

Transcript – How to be an Overcomer

Alrighty, thank you and Shabbat Shalom! And blessings to everybody who is here with us today with our almost live service to you on Pesach 2023. I have a message today ... it says about giving meat in due season. And here we are in the days of Unleavened Bread ... and the message I want to give today is, *How to be an Overcomer*. A really, really important Scripture because Revelation 21:7 says:

Revelation 21:7 *The one overcoming will inherit all things. And I will be Elohim to him and he will be the son to Me.*

So overcoming is a pre-requisite for being in Yahweh's Kingdom. And it's something we need to do. And I have five points today that I'm going to go over that.

We live in a world today where there's no accountability. I mean it's amazing that I just look at the time from when I started in the faith in the early 1980's and even at that point, repentance and things. But people that came to faith, wow, it was like they wanted to repent. They wanted to change. You could correct them. They wanted to know what they're doing wrong. But today, in the world today, it's like the word repentance isn't even there.

You live in this whole "woke" society where good is called evil and evil is called good. People riot, they burn down cities. They even kill cops and they're all let loose. Because they're told it's not their fault, right? The "woke" generation puts blame on anything but self. And like I said, the word repentance and taking responsibility, it just isn't there. They also never recognize what sin is.

Our focus in life needs to be on being an overcomer of this world and sin. And not having a victim mentality. Because when you have a victim mentality, you're never going to overcome. That is where Satan wants you. More than anything in the world, Satan wants you to **believe** that you're a victim. Because not only will it never stop you from overcoming, but when you play the victim, it stops you from being happy in life. And that's what Satan wants.

And when you look out there at people who play the victim, none are happy because no victim is happy. When somebody is a victim, right, when ... think of victims, real victims in the world. When there's a[n] earthquake or a hurricane, do these people seem happy when they're ... had all their family members die? When the lost everything in a flood or in whatever? Or they're in a car accident, somebody who is maimed in a car accident. Or war, somebody who lost their leg ... do victims seem happy? No, a victim is never happy. By the very definition of what a victim is, a victim isn't going to be happy. But more than that, victims never take accountability for their actions; because a victim, by definition, is going to blame somebody else; because if you're a victim that means that somebody oppressed you in some way. Ezekiel 18:4 says:

Ezekiel 18:4 *Behold, they are all My souls. As the soul of the father, also the soul of the son, they are Mine. The soul that sins, it shall die.*

So again, **people are responsible for their own actions and sins**. And face it everybody comes from a different place in life. Some people grew up without parents. Some people grew up with only one parent. Some people grew up with divorce. Some people grew up with being poor. Some people had the curse of growing up being too rich; and in those having too many things was not a help for them. Look at Hollywood, the most probably miserable, wretched people in the world are people that are in Hollywood and people that are the richest.

So, people are responsible for their own actions and sins no matter where you came from. Because face it this is Satan's kingdom. This is not Yahweh's Kingdom. So **in Satan's kingdom bad things will happen**. And death and sorrow and sickness and suffering, these are all parts of Satan's kingdom, because you know why? If they weren't here in Satan's kingdom, what would that be? That would be the Kingdom of Yahweh then. So you can't allow Satan to bring you a victim mentality because in the end you're only hurting yourself. You know why? Because **when you play the victim, you**

will never overcome because you don't see you have to overcome! You sit there and you **wallow** in being the victim. And unfortunately **it brings no joy. It brings no solace.** It brings no peace of mind playing the victim.

I learned this a long, long time ago that do you want people to give you attention because they feel sorry for you? Or do you want people to give you attention because they want to glean something from you because they want to be around you because you're a positive, uplifting person? Or do you want to get attention just because people feel sorry. It's not good for people to feel sorry for you.

There's a time where we do feel sorry for people, right? There's a time to cry and there's a time to laugh. So there is a time we do feel sorry for people and a time where we want to uplift brethren when they go through different situations in life. But **overall**, you don't always want to play the victim.

Like I said, **there's a time to give and there's a time to take.** But if you're **always the taker**, if you're never giving anything and you're always the taker, then that's not Yahweh's way of life. There is a time to take. There's a time when someone's giving that you want to take. You don't want to take their blessing away. But you don't always want to be on one side of the coin.

So I want to go over five steps, today, of being an overcomer. **Five steps to being an overcomer.** And remember five is the number of grace. We're here at Pesach and the days of Unleavened Bread. So we'll see that.

So the **very first step** in being an overcomer is: **You have to let the past go. Stop playing the victim!** Stop always bringing up the past; and like I said, sometimes even thirty years later. I've said this before, like I'll meet somebody, maybe they're a new person coming in the Congregation, they're telling me and you can see anger in their face and, "Well, I had this elder, and he did this. And he said this to me!" And I'm thinking, "Wow, did this happen like last week, or last month? When did it happen?" "1976" And it's like, "Wow, this happened like thirty, forty, fifty years ago? And you're still boiling over with anger? You're still mulling on this every day of your life?" Because remember **whatever you focus on becomes most real to you.**

So is that what you want your reality? Do you want your reality, your relationship with Yahweh? Do you want your reality the Kingdom of Yahweh? Do you want your reality of being an overcomer? Or do you want your reality on something that happened thirty or forty or fifty years ago, that you simply for your *own pride* and self-righteousness that you can't let go? Because you know what? That's what it comes down to as we're going to see. That **if you can't let something go then you're not embracing your own fact of being a sinner and needing Yahweh's grace.** If you're mulling and holding onto this and having bitter feelings in your life, and like I said in the end of the day, you're a servant of Satan. He has you right where he wants you because **you're only hurting yourself.**

Because you know what happens, when people are victims, right, what happens after a time ... because as human beings, you can only try to help somebody for so long. You try, you try, you try but after you see, after months and years and years that somebody doesn't want to be helped then you can't help them.

And I say this I've been a personal trainer for forty years. And I've worked with people. I've worked and helped people, and helped people to overcome. And in the Congregation and in the school that's one of the big things we're doing, becoming the complete believer and overcoming. But the one thing that I learned many, many years ago is **you can't help somebody that doesn't want to be helped.**

And that's even Yahweh. Yahweh gives us freewill, right? And that's why if it was up to Yahweh, the Bible says it is His will that **everybody** would make it in His Kingdom. And yet, when we look in the Bible we see that most people **aren't going to make it.** Why? It's not because of Yahweh. It's because if Yahweh actually wants children to be like Him, He's got to give us freewill. And to give us freewill, He's got to allow us to make the decisions so He can guide us. He can give us information. He can make situations in our life that we understand and realize. But in the end of the day, **you have to**

choose. And you're going to have to choose, do you want to be a victor or victim? Do you want to be an overcomer? Or do you want to just play the victim the rest of your life?

