

#1

Conquering the Negative

Philemon 1:6 NIV
I pray that you may be active in sharing your gifts, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Conquering the Negative

Philemon 1:6 NIV “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”

We have been studying what it means to live an overcoming Christian life.

God has made provision for you to have a life that is full of joy, peace, and love.

He has secured this in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

For you to fully enjoy the good things that have been provided in Christ Jesus, you must conquer the negative.

Most of us are inundated with negative things that are going on in this world.

Sometimes it seems the world is submerged with the negative.

Satan wants to overwhelm our minds with negative thoughts and events.

His intent is to destroy your faith and trust in God.

He wants to destroy your joy and peace.

He wants to turn your focus to all of the negative things in the world.

He wants to blind you of every good thing we have in Christ.

This is why the world is filled with the negative.

We want to conquer the negative in our lives.

There are many negative things that you have no control over.

We need to define “NEGATIVE”.

What things are negative?

Some people think their appearance is negative.

They are convinced they are ugly.

Some are convinced their family background is a negative.

#2

Conquering the Negative

There are many negative things that you have no control over.

Nothing good could come from their background.
Some people are sure their job or occupation is a negative.

- Fear is a negative
- Anxiety is a negative
- Insecurity is a negative
- Terrorism Worry
- Fighting Jealousy
- Envy Strife

The list of negative things is very long

We cannot control the negative things that others say or do.

You are not responsible for the negative things your spouse says or does.

You are not responsible for the negative things your parents do or say.

You are not responsible for the negative things that others are involved in.

We cannot control the negative actions of the world.

We cannot control the negative things that spew out of Satan's mouth.

What we can change we should.

#3

Conquering the Negative
 You can choose to be positive in a negative world
 In Christ Jesus you can conquer the negative

You can choose to be positive in a negative world.

Because we all have a choice, the secular world is attempting to counteract the effects of the negative.

You can find possibility and positive thinking information on any subject imaginable.

I found several sources for positive atheism and agnosticism.

People want to feel good about whatever they are doing.

They want to be positive when they don't have a job, when they have cancer, and even when they are dying. What possibility and positive thinkers are attempting to teach, God has provided for us in Christ Jesus.

Satan wants us to acknowledge every bad thing in the world, in others, and in ourselves.

He wants the focus of your life to be the negative.

We don't have to listen to him.

In Christ Jesus, you can conquer the negative.

We may not be able to overcome every negative thing that is happening in this world.

But, we can take charge and make dramatic changes that will positively impact our lives, and restore peace and joy.

The good news is we that we have a choice.

You can choose to be positive in a negative world.

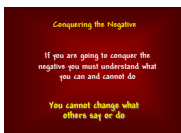
If you are going to conquer the negative, you must understand what you can and cannot do.

You can chose to stay positive in a negative world

None of us can change what others say or do, but we can chose to stay positive.

This man in the supermarket was pushing a cart which contained, among other things, a screaming child. As the man proceeded along the aisles, he kept repeating softly, "Keep calm, George. Don't get excited, George. Don't get excited, George. Don't yell, George. Keep cool, George."

#4



A lady watching with admiration said to the man,
"You should be commended for your patience in trying to quiet little George."

"Lady," he declared, "I'm George."

You see we have a full time job controlling our self.

Satan has an attitude, and he wants you to have it!

This is where we can start having an impact on the negative.

You don't have to accept the negative attitude that Satan wants to give you.

There are two attitudes that Satan tries to impose on us.

Either attitude is based on self.

Both attitudes reject what God says and thinks about you.

First, Satan wants YOU to have a haughty, prideful, self-reliant, self-confident, self-dependent attitude.

Satan wants *you* to think that *you* can handle everything that comes along.

You don't need God.

You can go it on your own.

Do what you want to do!

Many people don't think they have this attitude, but they act as if they don't need God.

As a believer, our confidence is in God.

Second, Satan wants you to condemn yourself.

Satan wants you to concentrate on your weaknesses, mistakes, and faults.

He wants you to think you are ugly, worthless, and useless.

He wants you to think you can do nothing right.

#5

Conquering the Negative
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#6

Conquering the Negative
First, To conquer the negative you need to be in right standing with God.
2 Corinthians 5:21
Romans 4:24

Some people think too highly of themselves and others think too lowly of themselves.

First, To conquer the negative you need to be in right standing with God.

We cannot conquer the negative if we do not have a right standing with God.

If there is sin in your life, you have no confidence before God.

The negative impact of sin in your life is devastating.

The word for a right standing with God is “righteousness.”

Righteousness is not something that just happens in your mind.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

Righteousness is God’s gift.

Righteousness is available as a result of Christ’s suffering on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

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Romans 4:24 Amplified
“[Righteousness, standing acceptable to God] will be granted and credited to us also who believe in (trust in, adhere to, and rely on) God, Who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead”

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Righteousness is something that is given to us by God.

It is credited and given to us as a result of our believing in what God did for us through His Son Jesus Christ.

#8

Conquering the Negative

First, to conquer the negative you need to be in right standing with God.

You have been changed by the power of God.

If you are in right standing with God, you have been changed by God's power.

