

SRMBC Family Bible Study

OVERCOMER

WHAT DO YOU ALLOW TO DEFINE YOU?

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Session 4 You Surrender

“Because I said so” might be a phrase from your childhood home that you vowed never to repeat to your children. Before you take such a hard turn, let’s evaluate it from a different perspective. According to the wisdom of God Almighty and His infallible Word, parents are the divinely appointed authority in a child’s life. “Because I said so” can communicate that we know best and lovingly care for our children through limits and instruction.

When we identify ourselves first and foremost as followers of Jesus, we’ll live a life of faith that makes our connection to Jesus one of the most prominent features of our lives. Other people will notice.

Watch Movie Clip: You Surrender (3:55)

Playing the hand life dealt doesn’t mean John automatically embraces the change. At this point in the film, John still laments the loss of his basketball team and the possibility he saw on that path, including a state championship win and a scholarship for Ethan. When Thomas, his unlikely new friend, asks that key question “Who are you?” John leads with basketball even though it’s gone.

Group Discussion.



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Questions

- Why do you think Thomas, at this point in his life, can have a deep conversation with someone like John, a total stranger?
- Is it easier or more difficult to hear and consider questions like Thomas’s from someone you’re close to or from someone new in your life?
- Why do you think the question was so difficult for John to answer?

Read Matthew 16:13-20.

1. According to Jesus, who revealed Peter’s revelation to him?

It Was Not Through The Flesh:

- Not by Human Intellect

- Not by Human Effort
- Not by Human Morals, Goodness or Religious Actions or Activity

It Was Revealed By God the Father:

- By His Will - His Amazing Grace
 - By His Word – Jesus the Living Word
 - By His Works – (His Spirit, His “Superintendence”)
2. Why does that fact of who revealed Jesus to Peter matter?
- **Authority** – It Shows the Authority – From The Father In Heaven.
 - **Reality** – Grace and Truth. God is Not a Man that He should lie. His Way and Word always works.
 - **Permanency** – A irreversible change took place in Peter’s that can never be erased
 - **Eternality** - This Is an Eternal Truth – God’s Word is Eternal and will never fade or fail.
 - **Universally/Inclusivity** - This Applies to Everyone. Jesus is the Savior and Lord of All.
3. If you had eight floors of elevator conversation with a stranger who asked you, “Why do you believe in Jesus?”

Logical Reasons – When I think about the world, the beauty and order of creation – especially how we (mankind) have been created - It just make sense to believe in God/Jesus (Psalm 8, Isa 1:18, Rom. 1:20).

Spiritual/Scriptural Reasons – The Word/Bible contains the truth about sin, its penalty (death) and the Jesus – the One who Saves us and how to be saved and be right with God. (Gen. 3:16 – 19, John 3:16, Rom.3:23, 6:23, 10:9 – 10).

Personal Reasons – My own personal testimony of when and how Jesus saved me. What He continually does to change me and the many answers to my prayers. Also what He has done for others from history and for how Jesus has saved and blessed my family and those around me (Psalm 107:2, Rom 1:16, II Tim. 1:12, Heb. 12:1 -2, Rev. 12:11).

Read Luke 22:31-34.

4. Why do you think Jesus declared the good Peter would do to build the church after the miserable failure that was coming?
- He wanted to let Peter know that he was still chosen for the Work of the Lord – even though he wasn’t perfect.
 - He let Peter know that the attack from Satan is no Surprise to Him so it would not be a surprise to Peter.
 - That Peter, although he would fail, his failure would not be fatal.
 - That Jesus had prayed for him – He wasn’t disappointed in him and would not cast Peter away. Peter still belonged to the Lord.
 - So, Peter would remember after his failure to Strengthen his brothers.

5. Have you ever feared you would be disqualified from fulfilling God's purpose in your life because of your mistakes? How do you wrestle with that?

- Not only did I fear being disqualified – I wanted to quit on God, the Ministry and the Church.
- Even when I wanted to quit God moved things in my life and around me to keep me in the ministry and to remind me that He was not through with me yet.
- While it is true is true that we must demonstrate our faith by our living, it is God that works His purpose in us – even in spite of us.

“...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6)

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (I Cor. 9:27)

6. In what ways is it obvious that you follow Jesus?

- **Worship** - Worshipping God in Spirit and In Truth.
- **Word/Truth** – Proclaim God's Word As Truth And Apply It To People's Lives.
- **Faith** - Be Willing To Step Out In Bold Faith And Take Risks.
- **Discipleship** – Developing Christ Centered Disciples Who Lead By Example.
- **Fellowship** – Continually Practice Agape Love for One another and the Community.
- **Stewardship** – Giving Generously Of God's Resources As A Church And As Individuals.
- **Evangelism** – Commit To Enthusiastically To Sharing The Gospel As Our Mission.

7. In what ways do you hide your commitment to Him?

- **Speech:** - Depending on who is around it is tempting to not speak about Jesus and my faith in Him (Gossip, Cursing, Anger, Doubt, Worldliness, etc.)
- **Actions:** - Sometimes we hide our faith by what we spend our time on – Certain Movies, Music, Activity Websites (Facebook, YouTube, etc.)
- **Thoughts:** – I don't always Think like a Christian – On The things of this World, Rather than Eternal things (Heaven, the Gospel, Church, Others)

For others to easily identify us as disciples of Jesus, we must walk closely with Him and root our identity in Him.

Living out our identity in Christ is the only way to be fully alive. Otherwise, we're guilty of claiming Jesus with our mouths but living life as if He doesn't exist.

Overcomer's Prayer

Glorious Father, I thank You for revealing Yourself to me by Your Amazing Grace. I ask Your forgiveness Lord God, for my sins and shortcomings against You and others.

I thank You for the precious gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father, I re-dedicate my life to You, to the Gospel and to the Church of Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Empower me with Your Holy Spirit To Live for You.

I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.