

**THE
HUG
CRUSADE™**

OVERCOMING YOU

1st Edition

Dedication

This study guide is dedicated to God.
May it glorify His name and help lead others to Christ.

Special Thanks

We offer very heartfelt thank you to the Overcomer Discipleship Ministry for their permission to edit and use the “Overcomer Student Manual” as the basis for this study guide. More information about their ministry can be obtained at <http://www.ChangingLives.org>

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History of The HUG Crusade

In the fall of 2007, two volunteers were asked to participate in a large outreach in the City of Atlanta, Georgia. A week before the event they went out with the organizers distributing circulars in apartment communities and weekly rental motels inviting the residents to attend. As they knocked on doors residents would often ask for transportation to the event. The only answer the volunteers had were for the guests to ride MARTA, Atlanta's public transportation system.

The event itself was a large event. Live music, food, clothes, medical screening, haircuts, prayer and worship was offered, and everything was absolutely free. Churches and ministries from across the southeast participated as one large team. Not a single group promoted themselves, instead they all worked together to serve the thousands who attended. The event was a great success. The Holy Spirit moved in the crowd and many souls were saved that day.

But the two volunteers left with troubled hearts. Many who they had spoken to when handing out circulars were not in attendance. Transportation was an issue. The event was also much too large for most churches to pull off, requiring months of work to organize and tens of thousands of dollars in money and donated goods and services. They were lead by the Holy Spirit to find a simple, easy way to take the gospel to the unchurched. An outreach event that anyone could pull-off was needed. One that was inexpensive. Once which could be planned in minutes and easily performed.

They planned a small event at a low-income 40-unit apartment community. Used toys and used clothes were collected from the members of their church and volunteers were organized. Those volunteering for the event donated the food to be served at the event along with some balloons to give it a festive atmosphere. After some prayer for inspiration, they named the event a HUG Cookout. HUG being "His Uplifting Grace" as that is what they were intending to demonstrate that day.

On the day of the event, nervous as to the outcome they set up a charcoal grill in the parking lot of the apartment community and invited residents to join in the celebration. Many of the residents did. The Holy Spirit moved throughout the community that day. Several residents sought prayer and names and phone numbers were taken of those wishing to set-up a Bible study group in the community. At the end of the event, 73 people joined in a prayer circle... and astounding number considering the size of the apartment community.

While the event itself was a great success, it was ultimately a failure. The two volunteers had not planned well enough and had no-one to facilitate the Bible study group and they did not feel qualified to do so themselves. They had no study materials and no experience with establishing groups. To make matters worse, the apartment community was too great of a distance from their church to expect the residents to attend services. Follow-up was definitely a problem.

At the urgings of the other volunteers more HUG Cookouts in other communities were held, but the two volunteers remained troubled over the lack of follow-up.

Finally, a third volunteer suggested that a church local to the next HUG Cookout be asked to participate. No money, food or other items of value were asked of the church. The church was only expected to attend and take the fruit produced into their fold. Three local churches within a few blocks of the event location were contacted before one was found willing to participate in the event.

This HUG Cookout was not within an apartment community, it was held in a low-income residential area of dilapidated homes. Turn-out, as a percentage of population was less than expected but good. The community was touched and some residents from the event attended the local church the next day, one walking the aisle and accepting Christ as their savior! Follow-up worked! However, it would remain difficult to find local churches willing to cooperate with an outside group entering their communities and holding events, especially when they themselves had not served their community.

In this case, the cooperating church was so excited over the outcome of the HUG Cookout, they began holding their own within their community!

Inspired by the results of the latest HUG Cookout, the two volunteers decided that there would be no more one night stands... that communities would no longer be loved and left. The two volunteers, finding additional inspiration from other efforts of their church and using, in part, some materials previously developed by their church, began the process of developing a group study which would provide continued support within the communities touched by their group's outreach efforts and encourage members to reach out into their own communities. From that, The HUG Crusade was born.

About this Study Guide

This guide is presented as a Christian beginner's study guide and as an introduction to The HUG Crusade. It gives only an overview of the subject matter. As such, it is only a guide and not the path. This guide is the work of man, not God. Thus, it is fallible. Readers should individually study God's word, reach their own conclusions and not rely upon the teachings of man.

