

GOAT'S Part 1: Overcoming Evil

*"Do not be **overcome** by evil, but **overcome** evil with good."* Romans 12:21 NIV

Overcome – *nikaō*, to carry off the victory."

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

*"Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine **lashes**. Three times I was **beaten** with rods. Once I was **stoned**. Three times I was **shipwrecked**. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced **danger** from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many **sleepless nights**. I have been **hungry and thirsty** and have often gone without food. I have **shivered** in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the **daily burden** of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?"* 2 Corinthians 11:24-29 NLT

✓ **Physical brokenness**

✓ **Emotional hopelessness**

✓ **Spiritual emptiness**

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...No, in all these things 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 8:35-39 NIV

1. God gives me strength.

*"For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that **our great power is from God**, not from ourselves."* 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 NLT

*“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, **“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”** So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.”** 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 NLT*

2. God makes me adequate.

*“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but **our adequacy is from God**, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 NASB1995*

“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NLT

3. God renews my spirit.

*“But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.” We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. All of this is for your benefit. And as God’s grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, **our spirits are being renewed every day.**” 2 Corinthians 4:13-16 NLT*

4. God changes my perspective.

*“For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, **we fix our gaze** on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NLT*