

THE OVERCOMING LIFE

Part 3 of THE LIFE JESUS OFFERS. Romans 6:1-13.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 9, 2023.

WHAT'S YOUR SUPER POWER?

A super power is a skill or ability you possess.

- Kryptonite is all the things in your life that get in the way of success - sins, negative habits, inexperience, unhealthy thinking patterns, etc.
- Easter is the day we celebrate freedom from our kryptonite.
- The ever-living Jesus overcame sin and death on the cross, and rose to offer us his overcoming life - a life that overcomes our kryptonite.

ROMANS 6:1-13

A life-changing question: 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

The overcoming life summarized: 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

The details of the overcoming life: 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Activating the overcoming life: 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as

instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

THE THREE PILLARS OF THE OVERCOMING LIFE

1. The history pillar.

- Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead. These are well-supported historical facts. The earliest Christian message relied on the historicity of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (ESV) I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time ...

- Jesus is alive today, having overcome sin, death, and the devil:

Romans 6:9 (ESV) We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

For more information about the historicity of Jesus, visit our book table, and:

<https://renew.org/the-historical-evidence-for-the-death-burial-and-resurrection-of-jesus-evidence-for-easter-part-3/>

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-concise-pieces-of-evidence-for-the-resurrection/>

2. The transformation pillar.

- Something very powerful happens to us when we are united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For example:

Romans 6:4 (ESV) ... just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we too may walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:6 (ESV) 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

- Faith unites us to Jesus. He and his sin-defeating, death-beating, new life are IN us.
- Our kryptonite has lost its power. We're free to live for the glory of God.

3. The activation pillar.

- We're free to claim our super-power - the living Christ in and through us.

ESV - Present yourselves (offer yourselves) to God ... and your members to God as instruments (tool, utensil, weapon) of righteousness.

Use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God (NLT).

- We can offer our bodies PLUS our abilities, resources, habits etc to God. We can choose to live in Easter power every day. It breaks every chain.
- Some days will feel like the old life is still in charge. Live by faith and don't get discouraged.

God waits for you to act first. Don't wait to feel powerful or confident. Move ahead in your weakness, doing the right thing in spite of your fears and feelings (Warren, Rick. The Purpose Driven Life (p. 224). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.).

CHOOSE TO EXPERIENCE THE OVERCOMING LIFE

Are you in Christ by faith? Have you received him as your God?

- "I want to receive Jesus Christ as my God, and begin a new life."

Are you stuck in old habits, defeated by kryptonite?

- "I need courage and commitment to live the overcoming life."

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Romans 6:1-13.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the teachings of Romans 6:1-13.

- What's your super power? What's your kryptonite?
- Do you think the "kryptonite" metaphor works as a description of sin?
- What are some examples of situations in which you have changed a negative habit by believing that you died and rose again in Christ? Did you feel spiritual power or did you go by faith that the power was there?
- What counsel and encouragement would you give someone who has a negative habit they cannot overcome & do not know what to do next?

Pray together. Be bold.

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to die and rise again so that we would die to sin and live for righteousness. Thank you that the conquering, risen, Christ is alive in us, giving us supernatural power to live a new quality of life that pleases you. Help us to live every day by faith in the power of the cross and resurrection over our "kryptonite." We praise, honor, and bless you Lord. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Find a copy of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life and read days 1-3.
- Write down your understanding of your purpose in life.