

Overcoming the Enemy of Your Soul

Assumptions of belief:

God is transcendent: He is not us. He is higher than we are. He is imminent, always close to us. God wants to participate in our life every day. There is a spiritual realm and a physical realm. There are angels and demons. The devil is real and is the current ruler of this world.

Who is our enemy?

John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Ephesians 6:12-14

For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

We all have an identity that is rooted in God, created and established by Him alone. Jesus exchanges the effects of the fall of Adam so that we can discover the fullness and richness of who we are created to be. Redemption through Jesus is our process for this exchange.

Death is exchanged for life

Sin is exchanged for righteousness

The impossible is exchanged for the possible

Our hopelessness is exchanged for hope

Being disconnected is exchanged for belonging

Our selfishness is exchanged to serving others

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

The names of spirits with their function give us insight for how the enemy is trying to influence and work in our life. A question we could ask regarding the function of the spirits named in the handout is this. How are the spirits in my life a counterfeit or a perversion of what God wants to do in my life? Jesus commissioned the 70 He anointed and sent out to heal the sick and cast out demons.

When we don't resolve an issue in our life we will internalize it. This can open the door for sin allowing the enemy influence and even control in our life. We all have things we have been exposed to or have been a part of that opened a door for him. Our strategy is to identify these things and close the door.

Ephesians 4:25-27

*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

7 Doors to Demonic Influence

- 1) Occult involvement:
Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Chronicles 33:6
- 2) Unforgiveness:
Matthew 18:31-35
- 3) Practicing willful disobedience:
Romans 6:16; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 5:19-21
- 4) Inner Vows and Spoken Curses (our words and others spoken into us):
Matthew 5:33-37; James 4:13-17
- 5) Generational Curses, passed through the bloodline:
God's original design is for the bloodline to be a conduit for blessing.
Exodus 20:4-6
- 6) Hurts and Trauma:
A good reading for this: Bruises of Satan by Carol Thompson
Isaiah 53:5; Psalm 109:22
- 7) Giving fear a place:
Luke 12:32
Fear is the enemy's version of faith.
Fear attracts the enemy just as faith attracts the Lord. (Agreement)

We don't use a formula to overcome the enemy.

We don't fight using the enemy's weapons.

The enemy doesn't mind if we fight him as long as we are using his weapons.

Our way and path:

We start with recognizing the issue. In agreement we always empower what we agree with. It comes down to which voice are we going to listen to. We want to come out of alignment with deception and embrace God's truth

Freedom is not defined by what is absent, but with what is present. If we believe we will be free by casting out the enemy we will be free, we have lost the battle. Freedom is not defined by what we have gotten rid of, delivered from or healed of. Freedom is defined by who is present.

John 8:31-32

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Exercising our own authority

We want to come into an awareness of what the open doors are in our life and close them our self. As believers, we each have the authority to do this.

We can hear the Lord

We can respond to the Lord

We can exercise the authority Jesus has given us.

We close open doors through repentance, renouncing, forgiving and receiving spiritual healing. We expect the work of the Holy Spirit to reflect the fruit of the Spirit. We are not looking to cause drama. If it is the Holy Spirit we will reflect the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Revelation 12:7-11

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. **"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.**"*

The blood:

We are not operating a formula to close the door. We are operating in a knowing of how to do not what to do. This is about knowing who we are in the reality of what the blood of Jesus accomplished for us in our exchange in every area of death for life.

We are the perfect righteousness of God. Has the Holy Spirit convinced you of this truth; your righteousness through Jesus? Convinced you that nothing can separate you from the love of God, neither angels, demons...

The testimony:

The word of our testimony; this is our story with God, His imminent presence and participation in our life. This is no different than the Ark of the Covenant, the Ark of the Testimony, being carried at the front in the battles Israel faced. We each have the choice to declare of what God has done in our life. Are we daring to declare our story in the face of adversity or are we grumbling about what God isn't doing? Is disappointment and complaint going before you into battle?

We will overcome as we carry into battle the reality of God's goodness and His faithfulness. This is our track record of what we have experienced with God.

It is important to have a record of the times God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. We are better able to remember the times God moves to us, in us and through us when we would despair and feel all alone. These are the testimonies that we want to herald and hold before us.

We love not our lives:

Jesus came to lay down His life (**psūchê** is translated soul when not as life) as a ransom for many. Our soul is our mind, will and emotions. We are laying down what we think, what we want and how we feel. This is laying down our dreams and taking up God's dream as our own.

If we will lose our life, our dream, we will find that God's dream expressed in and through us will be more in every way than we could imagine.

A process for overcoming:

This is not a formula of what to do. This is a way for how we deal with the death in us that we are looking for.

- 1) Conviction: Holy Spirit, what are You targeting? What is the nature of our issue?
- 2) Confession: We agree with the Lord, with whatever God shows us.
- 3) Renounce: I renounce; I remove this _____ in me.
- 4) Take Authority: We don't have to yell and scream making a scene. We take authority, Jesus authority-in His name. We command. We are not asking.

Prayer:

Lord, we want to function in a place of rest; a place of faith; a place where we are relying totally and completely on You and Your authority. Help us not apply our own efforts and strength to do what only You can do in us. We turn our heart to You and embrace You in this moment. Is there a door You would reveal to me that You want to close today? Amen