



Everyone loves a good underdog turned overcomer story. Whether it is Rocky Balboa going a full 15 rounds with Apollo Creed, the entire Notre Dame football team hoisting Rudy Ruettiger on their shoulders as they run off the field, or Daniel LaRusso silencing the Cobra Kai through use of the “crane kick,” we love watching ordinary people stand through adversity as they find the fortitude to become champions. These stories inspire us because they echo an important truth: we were created to be *overcomers*. The God of all glory knit incredible glory, beauty and strength into us to reign *with* him over creation. Through sin, we were plunged into what looked like our final defeat. Laws couldn’t save us. Judges couldn’t save us. Kings couldn’t save us. Prophets couldn’t save us. Round after round, the bell rang with us barely pulling ourselves off the mat, only to be walloped again. But just when things were the bleakest, our Champion broke through the atmosphere, shattered sin’s power and invited us back into our victorious standing with him through the infilling of his Holy Spirit. We still have an enemy, but the One who is in us is so much greater than the one who is in the world. We still face misunderstandings, trials, setbacks, persecutions and all kinds of adversity, but even in these, our King is working all things out to our good as he forges courage, strength and resilience in us. We must not lose heart. We must not misunderstand the often turbulent waters that threaten to overwhelm us. We must not keep our joy an arm’s length away. We must not shrink away as if our God has left us. Our God is *with* us. He is *in* us. We are overcomers who need only to hear and respond to his voice today! We have more power coursing through our veins than we realize, and as our eyes and ears stay fixed on our King, every opposing force will only refine our courage to stand and reign victoriously.

“No, in all these things (trials) we are *more than conquerors* through Him who loved us! For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 8:37-39 – Emphasis added.

“You, dear children, are from God and have *overcome* them (evil spirits), because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” 1 John 4:4 – Emphasis added.

“Everyone born of God *overcomes* the world. This is the victory that has *overcome* the world, even *our faith*. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” 1 John 5:4-5 – Emphasis added.

“And they *overcame* him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *What circumstances or adversities feel like they are battling you in the ring of life? What discouragements are trying to intimidate or beset you?*
2. *Read Revelation 12:11 above again. Take a few minutes speaking or writing out your “testimony” of somewhere you have previously overcome and of how God has been faithful to you and of his promises to you in your current situation.*

WORSHIP RESOURCE:

“I will escape the pain of my troubled days and run to you!”

Listen to “Run to You” by Emberlasting. Find more info about their album at the back of the devotional.

PRAYER:

Daddy, Thank you for placing me under your protection. I declare that I am a conqueror and an overcomer, and as your child, I have countless spiritual blessings and unseen resources from you. I receive them by faith today and will not allow circumstances to steal my joy. In any pain or troubled days I face, I will run to you! I trust you to reign through me and to be my peace. You are all that I need to stand firm and overcome. I am victorious in you!

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING



TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Discuss how Jesus’ death and resurrection defeated satan and what that means for us. Pray and thank Jesus for his protection and victory.

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray for a group of people who are going through a difficult time of adversity or persecution. Consider groups in our culture who are being attacked, or look up “Voice of the Martyrs” at www.persecution.com to pray for a people group in the persecuted church.