“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.” (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Depending on your church background, you may or may not entirely agree with some of the non-essential opinions expressed in this study guide. To this we offer the following passage, and encourage you to preform your own independent study of the Bible in order to establish your own opinions based on the truth.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)

Regardless of your non-essential beliefs, everyone is welcome to join The HUG Crusade. We are much more concerned with the WHAT than we are the HOW.

This guide is based upon the “Overcomer Student Manual” as prepared by the Overcomer Discipleship Ministry and used with permission. More information concerning said ministry can be obtained at <http://www.changinglivesnow.org> or by calling 937-323-6396.

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The HUG Crusade Overcoming You: 1st Edition

The Crusader's Prayer

God, creator of the universe and Father to all, I praise you for the blessings you have bestowed upon my community, my loved ones and myself.

LORD, I humble myself before you and pray the Holy Spirit will fill my heart, touch my soul, empower my mind and energize my body in helping spread throughout my community your word and the gospel of Christ.

Father, may everything I do glorify your good name and help lead others to salvation.

This I pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Our Mission

To glorify God's good name and lead the world to Christ, one community at a time.

Salvation

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

All have sinned?

Yes, every single person.

Your sin is a barrier between you and God and keeps you from having a close, personal relationship with God.

Acceptance of the “free gift” of forgiveness through God’s Son, Jesus Christ is the only way to a right relationship with God.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

What is grace?

Grace is the gift of God as expressed in his action of extending mercy, love, and grace to all people.

Grace is the dimension of divine activity that enables God to confront human indifference and rebellion with an inexhaustible capacity to forgive and to bless.

What controls your life?

What is at the center of your being that makes you do the things you do? What would happen to you if suddenly those things were gone?

People are controlled by many different things.

What controls YOUR life?

Sex, Drugs, Alcohol, Games, Gambling, Greed and Smoking are just a few of the little things we like to hang on to that come between us and God.

Things are temporary, here today and gone tomorrow. Have you ever seen a drug addict who couldn’t get his drugs? Or, a High Roller who just went craps with someone else’s money! Or maybe a chain smoker who couldn’t get a cigarette?

It feels bad to not be in control of your life. When you are controlled by the things in your life you become unstable. When your life becomes unstable you become upset and you

feel alone. You get mean, hateful, and afraid. Your life goes into a downward spiral headed to rock bottom.

What is the answer?

Jesus Christ.

You can't be totally free from the things that come between you and God without the power of God to help you. You have to remove the barrier that stands between you and God, your sin.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Jesus Christ paid the price once for all for the things we've ever done wrong, our sin, through the shedding of his blood at Calvary.

“...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Jesus Christ is the only way to having a right relationship with God. Through Christ you can experience stability, security, forgiveness, wholeness, and peace.

Have you accepted Christ?

If you have just accepted Christ into your heart, please pray the following prayer.

“Father, I give my life to you today in Jesus' name. I ask you to come into my heart and be my Lord and save me. I thank you Lord for forgiving me and giving me a fresh start, a new beginning, a second chance through the sacrifice of the blood shed at the cross by Jesus Christ, your son. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.”

Now, if you prayed that prayer because you really meant it from the bottom of your heart, welcome to the family of God. Be sure and share your decision with someone in your HUG Crusade group. Now go and be accountable to yourself to lead your life God's way.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

Once you have opened the door of your heart to Christ you can begin to access God's power and strength to help you. God is knocking at the door of your heart now. Open the door and let Him in.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12 KJV)

If you will first give control of your life to God, God will then through His spirit take your life, turn it around and put you in control.

Human Nature

“I’ll do whatever I want to do, anytime I want to do it, and no one can tell me I can’t!”

“If it feels good do it!”

“I want mine and I want it now!”

“Me! Me! What’s in it for me?”

“I know the things I am doing are wrong and I shouldn’t be doing them but I do them anyway. I do them over and over. I try to quit but I can’t.”

Do any of the above statements sound a little like you? Probably so.

Is there help for you?

Yes, absolutely. **In Christ.**

“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.” (Romans 7:14-25)

I keep doing the same old things over and over. I don’t want to do them but I do. I know they’re wrong but I do them anyway, **I LIKE DOING THEM.** I don’t want to give them up!

“Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.” (John 2:23-25)

Your Human Nature, your flesh, your carnal mind says “I want mine and I want it now; Anything goes; If it feels good do it”. You like what brings you pleasure and you want it now with no interference from anyone.

Human Nature always seeks to gratify our five human senses; smell, touch, taste, sight, and hearing.

Human Nature, or your flesh likes to be pleased and indulges itself in selfish desires and motives when out of check with God’s Word.

