



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite activity to do in the spring?

If you could assign percentages, what ratio of your life would you call amazing and what would you consider broken? The example Pastor Kevin gave on Sunday was 90% amazing and 10% broken.



MAIN CONTENT

For this last week of our Rise and Shine series, Pastor Kevin spoke about overcoming evil with good. When Jesus came to the world, He brought peace, unlike anything else that helps you through life. He speaks about His peace in John 14:27.

Jesus brings peace to the world but He doesn't promise we will not have problems in this world. Those problems can leave us feeling broken but God wants us to know we don't have to be broken if He is a part of our lives.

Read Romans 12:21

1. What does it mean to you to overcome evil with good?
2. How have you overcome evil with good before? Is it something you try to do on your own, or do you ask God to help you with it?





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MAIN CONTENT

Pastor Kevin gave us three practical ways to overcome evil with good. These are found in Romans 12:12:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

We are joyful in the hope of Jesus: the hope He brings, the hope He gives when we choose to follow Him and the hope that comes knowing one day we will be with Him. When we put our hope in Jesus, we know that He will not leave us but He will guide us and comfort us.

3. Where do you need the hope of Jesus in your life right now?
4. In what circumstances have you experienced His hope and joy in your life?
5. How can you stand strong in the hope He has brought you in the past and apply it to your current circumstance?

When we are patient in affliction (when we persevere), we overcome evil with good. “Persevere” means to continue in a course of action, even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success. It’s when we keep going, taking it one day at a time, that we see God’s peace, hope and joy in our lives.

6. Where are you practicing perseverance in your life right now? How can we pray for you to continue to be patient in the middle of your affliction?

When we are in the middle of needing to be patient in affliction, we need people to encourage us, people to cheer us on and pray for us.





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MAIN CONTENT

7. Do you have an encourager you can call in your life? What makes this person a good encourager?

When we encourage others, it helps us take our mind off the hard situations in our life. When we are encouraged, it can help bring our focus back to what is important, that with God all things are possible. If we trust in Him and are faithful to pray, He can help us to be joyful in hope and patient in our affliction.

Prayer is a direct line to God. It's the way we talk to Him, hear from Him and become aware of His presence. He wants to lead us, love us and guide us. When we surrender to Him, He gives us His peace to help us get through the things in our lives that seem impossible.

8. Do you take your difficult situations to God in prayer? How have you seen Him respond to those situations in your life?

God gives us His peace and reveals Himself to us when we pray to Him. When we bring Him into the difficult situations, He brings us the peace we need to overcome evil with good.





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PRAYER

God, we are thankful for your Son who brings us joy in hope and patience in affliction when we are faithful in prayer to you. Help us follow you, listen to you and come to you in prayer. Where we need encouragement, will you send people to us who can encourage us to persevere? Will you teach us how to pray and be in constant communication with you? In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

This week, take some time to be thankful for the good things in your life. Write down 5-10 things every day and tell God how and why you are thankful for them. Being thankful helps us appreciate what God is doing in our lives when we are going through difficult situations.

Take time to pray for perseverance in your life. Encourage others going through a difficult situation and ask a group member to encourage you. Keep praying and asking God to show you how to pray and give you peace in your situation. Pray for your friends and group members who need peace in their situation as well.

