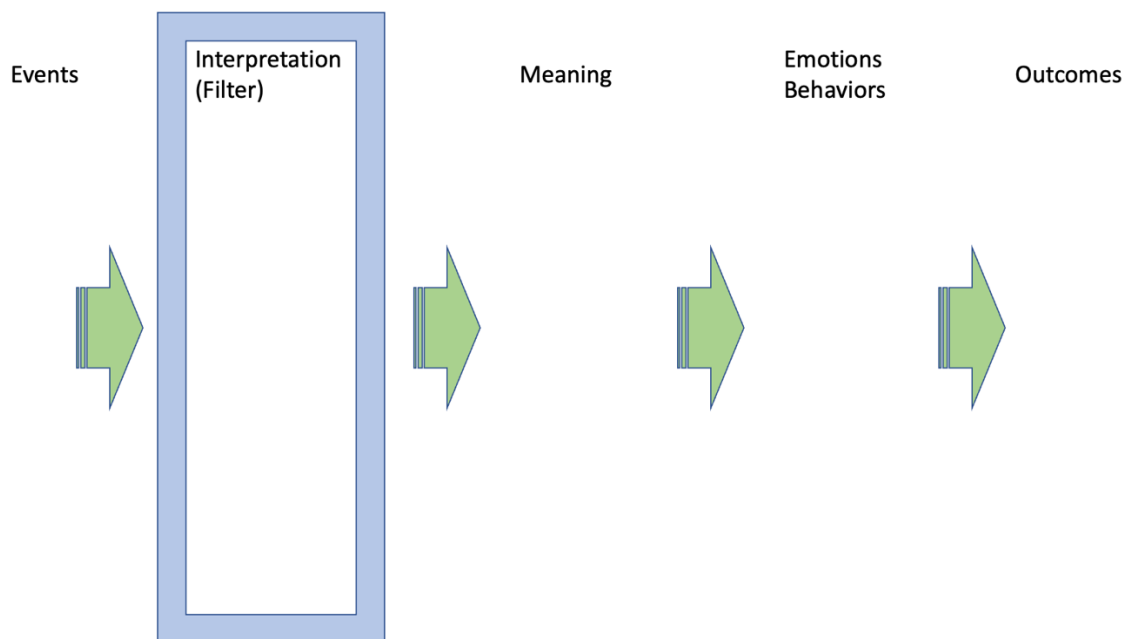
Overcoming the Enemy's Most Common Agenda: Our "Faulty Filter"

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12

There are four elements to how we experience our selves:

- Events / Experiences – We have no control over these
- Interpretation – Filter we use = Core beliefs
- Meaning we attach – The ideas / ideology we assign to our experiences
- Emotions / behavior are driven by our meanings – reinforces core beliefs



We need to _____ our faulty _____ with the Word of God.

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

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Group Exercise / Lab Experience:

Break back into your small groups for more in-depth discussion on tonight’s topic. Pace yourselves and plan on 20 minutes for this discussion. Be sure to leave time for as many people to comment as would like on each other the core discussion points and be sure to leave time to pray for one another. Appoint someone to be timekeeper and help facilitate the discussion to keep us moving. Appoint someone else to take key notes of the most important concepts shared that can be quickly offered back to the large group at the end of our session tonight.

Create a fictional “Ashburn Allison / Ashburn Andy” character (we will spend two weeks to complete this exercise):

- Create storyline of his/her life events, core beliefs, and faulty interpretations.
- Create a picture map of this character using the “Faulty Filter” chart shared in section tonight’s teaching outline.
- Run an exercise to replace the faulty core beliefs in your character with scriptures – use www.BibleGateway.com or a Bible Promise book to look up passages related to the core beliefs experienced by your character.
- If able, generate vulnerability to share some aspect of this fictional character that is similar to your own real-life story.
 - **Very important:** As individuals share, resist the urge to move into problem-solving mode. Do not share ideas or responses...do not go to “have you tried this?” or “when I was in a similar situation, I tried this.”
 - Rather, be exclusive in this one next step: move right into praying for each other using the scriptures as a starting point or prayer point.
- As we finish this character-mapping, plan to present to the larger group your fictional character’s storyline and the successful change to Biblically based core beliefs.