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.” (Romans 8:6-8)

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” (James 4:1-3)

The sinful or Human Nature is the materialistic part of man that possesses and influences him. All human beings inherit this human nature from Satan, his fallen angels and Adam and Eve.

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” (Romans 8:5)

If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death, But, if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile with God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. That’s why those who are still under control of their sinful nature can never please God.

The end result of the sinful lifestyle can be addiction.

Some personalities of addiction are but are not limited to being very self-centered, caring for no one but yourself, lying, cheating, wanting to be in control of everything, demanding, taking, conquering and possessing.

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;...” (Romans 8:6)

Life is deep and the issues of it are complex. To this point you have tried to treat your deep issues with a band aid cure and it hasn’t worked. You don’t understand why you

can't do right and so you give up.

What can you do?

The Word of God is the only thing that will set you free from the Cycle of doing the same old things over and over. You can't overcome those things in your life you need to be set free from if you can't first identify the triggers in life that draw you into the "Cycle" to begin with.

How do I break out of my Cycle?

By accessing the power of God to help you.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Who is the thief?

Satan.

How does Satan kill steal and destroy?

Through fear, doubt and unbelief.

Satan likes to play with your thoughts, he likes to get into your thought life and set your mind to running away thinking thoughts like "I'm so afraid", "I wonder if God would really do that", or, "I doubt if God would do that for me."

Everything you've ever done, everything you do, everything you ever will do before you did it, before you do it and before you ever will do it will first be a thought in your mind. You will take that thought and think about it until you decide yes, or no. That thought you just acted upon will then bring victory into your life or it will bring defeat. It can make you happy or it can make you sad. It can be right or it can be wrong. It can bring blessings or it can bring curse.

How do I get rid of negative thoughts?

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

I don't struggle to be better in hopes that someday God will love me. God loves me, that's why I struggle to be better.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

First, seek God and his righteousness and then God will give you all things.

What kinds of things?

Things like love, joy, peace, forgiveness, freedom, self-control and peace.

“Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

Deny myself?

Yes.

Why?

Because every day of your life you are faced with challenges and circumstances that will cause you to make choices and decisions that affect your life. Your decisions and choices can bring blessing to you or they can bring curse.

We face attack from the “Cycle” of sin every day and every day we have to choose for ourselves if we are going to continue in it or not

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you...” (James 4:7-8)

You be humble before God, put Him first, then resist the devil and the Word says that he **has** to flee. It also says that if you will draw close to God, God will draw close to you.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:10-12)

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

No matter how great a grip Satan may have on your life, no matter how deep into the “Cycle” of sin you are God is always ready, willing and able to help set you free.

God’s word will work for you if you work it! You can be set free from the Cycle of sin.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” (Ephesians 3:20)

Faith

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

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“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,...” (Ephesians 3:20)

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.” (Mark 11:22)

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)

Can I put my faith into action?

Yes.

“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.’” (Matthew 21:21)

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

Believing God’s Word and beginning to speak it by faith is your faith in action. Putting your faith into action starts when you begin to share what you believe with others. Your tongue releases your faith filled words. Believe God’s Word and confess your agreement with them with your tongue by speaking your own faith filled words.

“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

“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.” (John 16:33)

Prayer

What is prayer?

Prayer is conversation between you and God. You are talking to God and God is listening to you. God actually hears what you are saying to him and responds to your faith filled words of prayer. You and God, together in a one on one, personal, intimate, close conversation.

You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and ask Him about anything, and He will respond to you according to His will.

How does God respond to you?

Through His Word. All prayer is to be done in the name of Jesus.

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” (John 14:13-14)

Jesus said ask “in my name” so praying in the name of Jesus is vital for successful prayers.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Pray specifically, Tell God exactly what you want. Be honest with God. Pray according to God’s will, the Bible.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Knowing God’s Word and believing it in your heart enables you to be one with God and helps your relationship with Him to grow. Being regular with your prayer life with God produces intimacy between you and God.

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” John 15:7 NLT.

Choose a specific day and time to pray. This will help you to become regular in prayer. The more you pray the easier it gets. Talk to God. You, yourself, talk to God.

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Forgiveness

What is forgiveness?

To pardon, restoration of broken relationships; ceasing to feel resentment for wrongs and offenses; an act of God releasing sinners from judgment and freeing them from the divine penalty of their sin; a human act extended toward one's neighbor, to excuse; no longer blame or be angry with someone who has done you wrong.