So that's something that people have to choose for themselves. And the sad part is, the reality is, because we're creatures of habit, there's people that once they get into that ... and it's just like an addiction. Playing the victim can be an addiction. Anything you do over and over and over again, could be an addiction. And once you do it, and once it's in your nervous system, and once **that becomes you**, it's very, very hard to change. And that's why **you are the only one that can stop it!** You have to stop your own pride. You have to realize its self-righteousness. And you have to make that decision, "I don't want to be this way anymore because I'm not happy!"

Because like I said, any victim that may be listening to this, playing the victim, think to yourself, are you happy? And if you're not, don't try to blame somebody else in your life, or your third grade teacher. Look and see that it's yourself. Look and see that **you're the one** why you're that unhappy. And you have to make that decision. Say, "*I don't want to live this way anymore. I'm going to get my relationship back with Yahweh. I'm going to stop playing the victim.*" We're going to go through all these things here because it's not just on being a victim. "**But I'm going to be an overcomer!**" And **by being an overcomer, you're automatically not a victim anymore** because that's one of things that you're overcoming.

So Philippians 3:13 and 14 says:

Philippians 3:13-14 *Brothers, I do not count myself to have reached the goal, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press toward the goal to receive the prize of **victory** of the highest calling of YAHWEH in Messiah Yahshua.*

So, this is **really, really important point**, right? Because like I said, in our life there's all kinds of things that are going to happen. But one thing we have to do is **we have to put the bad things in the past**. You learn from them. You learn from experiences but **you've got to move on**. You've got to move on to the fullness of Messiah. You've got to move to the fullness of your calling, and you can't allow things that happened in your past to make you a victim.

Because you want to know something? If you look at the people in the world who actually really had it the worse than anybody ... look at third world people that suffer. Poor, have lived in dirt floors, and all these things. Look at the people in China and North Korea that went through persecution. Some of them have had parents and relatives killed for their belief in Yahshua ... and you want to know something? They're the greatest brethren. Through all the ages, through the middle ages, the Waldenses and the Albigenses, right? And the Anabaptists and all these people. The ones who went through the **greatest trials and sufferings** were the greatest overcomers. Because what they did was they **embraced the Spirit of Yahweh in them. They embraced their calling and they embraced the Kingdom of Yahweh.**

So going through bad things in life we're going to see one of the points here, we just have to reframe it. **We have to reframe it but we certainly have to move on and not look at the things behind us but look at the things ahead.** Look at the things ahead. Job the 10th chapter verse 1 through 7. This is the second point we're going to go over now.

The **second point** is: **You have to take responsibility for your own actions and sins.** So if you're ever going to be an overcomer, what are we mainly overcoming? We are overcoming **sin and ourselves**. So if you're not taking responsibility for your actions and your sins, you'll never be an overcomer. You are always going to stay there in that victim mentality. So Job 10:1-7, he says:

Job 10:1-7a *My soul loathes my life ...*

Comment: So you know Job ... you don't want to ride Job's horse. Job's horse—remember "Woe". You say woe to a horse. He's always "Woe is me." right? So you don't want to be on Job's horse. Because Job, who actually was a decent person and did a lot of good things, what was his biggest problem? It became self-righteousness. And when you're not overcoming and you become self-focused, that's actually what happens; you become self-righteous. Because you start to

feel when you're in that victim mentality that you're right and everybody else is wrong. So this is the way Job was. And let's see what we can learn from him here:

Job 10:1-2 *My soul loathes my life; I leave my complaint on myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul ... so what does it bring you? Bitterness of soul ... I will say to Eloah, Do not condemn me; make me know why You contend with me.*

Comment: Wow! Can you imagine? Yahweh's contending with us? No! Yahweh is helping us. Yahweh is forgiving us. Yahweh is having mercy and grace on us. And Job is saying Yahweh is contending with me.

Job 10:3-7 *Is it good to You that You should crush, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and You should shine on the counsel of the wicked?... Wow, he has the nerve to say this to Yahweh? ... Have You eyes of flesh; or do You see as a man sees? ... Oh no, yeah us men, we can't, Yahweh can't understand what we can understand, right? ... Are Your days as the days of man? Or Your years like the days of man, that You seek out my iniquity, and search out my sin? You know that I am not wicked; and there is no one delivering out of Your hand.*

Wow, wow what a thing for Job to say huh? Can you imagine? So we see Job's big problem is, he learned at the end and he saw it was, his self-righteousness. **But blaming others causes you to be self-righteous.** We have to looking within. And we have to looking to what we're doing. And **blaming others causes you to be self-righteous; having an accusing spirit.** And it will blind a person to the truth. And that's the worst thing because once you're blinded you can't even see it anymore. And that's what happens.

Who is the king of self-righteousness? Satan! Right? When you look in the Bible ... that's why the question that comes up; would Yahweh forgive Satan if Satan repented? And the question is of course Yahweh would forgive Satan. But the answer is Satan would never repent! Why? Because **he is so self-righteous** that he in his warped, perverted mind actually thinks he's right and Yahweh's wrong. So he would never, ever, ever. He's at a point of no return.

And that happens to everybody that gets to the point of being too self-righteous. You get to the point that you're past that point of no return. And what happens to people after that? They stop praying. They stop Bible study and they fall away from the truth and they get bitter toward Yahweh. Can you imagine? The very Person who gave them life; the very Person who called them to the truth; the very Person who gave them everything; that's the One that they're bitter toward. Because somehow they feel, again, that they're the victim to all this, when they're actually not the victim; they're the victor in Yahshua. So if it's not stopped, pride will make themselves into their own elohim. Looking at everything from their own eyes and standpoint, which is idolatry and evil—and like I said even blaming Yahweh.

And it gets to the point where again ... like the Pharisees, remember they make their tassels long. Because the Bible tells us to make a tassel. It never tells us exactly **how** to make the tassel. It just says have one string of blue. But then there'll be people telling you, "No, if you don't make the tassel the way I do, then it's wrong." The same with modesty, the Bible says to dress modest. The women are to be modest. It never says that there dresses have to be down to their feet, right? It says modest. So we do know that one of the principals of that is if the priest walked upstairs going to the altar would show his nakedness. So we know it's got to be pretty low. Because if you're on stairs and your pant leg is coming up, Yahweh calls that nakedness. But He never says exactly. So it's for each person to decide. Lady and men, okay this is what they feel. But to go to others and try to tell others **your way** and then that's the only way. That's self-righteousness. And we have to overcome that because we want Yahweh's righteousness.

Yahweh tells us. And if He wanted to tell us exactly how long, He would have said it. The same way He says many other things. He tells us exactly what birds to eat, what birds not to eat; what animals to eat, what animals not to eat. But in the things that Yahweh leave to us, because **He wants us to make decisions so we grow**, if we try to force our will on other people, its called self-righteousness. **It's righteousness past Yahweh's righteousness.** Doesn't mean we can't share with people and give our opinion and say **why** we believe the way we do. But **it's not to force our opinion on other**

people. So this is what happens because it becomes idolatry. You become your own elohim. You're deciding what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil.

