



**Educate
+ Engage**



GREATER
THAN



Hardship

OVERVIEW

Life comes at us with many challenges. However, we have good news. God's love will help us conquer hardship.

Scripture Passage

Romans 8:35–37 (NKJV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

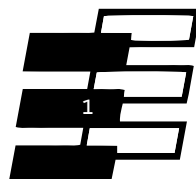
EDUCATE

Have you ever read a comic book where the main character just wouldn't die? They kept facing insane challenges and you thought, "They're for sure dead this time," and then in the nick of time, you find out they're alive and they save the day?

These characters always overcome, no matter the situation. You could call them conquerors. Spiritually speaking, you are the same when you're in Christ—able to overcome anything, no matter the odds.

Point 1: We can connect to God's Word and see hope when we face trouble.

Did you know that you can face and overcome any hardship when you're living for God? Maybe you feel like you've been taking hit after hit lately, and can't catch a break. Tonight, I believe



Lesson 1

Scripture is going to show us how we can conquer anything that comes our way with God.

Scripture gives us hope: We aren't just conquerors; we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:35–37)! What are we conquering? A lot of things! But tonight we're going to specifically talk about how with God's love, we conquer any trouble or hardship that comes our way.

Point 2: God will be with us during hard times.

What does this mean for us today? Jesus assures us that we will face challenges (John 16:33). How do we know that? Because even as God manifest in the flesh, He encountered troubles. But we also know that because He overcame the troubles He faced, we can overcome too!

A lot of people think that when they give their lives to God, they will stop facing their troubles. That's simply not true. If that was true, then Jesus would have never faced any challenges. Jesus clearly told us that we will encounter hardship, but He also promised that there's nothing we will face that cannot be overcome.

How will we overcome the trials and hardship in our lives? The same way Jesus did. How was that? With the love of God. God's love can empower you to do anything.

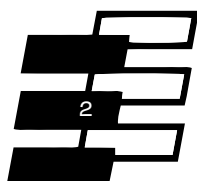
Tonight, if you find yourself thinking, "I just can't go on," I want to assure you that God has promised that you are more than a conqueror through His love.

Point 3: Our trials can help us grow.

How do we apply this in our lives? How do we overcome the hardships and trials that come our way? Well, the first way is to reframe our perspective. Scripture tells us to look at our hardships as if they are joyful to go through (James 1:2–4). It tells us that our trials are merely adversity that we face that make us stronger in our faith. How can the trial you are encountering right now strengthen your faith?

Share a time you faced a trial and it ending up strengthening your faith.

Look at your trials as an opportunity for God to build your faith.



ENGAGE

What trials in your life can you reframe your perspective on? How can what's happening in your life right now actually strengthen your faith? Surrender your trials to God and let Him give you a new perspective so you can overcome through His love.

1. Why don't you think our trials go away when we turn to Jesus?
2. How do you think we can reframe our perspective on our trials?
3. How can the trials you are experiencing actually strengthen your faith?