“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

As you receive God's forgiveness you are given the ability through Christ to forgive those who have hurt you.

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:21-22)

Just as you are forgiven by God you are exhorted and told to forgive those who have sinned against you. Christ's forgiveness empowers you to be a forgiving person, forgiving of yourself first and then to forgive others who have wronged you or you have wronged.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God shed His blood so you can have right standing with God. The Holy Spirit is life-bringing, truth-revealing, sin-convicting, and it is also a spirit of forgiveness.

“But you just don't know the whole story” “You just don't know what this person did to me”

God wants you to experience the inner healing that comes only by working through your anger and hurts to the point of totally releasing them all to God. The only person your unforgiving spirit is hurting is YOU. You can be free from your hurtful past through forgiveness. You can be free from the bitterness you feel for others through forgiveness.

“When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30)

Everything that ever could have been done, would have been done, or should have been

done for God to completely forgive you and give you everything that pertains to life and godliness was done when Jesus died on the cross.

“Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the [b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:27-28)

Reflections

1. In simple terms, what is forgiveness?
2. Forgiveness is a common thread throughout the New Testament. Why is it so important to God that we forgive others?
3. Who do you find most difficult to forgive, others or yourself and why?
4. Does forgiving wrongs mean you are to ignore wrongs?

God's Love

What is Love?

Love is moral goodwill proceeding from esteem, principal, duty, and dedication; to love the undeserving despite disappointment and rejection; our godly inherent character or our spirit essence being given us at birth; unconditional, self-giving, asking for nothing in return.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

*“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”
(Galatians 6:8-10)*

Freedom within – true inner, personal freedom is attained only through knowing God, the unconditional way in which He loves you and cares for you and gives you peace. You can be secure in knowing you are one of God’s children. Receive this fact into your heart, God loves you, and wants you to be able to love yourself and forgive yourself and through His mighty power be able to love and forgive others who have wrongfully used you.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

“Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

“Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

“Jesus answered: “Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,

'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 14:1-21)

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

You should have a more firm grip now about how much God loves you.

"This is my command: Love each other." John 15:17

What?? Love each other! "Oh no, you don't know what they did to me"

It doesn't matter, just love! The same way God loves you. Love God, love yourself, love others!

Reflections

1. In your own words, what is love?
2. Is love always an emotion? If not, what else can it be?
3. If you love Jesus, what should you do?
4. Why is it so important to God that we love each other?

Our Words

“If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” (James 1:26)

“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (James 3:5-6)

“...but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be..” (James 3:8-10)

You hear the Word of God, you receive it into your heart, you believe it and have faith in it, then begin speaking it by faith Your tongue releases the ability of God to be called upon the scene in any circumstance in your life and move in your life or in the life of someone you may be praying for. Your tongue releases your faith.

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

Those who say they can and those who say they can't are both correct. If it's something you really want to do you'll do it. You'll find a way to do it. You'll come up with the money to do it, you'll come up with the time to do it, somehow, you'll find a way to do it. But, if it's something you really don't want to do you'll avoid it like the plague. You'll make every excuse in the book to not do it.

The words you speak can either be a blessing or they can be a curse. Your words can help you in life if your words line up with God's Word. The words you speak can make someone else feel really good or they can also make them feel really bad. The words you speak can bring victory into your life or they can bring you defeat.

God spoke the world into existence and the world was controlled by God's spoken Word. The natural world here on earth is supposed to be being controlled by man, you, the believer, God's child speaking God's Word. You have the power and ability as a child of God to speak God's Word, to put your faith in action.

Your words contain the creative power of God if those words line up with God's Word., you have the same creative power with your words as God. You can be a blessing with your words or you can be abusive with them. Your words can put you over the top in life if they line up with God's Word, or they can hold you in bondage.

You only know what you've been taught.

“my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

Your words are important. Words are like little seeds that produce after their own kind. God’s words produce love, blessings, and have positive results.

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.” (Matthew 12:35)

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8)

Faith will make prayer work. Prayer won’t work without faith. You can speak the same creative power as God with your words when the words you speak begin to line up with God’s words through Jesus Christ.

There is power in the words you speak if those words are lining up with God’s words and Satan knows you are a threat to him when you are speaking faith-filled words. If the words you are speaking are filled with fear, doubt and unbelief Satan has you right where he wants you. Satan knows the power you possess in the words you speak. As long as you are speaking words of fear, doubt and unbelief your words are ineffective for God and are no threat to the enemy, Satan.

