Garen Stanley - Lesson 4

Greater

*Than*

Death

Overview

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

Scripture Passages

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.

Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

I Corinthians 15:55–56(NKJV)

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

Educate

Have you ever heard the saying “cats have nine lives?” Why do people say that? Because cats seem to survive almost anything! (Teacher Note: Bonus points if you pull some funny cat videos and show how they always find their way out of and survive dangerous situations.)

Cats are wild! They can escape or overcome virtually anything. They’re always narrowly escaping death or dangerous situations by the skin of their teeth. I guess you could call them conquerors. Spiritually speaking, you are the same when your trust is in God—able to overcome death!

Point 1: Not even death can separate us from God’s love.

Have you ever had a near-death experience? Moments like these put life in a new perspective. They remind you what is really important. Tonight, I believe Scripture is going to show us how even when we face death, we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. In all things—even death—God’s love is GREATER. Why? Because not even death can separate us from the love of God. The world looks at death as the final say, but God’s love says otherwise. Not even death can separate us from His love.

Point 2: God offers us eternal life, meaning death cannot conquer us.

The apostle Paul made it clear that from his perspective “to live is Christ,” meaning as long as he was alive, he would get to model to others what it looked like to live a God-honoring life. “To die is gain” meant he would be face-to-face with God, his true desire, when he died.

This is the same outlook we are to have around death. Death doesn’t have the final say; God does. When you are a follower of Christ, death never has the power because we are confident of our eternal life with God.

When we lean into God’s love and place our faith in Him, we receive the salvation He offers us. This means that not even death can conquer us.

Point 3: Turn to Jesus so nothing can separate you from Him.

When your faith is in Jesus, not even death stings, because it’s not the most powerful thing. God’s love is. When our salvation is in God and His love, death can’t separate us from Him. Only sin can. This is why it’s so important that we repent of our sin and turn to God. When we give our lives to him and leave our sin behind, we are truly overcomers. Leave your sin behind and turn to Jesus so nothing can come between you and His love.

Engage

Tonight God is offering you a better way to live. He is offering you the way of an overcomer. It’s someone who says no to sin and yes to life in God—and then not even death could separate you from His love. Give your heart and life to God tonight and let Him help you overcome through His love.

1. Have you ever had a near death experience?
2. How does God’s love help us overcome danger and even death?
3. What are some areas of sin you need to leave behind in your life this week?