

Overcomer

LADIES FALL CONFERENCE
Heather Hills Baptist Church

SESSION FOUR: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

1 John 5:4-5, *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

Toad baked some cookies. *“These cookies smell very good,”* said Toad. He ate one. *“And they taste even better,”* he said. Toad ran to Frog’s house. *“Frog, Frog,”* cried Toad, *“taste these cookies that I have made.”*

Frog ate one of the cookies. *“These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!”* said Frog.

Frog and Toad ate many cookies, one after another. *“You know, Toad,”* said Frog, with his mouth full, *“I think we should stop eating. We will soon be sick.”*

“You are right,” said Toad. *“Let us eat one last cookie, and then we will stop.”* Frog and Toad ate one last cookie.

There were many cookies left in the bowl. *“Frog,”* said Toad, *“let us eat one very last cookie, and then we will stop.”* Frog and Toad ate one very last cookie.

“We must stop eating!” cried Toad as he ate another. *“Yes,”* said Frog, reaching for a cookie, *“we need will power.”* *“What is will power?”* asked Toad.

“Will power is trying hard not to do something that you really want to do,” said Frog.

“You mean like trying not to eat all of these cookies?” asked Toad. *“Right,”* said Frog.

Frog put the cookies in a box. *“There,”* he said. *“Now we will not eat any more cookies.”* *“But we can open the box,”* said Toad. *“That is true,”* said Frog.

Frog tied some string around the box. *“There,”* he said. *“Now we will not eat any more cookies.”* *“But we can cut the string and open the box,”* said Toad. *“That is true,”* said Frog.

Frog got a ladder. He put the box up on a high shelf. *“There,”* said Frog. *“Now we will not eat any more cookies.”* *“But we can climb the ladder and take the box down from the shelf and cut the string and open the box,”* said Toad. *“That is true,”* said Frog.

Frog climbed the ladder and took the box down from the shelf. He cut the string and opened the box.

Frog took the box outside. He shouted in a loud voice, *“Hey birds, here are cookies!”*

Birds came from everywhere. They picked up all the cookies in their beaks and flew away.

“Now we have no more cookies to eat,” said Toad sadly. “Not even one.”

“Yes,” said Frog, “but we have lots and lots of will power.” “You may keep it all, Frog,” said Toad. “I am going home now to bake a cake.”

Source | “Cookies” by [Arnold Lobel](#)
from *Frog and Toad Together*

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 of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, *“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”*

This word *strive* in the Greek has the idea of _____, laboring fervently, self-control with abstinence from all that would make us _____.

Strenuous _____ and self-denial, _____, watchfulness, endurance, and self-control—all are needed in this race to win that crown.

Paul’s greatest fear was to be proved _____ for Christ.

Our _____ is also to be subject to Christ. **Philippians 2:5**, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

Matthew 16:24, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”*

My Friend, I stand in Judgment now, And feel that you're to blame somehow. On earth, I walked with you day by day, And never did you point the way. You knew the Lord in truth and glory, But never did you tell the story.

My knowledge then was very dim; You could have led me safe to Him. Though we lived together on the earth, You never told me of the second birth, And now I stand this day condemned, Because you failed to mention Him. You taught me many things, that's true, I called you "friend" and trusted you, But I learn now that it's too late, You could have kept me from this fate. We walked by day and talked by night, And yet you showed me not the Light. You let me live, and love, and die, You knew I'd never live on high. Yes, I called you a "friend" in life, And trusted you through joy and strife. And yet on coming to the end, I cannot, now, call you "My Friend."

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor once again slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit, and gave a very brief introduction of his childhood friend. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit to speak, "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. He continued, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life....to which boy he would throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision.

The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw the line to his son's friend. By the time he pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beyond the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting straighter in the pew, waiting for the next words to come out of the old man's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son. How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

“Well, you've got a point there,” the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, and he once again looked up at the boys and said, “It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that THAT story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up his Son for me. You see...I was the son's friend.”

Mark 16:15, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

MISSIONARY QUOTES

“People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives...and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.” (Nate Saint, missionary martyr)

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” (Jim Elliot, missionary martyr who lost his life in the late 1950s (Auca) Indians of Ecuador; these men were overcomers, even though they went Home early)

“The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.” (Carl F. H. Henry)

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” (Hudson Taylor)

Proverbs 11:30, *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”*

Acts 4:29, *“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”*

Acts 4:13, *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”*

Ephesians 6:19, *“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”* **Finish your race. Win your prize.**

REFLECTION: