### Keep Your Love On – Overcomers

**INTRODUCTION**

Pastor Then began his message with an illustration of the crane who flies thousands of kilometres over the Himalayan Mountains, fighting off birds of prey, low oxygen and freezing temperatures. They face great obstacles and yet God has created them with the ability to overcome them all. When we face challenges in life we can try to ***escape*** (live in denial), we can ***endure*** (put up with oppression and suffering) or we can ***engage***. 1 John 5:4 says*, “For whatever(whoever) is born of God overcomes the world...”* (NKJV)*.* This is a statement of “being” where God calls something into existence that was not here before. e.g. where there is fear, He can birth faith. Where there is weakness, He can create strength. We are therefore positioned by God to be in a position of victory over the world.

**KEY POINTS**

1. We engage with challenges by knowing our identity in Christ
2. We engage with challenges by tapping into His power
3. We engage with challenges with faith and love

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

* **Romans 8:18** ‘I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.’
* **2 Peter 1:3** ‘His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.’
* **2 Corinthians 2:14** ‘But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.’
* [**John 16:33**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16%3A33&version=NIV) “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Consider 1 John 5:4. What does this tell us about our relationship with God and His purpose for us?
2. What is the difference between ‘being an overcomer’ and someone who ‘overcomes’ a particular problem?
3. What do these scriptures teach us about how we can live our life as overcomers?
4. Why is the church (people) important in helping you to be an overcomer?
5. Is there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
6. What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For us to keep our love on towards God and others no matter what
* For each individual to have a personal revelation of what these scriptures mean for them
* For God's help to engage with any specific challenges your member may have raised

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Christmas Touch 2017:** Every year we create gifts boxes packed full of yummy treats to bless people in our community at Christmas. These include Otago Prison, Women’s Refuge, Dunedin Hospice and the Night Shelter and many other families and individuals in need. You can help out by donating $ to purchase treats, bake a cake or helping on packing day. Contact Erina Caradus to help out #0276659328