

Overcomer

LADIES FALL CONFERENCE
Heather Hills Baptist Church

SESSION ONE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Proverbs 16:9, *“A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”*

An overcomer is a person who succeeds in gaining _____ over a difficulty.

The verb *overcome* implies a _____. We know living the Christian life has battles.

1 John 4:4, *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

John 16:33, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have OVERCOME the world.”*

GET UP AND WIN THE RACE

Whenever I start to hang my head in front of failure's face,
my downward fall is broken by the memory of a race.
A children's race, young boys, young men; how I remember well,
excitement sure, but also fear, it wasn't hard to tell.
They all lined up so full of hope, each thought to win that race
or tie for first, or if not that, at least take second place.
Their parents watched from off the side, each cheering for their son,
and each boy hoped to show his folks that he would be the one.

The whistle blew and off they flew, like chariots of fire,
to win, to be the hero there, was each young boy's desire.
One boy in particular, whose dad was in the crowd,
was running in the lead and thought “My dad will be so proud.”
But as he speeded down the field and crossed a shallow dip,
the little boy who thought he'd win, lost his step and slipped.
Trying hard to catch himself, his arms flew everywhere,

and midst the laughter of the crowd he fell flat on his face.
As he fell, his hope fell too; he couldn't win it now.
Humiliated, he just wished to disappear somehow.

But as he fell his dad stood up and showed his anxious face,
which to the boy so clearly said, "**Get up and win that race!**"
He quickly rose, no damage done, behind a bit that's all,
and ran with all his mind and might to make up for his fall.
So anxious to restore himself, to catch up and to win,
his mind went faster than his legs. He slipped and fell again.
He wished that he had quit before with only one disgrace.
"I'm hopeless as a runner now, I shouldn't try to race."

But through the laughing crowd he searched and found his father's face
with a steady look that said again, "**Get up and win that race!**"
So he jumped up to try again, ten yards behind the last.
"If I'm to gain those yards," he thought, "I've got to run real fast!"
Exceeding everything he had, he regained eight, then ten...
but trying hard to catch the lead, he slipped and fell again.
Defeat! He lay there silently. A tear dropped from his eye.
"There's no sense running anymore! Three strikes I'm out! Why try?
I've lost, so what's the use?" he thought. "I'll live with my disgrace."
But then he thought about his dad, who soon he'd have to face.

"Get up," an echo sounded low, "you haven't lost at all,
for all you have to do to win is rise each time you fall.
Get up!" the echo urged him on, "**Get up and take your place!**
You were not meant for failure here! **Get up and win that race!**"
So, up he rose to run once more, refusing to forfeit,
and he resolved that win or lose, at least he wouldn't quit.
So far behind the others now, the most he'd ever been,
still he gave it all he had and ran like he could win.
Three times he'd fallen stumbling, three times he rose again.
Too far behind to hope to win, he still ran to the end.

They cheered another boy who crossed the line and won first place,
head high and proud and happy — no falling, no disgrace.
But, when the fallen youngster crossed the line, in last place,
the crowd gave him a greater cheer for finishing the race.
And even though he came in last with head bowed low, unproud,
you would have thought he'd won the race, to listen to the crowd.
And to his dad he sadly said, "I didn't do so well."
"**To me, you won,**" his father said. "**You rose each time you fell.**"

And now when things seem dark and bleak and difficult to face,
the memory of that little boy helps me in my own race.
For all of life is like that race, with ups and downs and all.
And all you have to do to win is rise each time you fall.
And when depression and despair shout loudly in my face,
another voice within me says, **"Get up and win that race!"**

Attributed to Dr. D.H. "Dee" Groberg

Hebrews 12:1-3, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction [hostility, opposition] of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*

OUR TESTIMONY

Romans 5:3, *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that Tribulation worketh patience."*

Isaiah 1:18, *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

- ❖ **God Is Always _____**. **Psalm 100:5**, *“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”*
- ❖ **God Is Always _____**. **1 Corinthians 10:13**, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*
- ❖ _____ **with Open Hands.**

- ❖ **The Importance of a _____**.

John 15:1-2, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”*

2 Corinthians 1:3-5, *“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, THAT we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”*

- Ann Judson, *“We live contented with our lot and live Thee. But God has taught us by affliction, what we would not learn by mercies that our hearts are his exclusive property, and whatever rivals intrude, he will take it away.”*
- Adoniram Judson, *“She has been torn from her husband’s bleeding heart, and from her darling babe but infinite wisdom and love have presided as ever in this most afflicting dispensation.”*
- Matthew Henry: *“We must cultivate thankfulness along with praise, just like a garden. When we have no other answer to the suggestions of grief and fear, we may have recourse to this, I thank Thee, O Father.”*

Hebrews 13:15, *“By him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

REFLECTION: