

Oct. 21, 2020 - Overwhelmed Overcomer

Age old Q - Why am I going thru this? Has God stopped loving me?

Some challenges are designed to move us forward. Out of comfort zone

2014-Genny Small, 29, mother of 7, pregnant - diagnosed w/Breast Cancer. Chemo was rough, but it **got worse**. Double mastectomy & Reconstr. Surgery.

Following reconstructive surgery, she contracted an infection.

2015 - **7 surgeries** to clear the infection.

(Her own mother died of ovarian cancer when she was 19)

In recovery, she dug deep into her faith, & reached out for support network - while continuing to homeschool, care for her family, & function on daily basis. Nothing offered what she needed - support & encouragement w/ faith basis.

Genny needed something rooted in her Christian faith.

Idea blossomed- a class, instead of support group.

Genny had the same questions other breast cancer survivors shared. She met other survivors during treatment and shared her questions & idea

Overcomers: Daughters of the King of Kings was born.

Pilot program - Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, 10 women attended 9-wk workshop for b.c. survivors & founding a nonprofit org.

Classes focus on concerns of b.c. survivors following treatment.

Purpose - give breast cancer survivors hope. Participants return to assist.

“God uses everything that we go through for a greater purpose,” she said.

“We want to show other women going through this that there’s hope.”

“God is walking with you... using you to be a vessel for somebody else.”

Another workshop, led by husband, Paul — is for spouses and caregivers.

“They usually don’t have anyone to talk to; they just take it,” Genny said, adding that spouses don’t want to express their fears or concerns to the cancer sufferer. “The class gives them a safe place to talk.”

Q - Why am I going thru this? Open eyes/heart to a new purpose.
Awakening. Fly higher.

Q: Has God stopped loving me? Is it punishment?

Rom. 8:35 [NLT] - Q - “Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute or in danger or threatened w/death?”

Romans 8:37 [NIV] - A - “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

[NLT] - “No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”

Victory is rooted in God’s loves for us. **Rom. 8:38-39:** - “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow-not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [NLT]

📌 Problems aren’t signs of God’s anger/absence of love.

John 16:33 - “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” As followers of Jesus, we are **overcomers**. Victors.

❖ **Christians don’t live problem-free lives; we live victorious lives!**

We aren’t taken out of this world, we’re empowered to be Overcomers.

Overcome means: You prevail. Succeed. Overcome something.

❖ Tonight, be **reminded of truth to hold onto** when you face difficulty.

Empowering Scriptures:

1 - **I John 4:4** - “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

– God is greater than anything you will face.

2 - **Isaiah 41:13** - "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

- Don't be afraid of the future. God will lead/direct.

3 - ♦ Jesus sits @ throne of God. He knows what we're going thru b/c He experienced life here on earth.

- **Hebrews 4:16** (Contemp Engl V) - "So **whenever we are in need**, we should **come bravely** before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help."

- no problem is too small/big. You don't earn God's love.

- We usually ask: *How am I going to get thru this?*

Say instead: *"I am going to get thru this."*

(Berean Study Bible) - "Let us then approach the throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

4 - **Joshua 1:5** - "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- Not going thru anything alone.

5 - **Isaiah 40:31** - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

- Be patient. Let God be God. You don't have to solve it today.

6 - **Matthew 19:26** - "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.'"

- Your situation is not impossible b/c you don't see a way out.

7 - **Psalms 34:18** - "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and rescues those whose spirits are crushed."

- You may be down, crushed, hurt . . . but you aren't done. He is with you. Not alone. God turns walls into doors.

☐ **2 Cor. 4:8-9** - "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..."

You'll get knocked down, but God helps you stand again.

Prov. 24:16 - "The righteous person may fall seven times, but rises up again, but the wicked will stumble in adversity."

Too many people get disillusioned when difficulties arise.

They ask: "Why did God let this happen?"

God doesn't save us from every problem.

Butterfly that never struggles never learns to fly.

Stop asking why this and say, What now, God?

Be open to His moving you and using. You.

When Israelites saw **Goliath**, soldiers thought, "He's so big we can never kill him." David saw the same giant and thought, "He's so big I can't miss!"

Don't let problems overwhelm you.

Small stone was all it took to kill Goliath. No sword. No Battle.

God is big enough to handle your problem.

Romans 8:37 - "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

— overwhelming victory is yours.

You're an Overcomer b/c God loves you.

Song Tonight - "Overcomer" by Mandisa