



## Our Choice to Rejoice: From Bitter to Better

### OVERCOMER SERIES

October 27 & 28, 2018

Definition of bitterness (in the Bible) 1) as anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly; 2) Resentful cynicism that results in an intense antagonism or hostility toward others

Three ways to overcome bitterness:

#### 1. **Recognize BITTERness is the root of ALL UNHEALTHY FRUIT.**

*“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).”*

#### 2. **Make the choice to be BETTER not BITTER; BLESS those who hurt you.**

*“<sup>19</sup> But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. <sup>21</sup> No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them (Genesis 50:19-21).”*

*“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 falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many (Hebrews 12:14-15, NIV).”*

*“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:31-32, NASB).”*

#### 3. **BOAST on God in every situation and every season.**

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them (Romans 8:28, NLT).”*

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION**

1. What did God speak to you through this message?
2. How did Joseph avoid becoming bitter?
3. Is there anything from your past that cause you to feel anger, resentment or regret? Could any become bitter roots? Consider how you can be an overcomer.

Notes and recordings of these messages can be found on:

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