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21)

The Word of God engrafted within your spirit will deliver you from every circumstance and situation in life.

Don’t be motivated by what you see no matter how bad it looks. Be motivated by what you believe to be true in Christ.

Overcome negative thoughts with positive thoughts in Jesus’ name.

Overcome negative words with words of positivity.

Reflections

1. If you have ever been spoken of in a negative manner, what effect did it have on your life?
2. How have you used your words to hurt others? If so, what impact did it have on their lives?
3. If you refuse to say anything negative about yourself or anyone else, what changes do you feel might occur in your life?

Trust

What is trust?

Trust is reliance on the integrity of a person or thing; something committed to one's care; it's confident expectations in something; to rely on; to expect or believe to happen; to place confidence in.

Have you ever known someone who you couldn't trust? Why couldn't you trust them? Have you ever told someone you trusted a secret and asked them not to tell anybody and they told? Did it make you mad?

Trust is very fragile and once broken very hard to rebuild. It can take a very long time to regain the trust of someone who has lost trust in you.

"Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man." (John 2:23-25)

The only people we share our secrets with are people who we can really trust.

Are you a person who can be trusted?

When God tells you He will do something for you, you can trust Him, He'll do it. When God says that you can have something you can trust Him, you can have it. If God tells you that it's ok to trust you can trust Him that it is indeed true, you can trust.

God wants to be your very best friend, a friend you can trust and rely on. You can have confidence in God.

..I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

All of your hurts, ideas, and opinions of yourself; all of your thoughts about God and spirituality; how the Christian life works must give way to the "truth", who is the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to earth to reveal to you who the Father is, what He is like, His personality. God wants you to get to know Him as your heavenly Father. God wants you to know the real Him and He also wants to know the real you. Sometimes you never let anyone know the real you out of fear that if they really knew the real you they might not like you anymore.

"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you

friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”
(John 15:14-15)

Don't worry about whether or not you can trust God. You can trust God!

If you mess up, will God still love you?

Yes!

When God shares His secrets with you and when you share your secrets with Him it's called intimacy, and intimacy is an important part of any relationship.

God will reveal himself to you through His Son, Jesus Christ. When you make mistakes, the blood of Christ is your forgiveness. God will pick you up when you've fallen and give you a fresh start.

Security

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

God’s Word always calls for a response from you, the believer. God wants you to be free to do whatever He has called you to do. If you will obey God’s Word you can have whatever God’s Word is saying you can have. You can do whatever God’s Word is saying you can do. You can be whatever God’s Word is saying you can be. You have to believe that God’s Word is true. You have to receive God’s Word down deep into your heart and begin speaking the Word of God out by faith. In turn, God will come on the scene and move in your behalf or in the behalf of someone you are praying for. Don’t be afraid. Fear not.

“In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:17-18)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

You, seek the Kingdom of God first, then you can expect God to move on your behalf. It has to be God’s way!

What kinds of things will God do for you?

Whatever kinds of things you need from Him, anything.

After you hear God’s Word you need to respond to it. You can deny it, you can avoid it or you can endure it. You can deny God’s Word like you can deny wrong doing in your life. You can avoid God’s Word like you avoid talking to someone in the grocery store by ducking down an aisle and hope they didn’t see you. You can endure God’s Word as long as you draw breath but never really receive it in your heart.

There are five keys to victorious Christian living:

1. Believe that God can and does love you;
2. Receive God’s love by faith;
3. Trust God’s Word;
4. Respond in love to what God asks you to do;
5. Learn of God.

“my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

You only know the things you’ve been taught and you can’t overcome what you can’t identify.

Every word of God has redemptive power.

What’s redemption?

Redemption means to buy back by payment of a ransom; to loose from chains, slavery or prison. The price for your “free gift” of Jesus Christ was the blood that Jesus shed at Calvary. God paid the ultimate price to redeem you by sacrificing His own son, once, for all. You can’t earn this “free gift”, Stop trying! Receive the love of God into your life by receiving His redemption, Jesus Christ. God will meet you right where you are right now. Respond to Him in faith. If there were any way you could humanly receive God’s freedom on your own, God would never had had to sacrifice Jesus, His Son.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:7-8)

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.” (James 4:17)

When you resist the devil at every crossroad in your life and as you draw closer to God, God draws closer to you and the devil flees from God.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Reflections

1. Based on this lesson, under what conditions do you feel God would shower His blessings on someone?
2. How well do you meet the criteria you described in your answer to Question 1?
3. If you desperately need God's intervention in your life but don't really believe that He will intervene, what can you expect to happen?
4. If you really do not feel God will answer your prayers, what might happen if you force yourself to act like he will?

