

## OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

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*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”*

Isaiah 61:1-3

We see in this passage that the Father has set His people up for a divine appointment with ashes, mourning and heaviness. But with every divine appointment of such comes a divine purpose. The purpose or the outcome of the ashes is beauty, of the mourning is joy and of the heaviness is praise. You cannot enter into the beauty without ashes. The Hebrew word for beauty is glory. Adverse circumstances lead us into the glory of the Lord. My faith has never kept me from adversity but has always kept me through it. John 17:15 reads, *“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”* We pray for the Lord to get us out of trouble when Jesus prays us through it.

Luke 22:28-29 reads, *“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I*

*bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me.”* When we respond to adversity with the right attitude like Christ’s disciples did, we come out on the other side with a greater sphere of influence and authority upon our lives. Luke 22:31-32 states, *“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”* Jesus prepared Peter in advance for the adversity He would soon face. Likewise, the Lord prepares us for what lies ahead. Joseph received a dream from the Lord that would sustain him as he faced adversity that prepared him for his divine destiny in God.

Matthew 5:39 states, *“But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”*

We are called to resist the devil but Jesus taught us not to resist evil or adversity. Look at the life of Job, a man who did not resist adversity but went through it and was changed by it. In the midst of Job’s crucible he declared, *“the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away blessed be the name of the Lord”*. It is easy to praise God when He is giving to us but can we praise Him when He taketh away? We are tested and graded more in the taking away times than we are in the receiving times. The Word says in all this, Job did not sin or blame God. It is so important we maintain the right spirit and attitude through troubled times. So like Job, we can be promoted and receive double for all our trouble as we come through the circumstances we face. God was preparing Job for heavens’ promises. If we

cannot handle the pain we will not be able to handle the promise.

So if today you are in the process it speaks



that you have a purpose. You are not in trouble, you are in transition. Praise the Lord! God teaches us on the mountain what we will be tested for in the valley. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus has taken His disciples up the

mountain to teach them and prepare them for what they would need in the valley. He taught them to pray, “give us this day our daily bread.” Immediately after this, they are led into the desert to be tested for what they heard. Jesus is ministering to the multitudes and they grew hungry. John 6:5-6 states, *“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.”* Jesus knew what to do but He asked his disciples to test them to see if they had learned. Jesus taught them that their heavenly Father was their source and would provide for them. How soon they forgot. How many times the Lord has tried to prepare us in advance through messages, prophets and His holy Word but we did not adhere. What He speaks to you in the light, do not let go in the night. Romans 8:28 states, *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* Did you know that nothing bad can happen to a believer according to this scripture? It all works together for good. The adversity in your life

has carried you to this Day. God only does good things. Paul said “your light affliction works for you.” What you thought was working against you is really working for you a far more exceeding weight of glory. Your light affliction can never compare with the weight of glory God will give you as you go through your crucible. The Lord will bring you out the other side with more than when you went in. We are not just conquerors but more than conquerors!



Jesus said, *“in this world you will have trouble but be of good cheer I have overcome”*. Jesus, the Overcomer now dwells in you and gives us the grace and ability to go through.