Corinthians 10:9-11 ... 1st Corinthians 10:9-11 says:

1st Corinthians 10:9-11 *Neither let us tempt the Messiah, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. Neither should you murmur, as also some of them murmured, and perished by the hand of the destroyer. And all these things happened to those as examples ... he's talking about the children of Israel in the wilderness, right? ... all these things happened to those **as examples**, and it was written **for our warning**, on whom the ends of the earth have come.*

So this is for our warning. And what is the warning? The warning is: **justifying their self-righteous murmuring.** But like I said, when you murmur, who are you murmuring against? You're only murmur against one Person, and that's Yahweh. Exodus 16:2-4 and then verse 8 ... and this is again when the children of Israel—they first left Egypt, right? And they didn't have water and look what happens:

Exodus 16:2-4 *And all the congregation ... Exodus 16:2 ... of the sons of Israel **murmured** against Moses and against Aaron in the wilderness. And the sons of Israel said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of YAHWEH in the land of Egypt, in our sitting by the fleshpots, in our eating bread to satisfaction. For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill all this assembly with hunger ... Wow, can you imagine? Accusing Yahweh of bringing them out, not for good, but to kill them? ... And YAHWEH said to Moses, Behold, I AM will rain bread from the heavens for you. And the people shall go out and gather the matter of a day in its day, so that **I may test them**, whether they will walk in My Torah or not.*

Life is a test, right? Good and bad! In verse 8:

Exodus 16:8 *And Moses said, When YAHWEH gives you flesh to eat in the evening, and bread in the morning, to satisfaction; when YAHWEH **hears your murmurings which you are murmuring against Him**, you will see. And what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against YAHWEH.*

So, I know last Shemita, it was the first time that we understood the Shemita and how we were to keep it and we shouldn't be buying fresh produce in the supermarket because they're planting it during the Shemita. It would be unkosher. And there were people who were attacking me. Some of them left the Congregation. But they're not attacking me. I didn't write that! I didn't write **Leviticus 25**. All I did was listen to the Word of Yahweh and look in it and when it clearly says without a doubt, you are not to eat that which is planted, right? You're not to plant food during the Shemita and eat the food and harvest it during the Shemita. All I did was listen and try to be obedient.

So when we are murmuring, we're not murmuring against man. We're murmuring against Yahweh. You know what we should be doing? We should be thankful that Yahweh opened our minds! I look at last Shemita how many blessings Yahweh gave to us, particularly because we didn't have that much time to prepare. And this Shemita, this Shemita is even a thousand times more blessings than He gave the last time and continues to.

So **when we're obedient it only brings blessings.** When we murmur against Yahweh all we do is take those blessings away and even bring curses upon us. So when you get on a pity-party you lose your vision of the truth. You make everything about you. And one thing for certain, **it's not about you.** This earth and Yahweh creating the earth in six days and resting on the Sabbath and six thousand years of everything in the history that He's done ... it's written in our Bible ... **it's not about us.** We should just be thankful that we're part of it. That He called us to be part of the solution, not to be part of the problem. So you've got to get your mind off the pity-party and see it's not about you.

You have to have the heart to serve and give to others. And when you're on a pity-party you lose that. You lose any focus on helping and serving other people because the focus is only on you. And you can't see. And that's the greatest blessing we have in life is giving and helping others. Must use words to **give life** and not to take life. So that's what

happens. When we get this way, we start ... instead of having words *of life*, we start to have words to people that take life. Proverbs 18 in verse 21 says:

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the hand of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat its fruit ...* **Death and life are in the hand of the tongue.**

So what a blessing we have in our life that we don't carry six shooters on our side. We're not ... it's not *The Wild Wild West*, right? We're carrying a six shooter and somebody comes against us and you pull the gun and shoot them. But you know what? We don't have six shooters. We have mouth shooters because life and death are in the power of tongue. So we have to realize that as believers, we actually have the **ability, with our mouth**—not with our gun holster, **to give life and take life**. So you literally, when you put people down, when you discourage them, when you criticize them, you're literally killing them. You're taking away their zeal. And yet on the other end, if we would just have words of life. **If we would have words of love and encouragement and uplifting, we could do the opposite. We can give life ... we can give life!**

So women have the ability to bear children, right? And they have the ability to give life. And a man will never know that, right? No matter what they tell you today. Even I think in the Congress of America, somebody was going to be like a health minister or something, claim that men can give birth; which is insane, but that's another sermon. But anyway, actually men may not be able to give birth but men can give life. Men can give life as well as women can by our words. Our words either give life or take life.

So when you're out there and you're encouraging and uplifting ... and that's to me one of, if not the greatest blessing of my life, that Yahweh's given me as the Sr. Elder of the Congregation, is traveling to the congregations and being able to give life. Being able to go each place and encourage. And I see it! I see during Covid where for several years I wasn't able to travel. And I see now that I'm traveling again, how important it is and how encouraging it is.

Because it's like a puzzle, right? Our life is like a puzzle. And the Congregation is like a puzzle. And I'm the only one in the whole Congregation that has been to all the different areas and know it. So by me, and going to these areas and sharing with the people and then by writing to all the brethren and giving you letters and videos ... that's why we do this. It's not for production sake. It's so that we can be one; we can be echad so we can understand each other. That we can understand the problems that are going on in the different parts of the world. And that we can really love each other, and that we can know each other.

And you know what? Most of you who are watching this today have never met the brethren in Asia maybe, or the brethren in Africa, or the brethren in South America, or the brethren ... you might have met some where you are, but you haven't met all the brethren. But you know what? You have in one way because you've met them through the videos. So many of you that have never been to these places, or maybe met someone from there, by watching the videos and hearing the testimonies, you understand and know these other people. And that's the point here.

We need to use our tongue ... which if you go to Jacob, I'm not going to go there today, but it says wow, the tongue is a little member but boy what poison! What a poison that it can bring. You can either use that tongue for poison or you can use it as an antidote. **That's your freewill**. That's your choice. And that's what we want to do. We want to make sure, even when you have to bring correction, Bible says do it in humility that you don't get puffed up and fall away from it.

