

Faith That Overcomes The Past

Introduction

- Without faith, continual, trusting obedience to God, we cannot please Him and hope for eternal life
- To continue to grow in faith, we must learn to benefit from and overcome the past
- If we do not, we will either get stuck in the sins of the past or glory in the past resulting in a decrease of our present faith

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Beware of Continuing In The Sins of The Past

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Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Heb 12:16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Heb 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

Heb 12:17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

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Beware of Continuing In The Glory of The Past

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Ecc 7:10 Do not say, "Why is it that the former days were better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.

Rev 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Rev 3:2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

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Beware of Continuing In The Glory of The Past

Rev 3:3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Rev 3:4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

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Beware of Continuing In The Glory of The Past

Rev 3:5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev 3:6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

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What Is Faith?

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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What Is Faith?

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

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Caleb's Faith That Overcame The Past

- By Moses, God miraculously delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery
- Before commanding them to take the promised land, Canaan, God directed Moses to send out 12 spies
- Only two spies, Caleb and Joshua, trusted and believed God's promise of victory
- Due to the unbelief of the 10 spies and people, God keeps them in the wilderness for 40 year until the rebellious have died ¹¹

Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:25 When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days,

Num 13:26 they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land.

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:27 Thus they told him, and said,
"We went in to the land where you sent us;
and it certainly does flow with milk and
honey, and this is its fruit.

Num 13:28 "Nevertheless, the people who
live in the land are strong, and the cities are
fortified and very large; and moreover, we
saw the descendants of Anak there.

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:29 "Amalek is living in the land of
the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites
and the Amorites are living in the hill
country, and the Canaanites are living by the
sea and by the side of the Jordan."

Num 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people
before Moses and said, "We should by all
means go up and take possession of it, for
we will surely overcome it."

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:31 But the men who had gone up
with him said, "We are not able to go up
against the people, for they are too strong
for us."

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:32 So they gave out to the sons of
Israel a bad report of the land which they
had spied out, saying, "The land through
which we have gone, in spying it out, is a
land that devours its inhabitants; and all the
people whom we saw in it are men of great
size.

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 13:33 "There also we saw the
Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the
Nephilim); and we became like
grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we
were in their sight."

Num 14:1 Then all the congregation lifted
up their voices and cried, and the people
wept that night.

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With
The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 14:2 All the sons of Israel grumbled
against Moses and Aaron; and the whole
congregation said to them, "Would that we
had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that
we had died in this wilderness!

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Faith of Caleb and Joshua Contrasted With The Unbelief of The 10 Spies and People

Num 14:3 "Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

Num 14:4 So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt."

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God Punished Israel With 40 Years In The Wilderness

Num 14:24 "But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.

Num 14:30 'Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

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God Punished Israel With 40 Years In The Wilderness

Num 14:31 'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.

Num 14:32 'But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.

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God Punished Israel With 40 Years In The Wilderness

Num 14:33 'Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.

Num 14:34 'According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, even forty years, and you will know My opposition.

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:6 Then the sons of Judah drew near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know the word which the LORD spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea.

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:7 "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought word back to him as it was in my heart.

Jos 14:8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the LORD my God fully.

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:10 "Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today.

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:11 "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.

Jos 14:12 "Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken." 27

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:13 So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

Jos 14:14 Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully.

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40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

Jos 14:15 Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba; for Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. Then the land had rest from war.

40 Years Later Caleb's Faith Active Strong and Looking Forward To His Inheritance

- For 40 years, Caleb had to endure wandering in the wilderness because of the unbelief of his countrymen
- Finally, he and Joshua and a new generation enter and conquer the land by God's power
- Instead of being embittered or glorying in the past, Caleb kept looking forward trusting believing and obeying God ready to receive his inheritance in Canaan

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Faith That Overcomes The Past

1. What is faith?
2. Caleb's faith that overcame the past

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Paul's Faith That Overcame The Past

- Like Caleb, Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, has a growing, trusting obedient faith that overcame the past
- Before becoming a Christian, he had been a ferocious persecutor of the church being present and approving of Stephen's murder
- When he turned to Christ, he continuously labored to convert and mature others not held back by past sins or successes

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 7:57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

Act 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Act 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Act 8:2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

Act 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 22:12 "A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

Act 22:13 came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Act 22:14 "And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

Act 22:15 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

1Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

1Ti 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

1Ti 1:14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

1Ti 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

1Ti 1:16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

1Co 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

1Co 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

1Co 15:11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

Php 3:2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Php 3:4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;

Php 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Php 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Php 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

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Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Php 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Php 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 49

Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

Php 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Php 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

Php 3:16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. 50

Paul's Faith Overcoming His Past Sins and Successes

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 51

Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

- It begins by becoming a Christian through belief that leads to repentance, confession of Jesus as the Son of God and baptism for forgiveness of our past sins
- It continues as we grow, learning loving and applying the apostles' teaching
- When needed, we repent and pray for forgiveness of sins so we may continue to grow in faith by His grace 52

Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 53

Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 54

Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

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Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Our Faith That Overcomes The Past

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

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Faith That Overcomes The Past

1. What is faith?
2. Caleb's faith that overcame the past
3. Paul's faith that overcame the past
4. Our faith that overcomes the past

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