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## Faith In Overcoming

The road to God's high calling is littered with tests and trials. Every person must decide whether to live for themselves or to live for Him. Many attend church and practice a form of Christianity that may indeed secure their place in Heaven, yet they fall short of the fullness of God's purpose for their lives. From the moment of salvation, the Lord sets before us a specific path. If we walk in it, not only will we reach eternity with Him, but we will also leave a lasting impact on this earth.

There are both rewards and consequences to following His will. Yet today, our culture emphasizes personal happiness far more than perseverance and overcoming. As a result, many will forfeit the greatness of God's plan by centering their lives on comfort, success, and temporary joy.

To walk in the will of God is to invite conflict with the enemy. If our definition of faith is limited to joy, prosperity, and smooth circumstances, we will view every hardship as failure. In reality, resistance is often evidence that we are walking in obedience. Many battles arise not because we are in error, but because we are standing exactly where God has called us.

We might ask, why would God lead me into a place where the enemy attacks? Wouldn't He guide me around difficulties so that my life could remain peaceful? The answer is this: the enemy's attacks are not truly about you—they are about the will of God. Satan resists because he fears what God will accomplish through your obedience. If God were to remove every battle from your life, He would also have to remove you from His purpose.

The kingdom of God has never been solely about personal comfort. Our Father may call us to endure hardship so that others may come to salvation. Sadly, much of the modern gospel places its weight on promises of prosperity and blessings, while neglecting the truth that perilous times are coming. The church must recover a full understanding of faith, one that embraces both God's blessings and the endurance to overcome.

When I was young in the faith, I believed difficulties were evidence of weak faith. I am grateful for the faith message, for it taught me to stand firm no matter the circumstances and assured me that God does not withhold healing, provision, or deliverance from His children. The language of victory, prosperity, and strength gave me a strong foundation, and I often declared that I was "blessed and highly favored of the Lord."

Yet I also misunderstood. I assumed true faith meant the absence of struggle. Later, I realized that many others had lived with the same misconception. My mistake was looking to faith as a way to avoid battles. When hardship came, I concluded that I had failed. This way of thinking weakened me rather than strengthened me. Now I know that faith is not a shield from all conflict; it is the very weapon God has given us to overcome. The apostle John wrote: 1 John 5:4-5, *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

Faith does not eliminate the battle; it empowers us to endure and to prevail. There are two dimensions of faith that we must embrace: faith to receive God's blessings and faith to overcome life's obstacles. We must hold both with equal strength. God's plan for your life does not bypass the battlefield; it leads you straight through it. To focus only on prosperity is to grasp only half of the gospel.

Everything God has for you requires faith to be brought to pass. The enemy will do everything in his power to resist you, but faith enables you to press through every obstacle. This kind of faith should be celebrated as much as faith for blessings. Yes, testimonies of financial provision or healing inspire us, but so does the testimony of a believer who lifts their hands in worship while in the midst of a fierce struggle.

To carry God's call is to carry a target. The enemy does not oppose you because of who you are, but because of the direction God has placed upon your life. Jesus warned us of this reality in the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 7:12–14, *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."*

The picture Jesus is painting here is not a path that is less wide. The word narrow means the same width as the broad path but made narrow by obstacles placed in our way. God doesn't place those obstacles there; the devil does. In every moment of resistance, the goal of the enemy is to tempt you to choose a more peaceful way, but also in the same moment, God has given you every ounce of faith for you to overcome.

I heard a preacher say that we view our Christianity as either a cruise ship or a military warship. Let's choose with courage, as it's impossible to walk with God without getting the enemy's attention. As you practice praying in the Holy Spirit and the will of God is established in your future, you will never need to fear being overpowered. The only way to fail is if you stop and choose a lesser path. Be brave, be an overcomer, and do not fear, as a great God gives you an adventure for a lifetime.

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