So, it's not always that we're just using false flattery everywhere we go. No, we're trying to help people and encourage people. And sometimes correct people, but it can always be done in love. It can always be done in an uplifting way. And that's what we need to be doing. So we want to make sure that our words are **being used not for self-righteousness and accusing spirits, but they're being used to uplift and give life.**

Romans 3 in verse 10 ... because you want to know something? At the end of the day, **all of us are sinners**. And if we're comparing ourselves to anybody, it should be comparing ourselves to Yahshua. He was the only person, as a human being was born of a woman like all the rest of humanity, right? And He lived—He lived as a baby, a child. He grew up. He lived some odd thirty-two some odd years in this world ... thirty-two, thirty-three. And He never sinned. So **He's the One** we should be comparing ourselves to. Romans 3 in verse 10:

Romans 3:10-14 *According as it has been written, "There is none righteous, not even one!" "There is not one understanding; there is not one seeking YAHWEH." **All turned away**, they became worthless together, not one is doing goodness, not so much as one!" "Their throat is a tomb being opened;" "they used deceit in their tongues; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*

Romans 3:15-18 *Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery are in their way; and they did not know a way of peace (shalom); there is no fear of Elohim before their eyes."*

And this is what happens. When we're not being overcomers, and when we're playing the victim mentality, what happens is we stop having the fear of Yahweh. We get so focused on ourselves and we start blaming Yahweh. And we stop having the fear of Yahweh in our life. And especially now, this is Passover, right? If there is ever a time during the year where we're **commanded** that even before you take the Passover ... which we all did a few days ago ... you have to reflect on your life. And you have to see whether ... you have to look and see where **you need to change**. You have to look at yourself and **see your sinful nature**; and you have to with tears coming down your eyes you need to be **thanking Yahweh** for even though we are corrupted, and even though we are sinners, and even though we are self-seeking, that we have to look and see that **Yahweh still loves us and He still brings His grace in our life**.

So if that doesn't humble you, I don't know what will. And that's why when you're playing the victim, you don't. When you're playing the victim you simply don't do that. You must see your sinful nature, humble yourself that you are **repent for who you are** and not just what you did, right? We want to stop being self-righteous. Self-righteous people don't see that they are sinners and need Yahweh's grace.

Step 3 ... third step in being an overcomer: **Count your blessings; reframe your failures** ... count your blessings and reframe your failures. Like I said, this is Satan's world. **John 16:33 In this world you will have tribulation. Count on it! Count on it, everybody** as you go through life. You will have sickness. You will have suffering. You will have death. **It will happen**; sometimes earlier, sometimes later, sometimes in the middle, sometime your whole life. But it will happen because it's Satan's world. It's not the Kingdom yet. So what we have to do though is we have to look and count our blessings. Not the shortcomings. And reframe our failures. We have to reframe the failure that's coming.

If we go to Genesis 37 ... because I don't think there's a greater example in the Bible of somebody who did this than Joseph; Israel's son, Joseph. Genesis 37 ... because boy, you want to talk about someone who could have been a victim, he was a victim, but did he play the victim? No! Genesis 37:23-28 (27):

Genesis 37:23a *And it happened when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped his robe.*

Comment: So what happened? Joseph is here, right? He's seventeen years old. His brothers are older, except for Benjamin. And they're going out doing whatever. And Israel, Jacob, asked him to go and to check on the brothers to see how they're doing. And the brothers are very jealous of him to begin with because the father loves him because he's a good guy, a good kid. He made him the coat—the coat with all different pockets on it and all those things. And they're jealous of him. And they're bitter. And they want to get rid of him. So look what happens ... verse 23:

Genesis 37:23 *And it came when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped his robe which was on him, from Joseph, the long robe reaching to the feet.*

Comment: Right? So, this special robe that the father gave him that had all these different patches on it and colors. They took that away, right, for their jealousy.

Genesis 37:24-26 *And they took him and threw him into the pit, the pit being empty, no water in it. And they sat down to eat bread. And they lifted up their eyes and looked. And, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelite's coming from Gilead! And their camels were bearing spices, and balsam gum, and sticky gum, going down to take them to Egypt. And Judah said to his brothers, What gain is it we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be on him. For he is our brother, our flesh. And his brothers listened to him.*

Comment: Wow! So look at Joseph, right? He's sold by his brothers into slavery, put in prison for thirteen years after that. So he gets down there in Egypt, right, he's to this guy Potiphar that's one of the leaders there. And yet his wife, we know what happened with the wife of Potiphar. And Joseph, for doing nothing wrong ... for actually being honorable, doing something right, never mind doing nothing wrong but doing something right ... he winds up being put in prison **thirteen years** falsely—thirteen long years. And those prisons in those days, let me tell you something, they were no picnic. They were cold and freezing and moldy and wet. And he's put in there for thirteen long years. He's falsely accused **more than once** and yet he saw the blessings of it. He saw the blessings of it.

And you know what? Think about it. Yes, we'll read a little bit of the story here when Joseph's brothers come down later and they were repentant, right? And they were sorry for what they did. But you want to know something? In all those years ... because when they meet Joseph, he's almost forty years old. He was seventeen when he went down there. He's thirteen years in prison. And then he comes out to Pharaoh, remember? And then there's seven good years. And then there's two bad years. They're in the third year of the seven bad years. So Joseph is forty now. He's forty. That means twenty-three years have past since what happened with the brothers.

And up to that point, the brothers still didn't tell the father. So they're allowing the father *to think* and be in sorrow all those years that Joseph is dead. So maybe they repented. And maybe they were sorrowful but they never really repented because **repentance means change. It means making right what you did wrong.** So they could have told the father, "You know we're really sorry. Ten years ago we did this to Joseph." And then maybe went looking for him. Go down to Egypt and say, "Hey, there's this man that came here." They sure went down when they needed food, right? When they were hungry they went down looking. But they never went looking for him before that.

So, this story could be totally different. You could see when they come to Joseph he could have been looking for revenge. He could have been looking to get even with them. And how many people, that's what they want? They don't just want justice. **They want revenge.** They want to get evil ... get even with the people that they feel did evil to them. But Joseph didn't. Joseph **looked ahead** and he actually **understood** that what he was going for ... going through was of **the hand of Yahweh**, not even his brothers.

Let's go to Genesis 45 and see verse 3 ... because you want to know something? **The greatest struggle you go through in your life, the greatest persecution you go through in your life, the greatest blessing is going to come out of it!** That means that Yahweh is going to do something mighty with you. I look back in my life right before I came into ministry, and I went through the worst time in my life I ever had. I mean I went through a living hell for several years. And I didn't know why it was. It was kind of a situation like here with Joseph. But all I know is I never blamed Yahweh. And I prayed to Him throughout that time, "Father what is it? What is it You're looking?" And boom! Right after that you know what happened? I was ordained in the ministry.

So I didn't have ... I didn't go to a college to learn theology. And I didn't go through all this reckoning. Yahweh was taking me through the school of "Hard Knox". But He was preparing me and He was **testing me** to see if I really was qualified for that job. And I understood that. So for me, as much **as you hate going through those troublesome times, you couldn't get to where you need to be in Yahweh's Kingdom without them.** So let's look at what Joseph says. Hebrews ... I'm sorry ... Genesis 45 verse 3 through 8.

