OVERCOMING BY FAITH
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Introduction
Before we learn how to overcome by faith, we must first learn what our Bible says about overcoming and also about faith, and how it relates to us. 1 John 5:4 says, “whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Faith is the most wonderful thing in the Bible. Romans 1:7 describes the necessity of faith; “The just shall live by faith.” Romans 14:23 also goes on to say, “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for that cometh to God must believe that he is and he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” And most widely known, 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith and not by sight." Combining these verses, we are able to create a formula for overcoming; Confessing our faith, Testing our faith, and putting our faith in Action will give us our victory.

Faith Must Be Confessed
The word “confess” or “confession” is of Greek origin, and means "to say the same." Confession is orally speaking the same thing, what God says in His word. It is making the word of our mouth agree with the written word of God. Hebrews 13:5-6 says, "because he has said, I come boldly." Psalms 116:10 says "I believed, therefore have I spoken." 2 Corinthians 4:13, "but having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed and therefore have I spoken; We also believe and therefore speak.”

The whole Bible emphasizes that there is a direct connection between our mouth and our heart. Matthew 12:34, “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.” If our heart is filled with faith, then it will be expressed in what we say with our mouth.

Romans 8:8, "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith, which we preach." Faith must be confessed with the mouth.

Faith Must Be Tested By Trials
This is the one must of faith we don’t like to face, nevertheless, we cannot avoid it. Faith must be tested or it cannot be trusted.

Romans 5:3 reads, "we glory (joy, exalt) in tribulation." This seems ridiculous, or even contradictory. How can we rejoice in tribulation, in hardship, persecution, misunderstanding, poverty and bereavement? How can God expect us to glory in tribulation? Paul gives the answer in verse 3-5. Paraphrasing those verses, Tribulation brings about perseverance; perseverance brings character; character brings hope; and hope is not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.
Peter compares the trial of our faith to the way in which gold was tested and purified by fire in the fiery furnace. 1 Peter 1:7, "that the trial of your faith being much more precious than gold, tried in fire." In purifying gold and silver, the refiner in Biblical times would suspend the gold in a melting pot over intense fire. As the metal seethed in the pot, the dross (various impurities) were forced to the surface and skinned off by the refiner. It has been said that the refiner, bending over the metal in his pot would not be satisfied of its complete purity, until he could see his reflection accurately in the surface. In the same way, the Lord, as our refiner, continues to apply the fires of testing on us, until he can see His own image reflected, without distortion from our lives. Trials and tribulations are the crucible in which God refined and purifies His people; as seen as Isaiah 48:10, Zachariah 13:9, Job 23:10.

**Faith Must Be Worked Out In Action**

The book of James emphasizes the relationship between faith and works. Faith that is confessed with the mouth must be backed up by appropriate actions. James says, “faith without works [the appropriate action] is dead.” James 2:20.

In James 2:18 we see James describing a man who says he has faith and appropriately responds, confirming his faith. James then uses two Old Testament characters to illustrate his point. First to Abraham; God promised him his descendents would be the stars of the night. In response Genesis 15:6 says, "he believed the Lord and it was reckoned to him for righteousness." Abraham proved his love for the Lord when he faced the supreme testing of his faith, the offering up of his only son Isaac, on Mount Moriah. Abraham showed his faith by his works.

Next James shows how Rahab’s faith was demonstrated through appropriate action. The spies that were sent into Jericho by Joshua were lodged in her house when they faced capture. Rahab risked her life to save them by hiding them on the roof. Rahab proved her faith by her works. This principle of demonstrating faith by action is found throughout the Bible.

**Conclusion**

The complete formula of Confessing, Testing, and Acting faith is found in Mark 5:25-34; lady with the issue of blood. First she believed, secondly she said it, thirdly she pressed through.

There is nothing you cannot overcome if you have trusting faith; if God is by your side. Mark 9:23 says, "all things are possible to them that believe."