

Faith: Coping and Overcoming The World!

KJV 1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

KJV John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus overcame the world and all its challenges!

Bishop Darrell Hines recently told us that “*faith doesn't give us control over God. But rather God gives us faith to control what life gives us!*”

Bishop Bill Hines gave a couple faith principles:

- 1) Faith is not emotional!
- 2) Our Faith must be declared and acted upon!

We must understand that faith is not a Christian Credit Card!

Our faith is what we use to **cope** with this fallen world!

Coping is the methods and means used to manage stressful situations!

Cope in the 14th century meant “*to come to blows*” in Old French. It meant to hit or punch.

As believers we fight with our faith! If we don't use faith we are fighting with the same weapons the world uses drug, alcohol etc.

Cope eventually evolved into meaning “*to handle successfully.*”

So exactly how did Jesus cope with the stress in His life?

NIV Hebrews 12:3-4 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

We're going to look at His time in the Garden of Gethsemane!

We're going to see how Jesus **coped (handled)** with tremendous stress!

NIV Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be *sorrowful and troubled*. (it's ok to be human—for a moment

Notice Jesus became emotional and stressed!

38 Then he said to them, "*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch* (be prepared for the enemy) *with me.*"

Now that you're stressed your **even more** vulnerable for an attack!

There are no "just say uncle", or I need a break, or can we start over in The Kingdom! **Life isn't a video game!**

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, **Jesus humbled Himself before The Father!**

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

At this point it didn't seem like Jesus could **cope** with this situation!

But He (*goes a little further*) and **quickly gets out of His emotions** and **declares The Will of God be done!**

Jesus returns to the disciples and finds them sleeping and asks Peter why they couldn't pray with Him for 1 hour!

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Notice how Jesus used His **faith to cope with and overcome this most stressful time in His life!**

1. He went where God called Him—in this case Gethsemane!

Just because you're in the will of God does mean things will always be wonderful! Understanding this will help us **cope** with life better.

2. He humbled himself in the place of obedience! Gethsemane means "oil press." Jesus prayed while under extreme pressure.
3. He took His closest prayer partners into the fight with Him!

There are some things we cannot **cope with alone!** We all need covenant relationships—people willing to go into the fire with us!

4. Jesus admitted He was overwhelmed and needed His friends.

Jesus started calling them friends in John 15. If you're going to cope with the stressful situations in life you need godly friends.

Jesus also admitted that He was **overwhelmed!** **Superman and Wonder women don't get stressed—we do!** Be real about your situation!

The Bible says Jesus went, prayed came back to His disciples (3) three times saying the same thing—ending His prayer with *thy will be done!*

Luke says an angel came and strengthened Jesus so He was able to **cope** with the stress of going to the cross and dying for our sin.

Jesus didn't cope with the challenges of life by Himself and neither should we—

We **cope** in our minds! **Our minds have to be strong in The LORD!**

Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Nine verses later we find Jesus as a youth in the Temple *sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*

Jesus grew so He could cope with every situation He would face in life!

It was His time in church sitting under The WORD of God that prepared Jesus for the challenges of life!

In The Garden of Gethsemane it was too late to learn how to cope!