Genesis 45:3-5 *And Joseph said to his brothers, I am Joseph. Is my father still alive? And his brothers were not able to answer him, for they trembled before him. And Joseph said to his brothers, Now come near to me. And they came near. And he said, I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And **now do not be grieved**, and let no anger be in your eyes because you sold me here, for **Elohim sent me before you to save life**.*

Comment: Wow! What insight that he had, what maturity that he had, right? No sitting there in revenge. No sitting there ... because remember he's next to Pharaoh ... and saying, "Why did you do that? How could you have done that?" And screaming and yelling at them. No, he's saying, "Don't even blame yourself. Don't blame yourself. You were just a pawn in this. Yahweh used you because he had to bring me down here to save life."

Genesis 45:5 *And now do not be grieved, and let no anger be in your eyes because you sold me here, for **Elohim sent me before you to save life**.*

Comment: And you know what? Every one of us is a Joseph. Every one of us has had something in our life, maybe not like this, but **something like this** where something happened to us; or someone did something to us. Or we got in a situation that we wished we didn't. And we have to have Joseph's maturity here. We have to be *looking and seeing* why did Yahweh allow this, right? Because Romans 8:28:

Romans 8:28 *But we know that to the ones loving Yahweh, all things work together for good, to those being called according to purpose.*

So **nothing can happen in life unless Yahweh allows it**. And if Yahweh allows it as bad as it may be, it's only for our betterment. He would have never allowed **anything in our life**, good or bad. And that's why sometimes maybe you didn't get a job that you really wanted, or was a real good situation. And you know what? The only reason you might not get it, maybe it would have been too good. Maybe it would have been so good that it would have taken you away from Him; or changed you; or made you self-righteous; or made you feel better; or made you feel like you're better than other people. Who knows? But all we know that happens in life ... and this is why we need to be praying to Yahweh **about everything** as anything He allows in our life, particularly if we're praying, was only because He loves us.

Sometimes we're not praying and you know what? Yahweh allows something but it wasn't because it was His will. It was because of **us**. **We caused something to happen**. So never mind playing the victim. A lot of times, **we are the one causing it** because we're not asking Yahweh. And we're not following Him. And we're doing it our own way. And He's allowing it to happen because ultimately it's going to benefit us. But it's not that He wanted it. It's that we brought in on ourselves. So here it is, he says:

Genesis 45:5-8 *do not be grieved, and let no anger be in your eyes because you sold me here, for Elohim sent me before you to save life ... Right? ... Elohim sent me here to save life ... and he says ... the famine has been in the midst of the land two years. And there are still five years in which no plowing and harvest will be done. And Elohim sent me before you to put a remnant in the land for you, and to keep alive for you a great deliverance. And now **you did not send me here, but Elohim**. And He has placed me for a father to Pharaoh, and for a master in all his house, and a ruler in all the land of Egypt.*

Wow and where would Israel have been if that never happened? If Joseph was never next to Pharaoh, who knows? Maybe they would have all died by the famine, right? So **we have to make sure that we have that maturity, that insight, and that patience** that Joseph had. And how did he have it? **Because of his relationship with Yahweh**. That's the **only way** he was able to have such patience and **not seek revenge**; which he might have been justified if he did because these people never really repented up until that point. They never came looking for him, they never told the father, right? But yet, he had the maturity and insight and the patience **to know** it had nothing to do with his brothers, it had to do with Yahweh. He could have easily been looking for revenge for what he lost. He could have been saying, "The best years of my life. I was seventeen, now I'm forty!" No! He didn't fall into any of that, right? He was thankful for what Yahweh did.

And like I said, there's a reason for everything if we have true faith in Yahweh. If something wasn't for our ultimate benefit, Yahweh would not allow it. **We must reframe to see where trials are necessary and helpful to overcome.** So if you're going to be an overcomer, right, step 3—you have to count your blessings and reframe your failures. **You have to do this.** Without this, you will never be an overcomer. You will slip and fall in that miry mud. Because face it, everybody can play a victim. Everybody in their life has gone through trials and can sulk in them. So unless you're able to count your blessings and see **your blessings in life are a thousand times more** than the sufferings when you're a child of Yahweh. And you could reframe those sufferings into actually positive things. You're never going to be an overcomer.

So this is point 3. It's right in the middle there. But it's an extremely important point. We must pray and thank Yahweh for blessings **every day of our life.** There is **so much** to be thankful for. You have to write your blessings down. **Write them down.** Have them on paper and every week add to them. And **read them** every single week. Every week in the congregation we come together and we do testimonies. And you should have blessings there as your testimonies and share them. Write them down. Read them every day. Put them somewhere you can see them. Whatever you focus on becomes most real to you.

And like Joseph, **we must see the bigger picture** how blessed we are to be a child of Yahweh. **We must see the real problem is YOU!** Not Yahweh, not your third grade teacher, not the neighbor, but you are the problem in your **wrong perspective.** You must realize your frustrations, your complaining are not justified and is simply your own pride and selfishness and a lack of appreciation for all the blessings Yahweh's done for you.

So **nobody,** right, we see Job ... Job was one of the most righteous people in the Bible and yet, he was self-righteous. No human being that ever lived has the right to come before Yahweh and complain. Yahweh has given us a **thousand times more** of the good than anything we ever went through. And like I said, even the sufferings we go through are only for our benefit.

So it is a lack of appreciation, and it's actually blasphemy when you think about it. When you look at all the wonderful things Yahweh has given us in our life and the truth that He's given us; that you're one in millions of people, maybe one in five million, or ten million, that has the truth, right? And we turn back on Him and we just complain instead of being thankful for that truth He's given us? It actually is blasphemous. **Trials are a blessing to help us overcome.** It's that simple. So remember that: count your blessings, reframe your failures.

Hebrews 12 ... we see this here, really a great chapter that goes over these things. Hebrews 12 starting in verse 1. A very good perspective:

Hebrews 12:1-2 *So therefore, we also, having such a great cloud of witnesses lying around us, having laid aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us, **through patience let us also run the race set before us,** looking to the Author and perfecter of our faith, Yahshua, who for the joy set before Him endured the torture stake, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of YAHWEH ... Wow!*

Hebrews 12:3-4 *Consider, therefore, how much He suffered from those sinners, for they were adversaries to their own soul, so that you do not become weary, fainting in your souls. You did not yet resist unto blood, striving against sin.*

Comment: That's why I say how many of us have fought sin to the point where we've shed blood by doing it? Which means we have a way to go.

Hebrews 12:5-8 *And you have forgotten the exhortation which He speaks with you, as (with children) with sons, "My sons, do not despise the chastening of YAHWEH, nor faint while being corrected by Him. For whom **YAHWEH loves,** He chastises, and disciplines every son whom He is pleased." If you endure discipline, YAHWEH is dealing with you as with sons (or children); for who is the son whom a father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which you all have become sharers, then you are strangers, and not sons.*

Comment: Right? So **every father** disciplines their child. And if they're not disciplining the child then it's really a child. It's a stranger.

