

VICTORY OVER ADVERSITY

The Bible teaches that spiritual advancing can **OVERWHEMINGLY CONQUER** adversities of life (Rom.8:31-39).

“This is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

The application of this biblical promise will be important to this lesson. We have been studying how to minister to the Walking Wounded of the Church.

We have been working a case study of a young woman who came to me with a weigh problem. She wanted to win over what she said was an eating disorder.

In talking with her, we discovered she hadn't always had a weigh problem. We discovered it was after a traumatic experience during college. When I ask why her kept her weigh, she said to keep certain men away. She became a little emotional and I recommended that we study the following three doctrines before we discussed her weigh problem: spirituality; faith cycle; and undeserved suffering.

I did this because it was important to rebuild her confidence in God and to have the spiritual strength to walk back into a painful past in order to exchange her victimization for victory.

After these three sessions, we discussed her traumatic experience during college. We discovered she had been date raped and that she was angry with herself, men, and God. She asked why God had allowed this to happen to her? She asked what kind of Father would stand-by and allow this to happen to his daughter? (Date rape – Dinah by Shechem – Gen.34)

- What does she believe about God? (Ruth 1:21) abandoned.
- But is it true? She would respond, I use to believe the way you do but not any more.
- Is experience more powerful than the word of God?

This lesson will study five aspects of her VICTORY OVER ADVERSITY.

1. I let her vent and cry. When she had regained her composure, I told her that I wanted to address her question about God - “What kind of Father would stand by and allow this to happen to his daughter?”

I told her that it was the same Father who stood by and allowed His only begotten son to die on the cross for her sins and the sins of the entire world (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10).

It was evil that put Jesus on the cross in order for Him to die for the sins of the entire world so that all who would believe could be saved eternally (Eph.2: 8-9).

What was the bigger picture for His suffering?
What was the good involved in His undeserved suffering?

2. Because Jesus understood and accepted the bigger picture of the plan of God, He could endure the cross with inner joy (Heb.4: 15-16).

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb.12:2)

How does “fixing our eyes on Jesus” relate to us having Victory over Adversity?

This doctrinal knowledge was the difference between having a victim or victor mentality. Jesus was a victor in His mentality while on the cross. He was not a victim of the evil of the world but a voluntary sacrificial offering for sin according to the plan of God (Heb.9: 26-28; 1 John 2:2).

3. Joseph is another example of applying the proper doctrine when experiencing trauma evil of the world.

“And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Gen.50:20)

What was the bigger picture? Did Joseph suffer because of evil or because of undeserved suffering in the plan of God? Did God intend it for the good? (Gen.45: 5-8) read

What important doctrinal point are you learning?

4. The woman of our case study has suffered evil of the world unjustly (undeserved suffering) but she misinterpreted her situation and developed false beliefs from it.

Now she is suffering under self-induced misery (weigh problem). What are some of her false beliefs? How do these false beliefs effect her behavior and especially her weigh problem?

Here are some key verses for her (Phil.1: 19; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet.1: 6-7; 2:20-25; 3:14-18; 4:12-19; 5:6-9).

Her weigh problem was related to what she believes about her victimization by crime and deceitfulness by evil and distrust of men and unfaithfulness of God. If she wants to get rid of her weigh problem, she will need to replace her OMCD with NMDV thinking (Eph.4: 22-24; Rom.12: 2).

5. Devil wants her to volitionally curse God by doctrinally misinterpreting traumatic adversity experiences (Job 2:19-20; Ruth 1:20-21).

Devil wants her to volitionally curse her life because of it (Job 10:1-3; 1:22). There are three categories of suffering in CWL (US) (DD) (SIM). Circle the one Job suffered?

“Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job **and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings**, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.” (James 5:11)

The doctrinal solution to Victory over Adversity is simple but the related problems are often complex and require a lot of listening, patience and mercy so as not to inflict more pain. Our objective should be to help the WalkingWounded to OVERWHEMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US.