We have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

Everything has been made right between you and God.

To truly understand this you need God's Spirit and Word active in your life.

When God has changed you, your focus in life changes.

You must start pressing toward God's goal for your life.

Philippians 3:13-14 Amplified "I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured *and* made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward."

#9

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Conquering the negative is a constant pursuit.

We must allow God to finish the work that He has started.

You need to see and know that your sins have been forgiven.

God has the power to deal with your sin.

You need to accept God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

You need to allow that change to take complete control of your life.

Many people have been radically changed, but they keep holding on to that old negative way of thinking.

They are planning on failing.

They cannot get over the weakness of their past.

#10

Conquering the Negative
 Second, To conquer the negative you need to change the way you think.
 Genesis 8:21
 God said, "The imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil and wicked from his youth."
 Proverbs 23:7 NKJV
 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Second, To conquer the negative you need to change the way you think.

Genesis 8:21 God said: "The imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil and wicked from his youth."

That is something every one of us was born with.

That negative tendency continues until the process is turned around in our lives.

Proverbs 23:7 NKJV For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Our way of thinking has to change.

I am not telling you to think something about yourself that is not true.

I am telling you to start thinking and talking in harmony with what God is doing and has done in your life.

His power is able to make you what you ought to be.

You need to see what God has done in your life.

Start focusing your attention on the power that God has to turn things around in your life.

What is the effect of His salvation on your life?

Has salvation made a difference within you?

What does it mean to be righteous in God's sight?

You have to change the way you think.

Your opinion of what God has done will dramatically affect your prayer, faith, and trust in God.

#11

Conquering the Negative
 Third, To conquer the negative you need to change the way you look at yourself.
 Do you understand what God has done for you?
 2 Chronicles 32:7
 For the rest of the Jews were to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart he perfect toward him.

Third, To conquer the negative you need to change the way you look at yourself

Do you understand what God has done for you?

Do you know you are saved and made righteous in His sight?

Your opinion of yourself makes a major difference. God can never do more with you than you are willing to trust Him with.

2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him.

God has made provision for us to be in right standing with Him.

In Christ, we have been made righteous. If God has made provision for things to change, we should come to Him for the help we need.

#12

Third, To conquer the negative you need to change the way you look at yourself.

Hebrews 4:16 Amplified
"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help us in every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

Hebrews 4:16 Amplified "Let us then fearlessly *and* confidently *and* boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

You may be down, or behind, but you are coming up. We must start acting as if we are conquerors.

#13

Conquering the Negative

Fourth, To conquer the negative you need to hear what God says and act on it.

Numbers 13:30 NKJV
Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

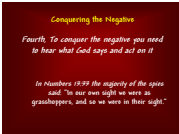
Fourth, To conquer the negative you need to hear what God says and act on it.

Sometimes we have to act in faith on what God has said.

Numbers 13:30 NKJV Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

How could Caleb say such a thing?

#14



He had been in the land with the other spies.
 Didn't he see all of the same negative things?
 Didn't he see the giants?
 Didn't he see the walled cities?
 Didn't he see the strong defenses of the people?
 He was no different from all of the rest of them.

In Numbers 13:33 the majority of the spies said: "In our own sight we were as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

Joshua and Caleb were not overwhelmed by the negative.

The natural, overwhelming odds did not change their opinion of God.

They heard what God had said.

They based their lives and future on God's integrity.

They went into the land believing that everything was already theirs.

They were too busy counting their blessings to dwell on the negative.

They knew that God was giving them the land.

Caleb said we are well able to overcome it.

#15



We are more than conquerors through Christ .

Joshua and Caleb faced some insurmountable odds.

Their enemies were giants.

Their friends and fellow spies were against them.

They were not movers and shakers; others did not listen to them.

There were many negative things working against them.

They stood alone.

They conquered the negative because they counted up what was on their side.

If you are going to conquer the negative, you need to take an evaluation of what you have.

- You need to know that regardless of how high the mountain, you will climb it. ***God is on your side.***
- You need to know that regardless of how wide the river, you will cross it. ***God is on your side.***
- You need to know that regardless of how hot the battle, you will not stop. ***God is on your side.***
- Regardless of how deep the valley, you will come out of it. ***God is on your side.***

How do you know you can conquer the negative?

Joshua and Caleb paid attention to what God said.

Fifth, To conquer the negative , stop focusing on your limitations and weaknesses.

You can do what God has called you to do!

Philippians 4:13 The Living Bible “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.”

You need to understand the context of what Paul was saying here in Philippians 4.

The Philippian church had sent him an offering.

Paul was writing to say thanks.

In verses 11-12, he said there were times I did not have everything I wanted.

There were times when circumstances were not the way he would have liked them to be.

Sometimes life was hard.

Paul said: “I know how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I also know what it is like to go hungry.”

What Paul is saying is that he had learned the secret of making the best of every situation.

#16



*This is where Paul made the statement:
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

What is he saying?

I have the strength for all things in Christ.

He gives me the power to be ready for anything.

I don't allow the negative things of life to dominate me. Paul put his trust in God and not in his circumstances.

How about you?