Hebrews 12:9-11 *Furthermore, indeed we had fathers of our flesh as correctors, and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and we shall live? For they truly (the earthly fathers) disciplined us for a few days according to the thing seeming good to them; but He (YAHWEH) for our profit, in order for us to partake of His holiness. And all discipline for the present indeed does not seem to be joyful ... of course not, right? ... but grievous; but afterwards it gives back peaceable fruit of righteousness to the ones having been exercised by it.*

Right? So yeah, during the trials it's going to be hard and it's going to be tough, and stressful, and almost to the point of breaking sometimes; but always remember Yahweh will **never** give us something past the point that we can't take. And there's been a couple times in my life that in my prayer I said, "Father, I know you said You'll never give us more than we can handle, but wow I'm right at the edge of that fence. I'm right at the snapping point." But He never took us ... He never took me past there and He's never taken you past there either.

So if you are a child ... if you give a child everything he wants he simply becomes a spoiled brat. And that's what some rich people do. They don't spend time with their children. They're always away. And what happens? They give them. They give them cars and they give them ... *I want you to have the best education and this and that ...* when all the child wants is time with their parent. So **you can't replace money and things with a relationship**. It doesn't work that way. And that's why some of the richest children in the world are the biggest spoiled brats you could ever see because they're not getting that. If you give a child everything they want, they simply become a spoiled brat.

Genesis 39 ... let's go back to Genesis now, back to Joseph because it's really a **great story**. A great story overall but particularly for what we're going over today. Genesis 39, because Joseph really had proper focus.

Genesis 39:1 *And Joseph was carried down to Egypt. And Potiphar, a eunuch of Pharaoh, the chief of the executioners, ... so this is when he was first taken down there ... an Egyptian man, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites who had carried him down there.*

Comment: Right? So this is where it's first happening. He just listens to his father, to Jacob. He goes down to his brothers. Not knowing what's going to happen. The brothers had bitterness and jealousy, right, what do they do? They take his coat away, they throw him in a pit, almost leaving him to die. He's probably nervous and crying and worried as anything. Then they **sell him** as a slave to the Ishmaelite's. So this is when it's first happening. He gets in Egypt; he's ... the Ishmaelite's sell him to Potiphar. And look what happens from there.

Genesis 39:2-5 *And YAHWEH was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man. And he was in the house of the Egyptian, his master. And his master saw that YAHWEH was with him, and Joseph was prospering in his hand everything which he did. And Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. And he appointed him over his house, and he gave all that he owned into his hand. And it came about that from the time he appointed him over his house ... appointed Joseph ... and all that he owned, YAHWEH blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake. And the blessing of YAHWEH was on all that he had, in the house and in the field.*

Wow! So look at this. Even though he might have been taken into slavery, even though he might not have had free-will to leave and go where he wanted to, Yahweh was still with him. And Yahweh was blessing him. And here it is Potiphar, and anybody that was part of Potiphar, was blessed because of him.

And I could tell you that. I know when we went to Israel originally, twenty something years ago now ... and I had no idea when we first went there that Yahweh was going to do the ministry that He did through this ministry. We had no money, we were living in hostiles, there were even a few times we didn't even have money for that—that we were sleeping in train station or wherever. And I know I never questioned, I was just thankful. I was thankful to be in Israel. I was thankful

to be used by Yahweh. But one thing was always certain, from day one I saw Yahweh's blessing in everything. And **I know** even where there were times where we might have been in a coffee shop and somebody was kind enough to come and give us a free cup of coffee or something. I would say, "You're going to be blessed for this."

I know there were times where when we first started having the feast and we had the feast at a place where ... it was a place that maybe nobody was going to; or maybe a hostile that we were staying in that was dead and it was ... they had no people staying there. And I'd say to the owner, "Because you've been kind to us" ... because they gave us a really low price ... "you're going to be blessed for this." And in **every single case!** Every single case the business prospered after that. Sometimes to the point where we had to stop meeting there because they were so prosperous, they raised the prices.

But I'm saying **I've seen this in my life.** And I saw the opposite. I saw Tower Air that treated us so bad. And I told them Yahweh's blessing is going to curse you for this. And they went out of business within a year. It wasn't me, it was Yahweh. Yahweh does it. But **I see it. I see Yahweh's blessing in my life.** I've seen it for the last forty years. And there's nobody that will ever change my mind on that.

So I see no matter what I'm going through ... and even if I don't have money, or even if I'm sleeping in a low budget hostile, it don't make a difference. It doesn't matter where you sleep. It doesn't matter if you're sleeping on the floor. Like I said, I've slept in Kenya on straw, on somebody's floor. And I've slept in ... given to me free because my flight was delayed. And they gave me a free room at a Hyatt hotel for four or five hundred dollars that I didn't pay a penny. And I say to be honest, I think I'd rather sleep on the straw in a brother's house and see their kindness, and how, even though they had almost nothing, they'd give me the little bit they had.

But that's the point of it. No matter where you are, like the Apostle Paul said, *I've been abound and I've been abased.* But it doesn't make a difference. **The focus is on Yahweh.** But never forget that. That **no matter, even where you're going through trials, even if you wind up in prison, Yahweh's blessing is still with you.** So that prison guard better treat you good or he's not going to not be blessed. And we have to realize this like Joseph did. What perspective that he had ... what perspective, right?

He had proper focus. He saw the blessings in trials that they were **not to punish but to save life.** You have to realize that every time you're going through a trial. **It's not to punish. It's to save life.** Others are blessed because of him. The same as us, right? Look in the book of Deuteronomy. Look in the Torah. What does it say? That people ... *I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you!* So when people treat you bad, whether it's a neighbor, or whether it's your boss at work. Feel sorry for that person. Pray for that person, why? Because they're hurting themselves ... they're hurting themselves. And they're only going to hurt themselves because **as people of Yahweh, we have His name on us and His blessing on us.** And people that treat us good will be blessed. They don't even know why. But people that treat us bad will also. So **never be a victim!** Never think you're a victim because we're not victims. We're victorious.

Step four ... step four: **Embrace the power of Yahshua's sacrifice in our life.** Many forget this as time goes by, right? We realize it when we're first baptized. But you know after ten, twenty, thirty ... in my case, forty years ... we can forget it. Embrace the power of Yahshua's sacrifice in our life. 1st Peter 2 in verse 19:

1st Peter 2:19-22 *For this is favor before Elohim, if because of conscience, anyone bears grief, suffering unjustly. For what glory is it if you patiently endure suffering because of your sinning? But if you are suffering while doing good, and patiently endure, then your glory is **greater from Elohim.** For you were called to this, for even Messiah suffered on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that you should follow His steps; "Who did not sin, nor was guile found in His mouth;"*

1st Peter 2:23-25 *who, having been reviled, did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten, but gave Himself up to Him who was judging righteously; who "Himself carried up in His body our sins" onto the tree; that dying to sins, we*

might live for righteousness, of whom "By His wounds you were healed." For you were "As sheep going astray," but now you turned back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Right? So the sad part is, most times, many believers are not suffering for righteousness' sake like this. They're suffering for their own sins. They're making mistakes, sometimes even lying, and then they're suffering the consequences. And like it says, there's nothing to play the victim in that. You're only getting what you deserve when you do. But even when you did nothing wrong. Even when you're doing *everything right* and you're suffering, the Bible says **rejoice**. Because you are getting to understand exactly what Yahshua went through; who was perfect and went through all that suffering **willingly** so that our sins can be forgiven.

