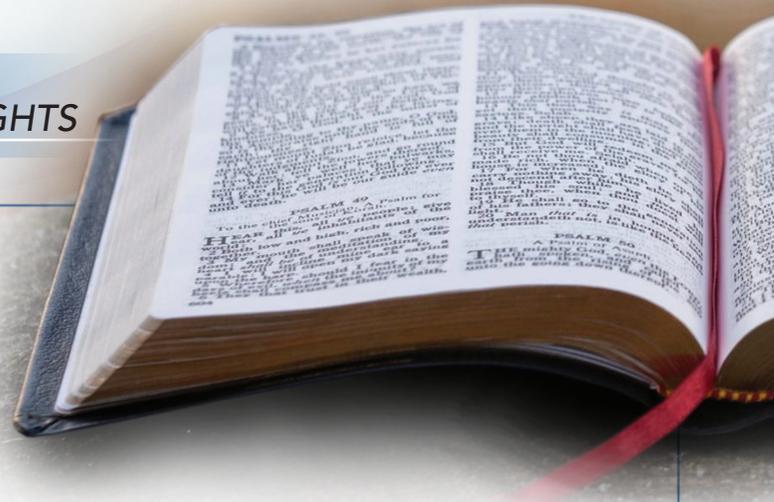




Rev. Dr. Raymond W. Boca

BISHOP'S DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS



Being an Overcomer, NOT a Survivor

– 1 John 5:4-5

Recently, I heard someone saying, "I used to thank God that I survived some test, trial, temptation or catastrophe. I was grateful that I made it through...but with the survivor mentality, I was never fully aware of the power that I had in the Spirit of God.

Survivor is defined as: "to continue to exist." "Overcome is defined as: "to defeat" I don't know about you, but I would rather defeat life's battles than just continue to exist in spite of them! When I think about the survivor mentality, to me it relays that I held on tight to the end of the rope and I barely made it. It is not a joyful experience at all, it is a tiring and draining experience full of turmoil. I forgot how much power I was given as a child of God, by the blood of Jesus I do not have to merely survive the battles in this life, I have the ability to overcome them!

With the overcomer mentality I have joy because I am applying the word of God in my battles and knowing that He is there to fight for me. I have more control of the situation in the sense that I can choose to focus on the

strength of God rather than the storm at hand. I am not holding on at the end of my rope as an overcomer, I am climbing it!

I once heard of a captain of a ship who was describing what it was like to go through a storm. He described the ship in the midst of the waves mounting on every side, with the wind blowing hard and the pitiless rain coming down. The ship seemed a helpless victim of the storm, caught up in the power of these mighty elements that were raging on every side. Its doom seemed sure. But he said, "I stood there on the bridge of the ship and I grasped the railing. I felt the throbbing of the engines deep down inside the hull. The storm, the wind, and the waves seemed to be saying to the ship, 'You cannot come, you cannot come.' But I heard the answering throb of the engines saying, 'Yes, we shall; yes, we shall; yes, we shall.' And so we do."

That is the way we overcome the world. If we give in, if we reflect the same attitudes and actions as the world, we have succumbed to the world and to the wiles of the devil. We have lost our testimony and all power to witness. But if our dependence is on the life of the Son of God, His life is in us, then, "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."

Are you walking in a survivor mentality or an overcomer mentality?