Attitude

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:25-32)

You must deal with wrong attitudes that surface on a daily basis. You have to take full responsibility to deal with your own attitudes.

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” (Hebrews 12:14-15)

After you personally have allowed a root of bitterness to spring up in your life you are easily recognizable to others. You’re always negative and nasty talking, having no consideration for anyone or anything but yourself. You’re always angry and mad about something. You’re critical. Your negative spirit rubs off on everyone you come in contact with.

In life, everywhere you go you are always going to run into people that are going to rub you the wrong way. There are going to be situations and circumstances come about in your life that you will have no control over. In life, you will always cross paths with decisions and choices. You control your own destiny with your attitude. Look at the glass as half full. Be the head and not the tail. Be the winner and not the loser through Jesus Christ.

When you realize and identify the fact that you have allowed a root of bitterness to take root in your heart you must accept your responsibility and identify your participation in it. Respond to God's Word, "Get rid of it"

It's Okay to say I'm sorry. It's Okay to admit you were wrong. It's Okay to ask for forgiveness, it's Okay to forgive.

If you want to live the victorious life God has for you you'll do it. If you want to go out and be a doer of the Word of God you'll do it. In the flesh you will always do the things you want to do. In the Spirit we will always be trying to do the God's Word.

You can live victoriously through Christ! God's Word will work for you if you work it. But, it will only work one way and that's got to be God's way.

The only power Satan will ever have in your life is the power you allow him to have. Stand firm in the Lord, in your faith and resist the devil and what? ... he will flee from you!

Depend on God for everything.

God has promised you all things that pertain to life and godliness. Develop and nurture a personal, intimate relationship with God. Draw near unto God and He shall draw near to you. Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up higher and higher and He shall lift you up. God will direct your every step

Be that victorious Christian person God wants you to be. Draw near unto Him and He will draw near to you. Always keep the distance between you and God as close as possible.

YOU <-----> GOD
GOD <-----> YOU

The closest distance between two objects is a straight line. Keep the line between you and God straight and short. Draw near to God. Seek God. Find God.

Scriptures

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

“...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:5)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)

“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations-” (Revelation 2:26)

“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.” (Revelation 3:5)

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Revelation. 3:21)

“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.” (John 16:33)

Reflections

1. After reading the scriptures on the previous page, what feelings were you left with?
2. Based on the scriptures presented, what is your definition of “overcome”?
3. What is the ultimate reward for someone who overcomes this world?

Service

Thus far this manual has been focused on you. But according to Jesus, there is someone out there who is just as important as you are.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied it was to love God with all of your heart. He then added the second greatest commandment. Do you know what the second greatest commandment is?

The second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Here is His exact words:

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Part of your recovery is recognizing that it is not all about you. There are other people involved, even complete strangers, and their needs are just as great as yours. You should recognize their needs and show compassion for them, and serve them to the best of your ability.

In the book of James, James said:

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” (James 4:1)

Do you understand this passage? What James was saying is that selfish prayers are the ones most likely to go unanswered! But, what else is there to do with a blessing from God than to enjoy it? You should use God's blessings to bestow blessings upon others.

Time and time again the authors of the bible repeated the same theme. Love others as you love yourself. This is what God expects you to do with His blessings.

No matter what position you hold in life or what troubles you are suffering you are blessed by God. Some might be blessed with money, others blessed with time. All Christians have been blessed with a spiritual gift, and many of us have unique talents and skills. God expects us to put our blessings to work serving others.

Sharing our blessings with others is what The HUG Crusade is all about. Take it from someone who knows, one of the best ways to heal is to serve others.

The HUG Crusade offers a unique opportunity for you to share your blessings with others in your community. Much more often than not when we go out to share the love of God with others, our blessings are often equal or greater than the blessings bestowed by God on those we serve. It is nothing less than amazing.

Seize on this opportunity to serve and share your blessings with those less fortunate. God promises rewards and God always keeps his word.

Within this manual you will find no test about this lesson. The test you must now pass is God's test and you answer His test with actions, not words.

Come serve with us and make your recovery complete.