So we should embrace that when we're being suffered for something we didn't do wrong. Because we're learning, we're growing, we're maturing, exactly like He did. And you know Yahshua is a great High Priest. And when we are going through things ... we're only human beings, there's only so much we could take ... but when you are going through that time and you're really down and you're really feeling down because you're going through a great trial—Matthew 11, what does He say? Matthew 11:28-30:

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me, all those laboring and being burdened, and I will give you rest. Bear my yoke upon you and learn from me. That I am tranquil and I am meek, and in my heart you will find tranquility for your souls. For My yoke is pleasant, and My burden light.*

Right? His yoke, what is He talking about? The oxen and the yoke that goes out there, that sometimes it's hard. But He says His yoke is easy and His burden is light ... His burden is light. So when we're in those times where we really are going through heavy things and we're trying to make the best out of it. And we're just not understanding and that's what ... that's the time to go to Him. And He will give us the answers. And even if He doesn't give you an answer, **He'll give you peace of mind** to your soul. Hebrews 4:14-16:

Hebrews 4:14-16 *We have therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Yahshua, the Son of YAHWEH, let us remain firm in His faith. For we have not a high priest, who cannot share our infirmities; but we have one who was **tempted in everything as we are, yet without sin** ... praise Yahweh for that ... Therefore, let us draw near **with confidence** to the throne of grace, **that we may receive mercy, and we may find grace in time of need.***

So He ... if the only reason He came was to forgive sin, He would have only been on the earth three days and three nights. That's all He would have had to do. And He would have done His job, died, resurrected and forgave sin. Why then, did He come in a human body, born of a woman, being a baby pooping His diaper, and going through life for thirty-two, thirty-three years of all the things He did? He went through that so He would understand **every single thing we go through in life**. From sickness, to sorrow, to suffering, from having people that you loved and you were close to reject you and be disloyal. He went through everything for that reason. So that when we're going through this, and when we're really down, and when we're crying and saying, "Father, please." We have a High Priest that went through it and understands our suffering because **He went through it**.

So we don't have a High Priest up in the Heavens that can't understand us. We have One that came to the earth and lived and did all the things that He can totally understand what we're going through. So we have to understand this. We have to make sure that we're reframing, right? **We're reframing our greatest failures into our greatest successes** as Joseph did. 2nd Corinthians 4, we see the Apostle Paul did this. 2nd Corinthians 4 verse 7 through 11, he says:

2nd Corinthians 4:7-11 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the excellence of the power may be of Elohim, and not from us; **in every way being troubled, but not being overwhelmed; being harassed on all sides, but not being conquered; being persecuted, but not being forsaken** ... Wow, was Paul a reframer? You better believe it ... **being thrown down, but not having been destroyed; for we always bear in our bodies about the death of our Master Yahshua, that also the life of Yahshua may be made manifest in our bodies.** ... Right? Like we said the other day, we are forgiven through*

His sacrifice, but we're saved through His life ... *For we who live are always being delivered up to death on account of Yahshua, that also the life of Yahshua may be made manifest in our mortal bodies;*

Right? Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life! And **He died for us so that we can live so that He can live in us**. And every believer from the first century until today, until His Kingdom comes, He is living with us. That's why we have one Spirit, and one mind and we should have one purpose, the same purpose He had, *Father not My will, but Your will*. The same purpose of fulfilling His Kingdom, of living for Yahweh and fulfilling His Kingdom. That's the purpose that He had. And He's living *in us* so that we would have the same purpose.

The Apostle Paul reframed his trials into the greatest successes of the victory in Yahshua's sacrifice. And His sacrifice continues in us today. What an honor, right? What an honor that is that His sacrifice continues in us. And that's why we go through trials. We go through these sufferings as He went through the sufferings, **to humble us**. But more than humble us, to help us to be overcomers; because you have to be an overcomer to be in His Kingdom.

So the last point, **step number five: We must focus on serving others. Get our mind off ourselves and bearing fruit for the Kingdom.** If you're going to be an overcomer, you must do this. Philippians chapter 2 ... Philippians chapter 2:1-4:

Philippians 2:1-2 *So then, if there is any comfort in Messiah, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any mercies and compassions, **complete my joy, by being in one, in one accord, in one love, in one soul, in one mind.***

Comment: Right? That's why **you have to part of a congregation**. Yahshua is a **body** and we are all parts. We are pinkies or toes, or earlobes, or an eyeball or whatever you are. If you're out on your own ... *he who separates himself seeks his own desire* ... then you're not part of a body. You're just a member that was cut off, rolling around out there. But this is what he says. We have to be *one accord, one love, one soul, one mind*.

Philippians 2:3-4 *Doing nothing according to strife or self-glory, but in humility, let each regard his neighbor as better than himself; **let no one be mindful only of his own things, but let each one also be mindful of the things of his neighbor.***

So when we get on the pity party and when we're playing the victim, you're thinking of one person and that's you. That's it! You're whole life, your whole world; your whole entity has become nothing but you and what has been wronged according to you. But here it is, to overcome that, to be an overcomer you got to get your mind on other people. That's the easiest way.

And you know what? It brings happiness. It brings joy. There's been ... and I've counseled this to people for the last twenty-five years as an elder. And even before that, even before I was ordained. I used to always say that as a young, single man, tell people, "You got to get your mind on somebody else." And I've seen it. I've seen people that were so depressed and so sullen that once they started going out and helping; whether it's serving at soup kitchens, or even something as simple as babysitting for a brother and a sister to give them the time, or whatever; that they were so happy that they were serving and that people were actually joyful by something that they did for them. And this is so important. It's so important that we have to make sure.

