

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Do you ever feel like life gets in the way? You have a pretty good idea of where you're going when suddenly - BAM! You're broadsided, t-boned, rear-ended, either literally or figuratively. Or you hear the words, "I'm afraid you have cancer." Or your child takes a major detour and seems to be on the road to Nowhere. Or maybe your home was destroyed in hurricane Harvey. The potential scenarios are endless.

Suddenly your focus zooms in on the immediate problem as pain screams, grief consumes, fear prevails. Your preoccupation becomes the very thing you'd most like to forget. It is at times like these that we need to take our eyes off our problems and fix them on Jesus.

I visited a patient the other day who was in such abject pain that no medication could even begin to touch it. Having personally experienced that level of pain before, my heart empathized deeply with her. Knowing that there was only one true antidote, I asked this patient if she had a favorite hymn or praise song. "Yes," she said, "*You're an Overcomer* by Mandisa." I found it on YouTube and put it on speaker. As the words washed over her, she began to sing along.

*"You're an overcome; stay in the light 'til the final round. You're not going under 'cause God is holding you right now. You might be down for a moment, feeling like it's hopeless - that's when He reminds you that you're an overcomer. You're an overcomer."*

As she began to fix her eyes on Jesus as the Author and Perfecter of her faith, even pain took a backseat to His presence that overcomes all of the powers of darkness. As we worshiped Jesus, He inhabited our praises and became the focal point of our attention. He enabled her to be more than a conqueror through His love that promises never to leave or forsake us.

Likewise, you can be an overcomer, regardless of your circumstances. Stay in the light of His presence. Know that the everlasting arms of God are your refuge, your ever-present help in trouble. He is the God of hope, who fills you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you might overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.