Because you know what? We're not victims. We're overcomers. Romans 8, **we are children of the living Elohim**. And out of the billions and billions of people that have been on this planet, how many? Maybe fifty billion people from Adam until today. **You are part** of a club, of this elect club, of maybe one thousandth of one percent of those people, that is called as a child of Yahweh. Romans 8 in verse 12:

Romans 8:12-14 *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to flesh, for if you live according to flesh, you are going to die. But **if by the Spirit** you put to death the practices of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons (the children) of Elohim.*

Romans 8:15-18 *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery again to fear, but you received a Spirit of **sonship** by which we cry, Abba! Father! ... Daddy, right? ... The Spirit itself witnesses with our spirit that we are the children of YAHWEH. And if children, then heirs; truly heirs of Elohim, and joint heirs of Messiah, if indeed we suffer together, that we may also be glorified together. For I calculate that the sufferings of the present time are **not worthy** to compare to the coming glory to be revealed in us.*

Comment: And that's probably the biggest understatement in the Bible, right? That the trials we go through ... not to minimize them, because sometimes they are tough ... but they still, no matter how tough they are, they are **nothing compared** to the glory that Yahweh called us to; **to be His very child**. Not to be a slave, not to just to live forever. And that would have been great to live forever as a slave, or the dishwasher, or whatever it would be; but to live forever as His child. It's just inconceivable. It's hard to even imagine but that is our calling. That is **our destiny**, right? That is the destiny that He gives us. We are overcomers, children of Yahweh. And **we must live like an overcomer, not a victim**.

Acts 20 in verse 35, the Apostle Paul said:

Acts 20:35 *I showed you all things, that working in this way we ought to **help those being weak**, and to remember the Words of the Master Yahshua, that He said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive**.*

And wow, that is so true. And anybody, anybody that has the Spirit of Yahweh **knows this**. You know as much as it's nice to get something, and especially if it's something you need. And I'm always thankful if somebody gives me a present or gives me that. Wow. But is **so much more blessed** to give to somebody else what they need. And that's why when somebody gives something to you just take it even if you don't need it. Take it and give it to somebody else. That's Yahweh's economy. But when you don't take something somebody gives you, you're taking away a blessing from them. It's more **blessed** to give than to receive. So don't take somebody's blessing who's trying to give.

Like I said if you don't need it give to somebody who does. But it really is; you have to be that way. **You have to be a giver and not a receiver**. And if your mind is only on receiving, wow, that's what your reality is going to be. You're going to go from an **outward giving person** to an inward, almost, victim. So if you really want to be an overcomer, you have to ... you have to. It's the key to happiness in life, is the key to focus on others. Get the focus off yourself. It's the law of nature of Yahweh.

And you have to realize that **others are worse off than you are**. In this world if it's a scale of one to ten, we're all ... all of us are eight, nine and ten, as far as how blessed we are in this life. And there's a lot of people that are ones and twos. You look around the world, seventy percent of the world lives on five dollars a day or less, right? And a lot of them are suffering and under dictatorships. There's a lot of people living bad. So you have to realize that. You have to realize there's a lot of people that are living way worse than you. Hebrews 9:14 and 15:

Hebrews 9:14-15 *by how much more the blood of Messiah who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to YAHWEH, will **purify your conscience** from dead works, to serve the living Elohim! And for this reason he became the Mediator of the New Covenant, that He might by his death be redemption, to them who had transgressed the first covenant; so that they, who are called to the eternal inheritance, might receive the blessing.*

Wow! That's got to be our focus—**what Yahshua did in our life, how He transformed us**. We're not the same people we were. We shouldn't be anyway. And He transformed us and He forgiven us and His grace is in our life. And we have to give that back now. Because if you're really under grace, I mean **if you're really under grace, than you are giving it back to others**. That's part of the definition. If you're never giving your grace back, then you're not under grace. It means it's not only the unmerited pardon in your life, but it's that **ability to want to give it back to others**. And that's part of it.

2nd Timothy ... 2nd Timothy 1 in verse 7, he says:

2nd Timothy 1:7-9 For YAHWEH did not give a spirit of cowardice to us, but of power and of love and of good discipline ... you need discipline in your life to be able to do this, or instruction ... Then do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Master, nor of me, His prisoner. But suffer hardship with the good news, according to the power of Elohim, ... we're going to suffer hardship, one way or the other ... the One having saved us and having called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose and grace** given to us in Messiah Yahshua before the world began,

2nd Timothy 1:10-13 but now revealed through the appearance of our Savior, Yahshua Messiah, indeed making death of no effect, bringing life and immortality to light through the good news, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and a teacher of nations. For which cause I also suffer these things. That I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and **I am persuaded that He is able** to guard my deposit until that Day. Let this example of sound words which you heard from me abide in you, in faith and love in Messiah Yahshua.

And I say that today like the Apostle Paul said ... Let this example of sound words which you heard from me in you, in faith and love in Yahshua Messiah. Let them abide in you because again, **it's just a matter of keeping things in perspective**. And like I said, looking in the things we go through to overcome, to learn purpose, to see where we have to change. And be **thanking Yahweh**. Thanking Him for the trials, or the challenges. I don't like to use the word trials. I like to say the word challenges. Thank Him for the challenges as well as what you perceive as a blessing because they're all blessings in the long run.

Last scripture, Revelation 3 ... because this is a sermon probably should listen to more than once, as many of them are. But this one you need because this is something we need if we are going to make Yahweh's Kingdom. Revelation 3 in verse 5:

Revelation 3:5 To the one overcoming ... Right? We have to be overcomers ... To the one overcoming this one shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not at all blot his name out of the Book of Life; and I will **acknowledge** his name before My Father, and before His cherubs.

Drop down to verse 12:

Revelation 3:12-13 The one overcoming, I will make him a **pillar** in the sanctuary of My Elohim, and he shall not go out any more. And I will write the name of My Elohim on him, and the name of the city of My Elohim, the New Jerusalem which comes down out of Heaven from My Elohim, and My new name. The one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the congregations.

So we must be an overcomer to be in Yahweh's Kingdom. You know we study the Bible, right? We're told to study the Bible to show ourselves approved. But there's no other new knowledge that's in the Bible that we don't already know. Yahweh may show us things in a different way that we couldn't see before, but there's no ... like even King Solomon said there's nothing new under the sun. There's no new knowledge that's there that's going to change anything that Yahweh has already done. We already have the knowledge. That's the point. Everything we need for salvation we already have. He's already won the victory. We just have to accept that in our life.

He's already given us eternal life in Him. What we need to do now is we need to be faithful. We need to endure to the end. And we need to overcome. But He has already done His part, Yahshua, right? And if we allow Him, He'll do and finish His part in us. But we need to overcome sin, self-righteousness, and a spirit of a lack of appreciation. So let's embrace this, right?

The five points of being an overcomer: Let the past go, stop playing the victim. **Number 2:** Take responsibility for your own actions and your own sins. **Number 3:** Count your blessings, reframe your failures. **Number 4:** Embrace the power of

Yahshua's sacrifice in our life. And **Number 5** ... 5 being the number of grace: We must focus on serving others, getting mind off ourselves and bearing fruit for Yahweh's Kingdom.

So, I know I'm having a great Days of Unleavened Bread. I hope you're having a great Days of Unleavened Bread also. So may Yahweh bless you. May you take these words to heart. And we will have another almost live service on the last Holy Day. Yahweh bless. Shabbat Shalom.