

Reclaiming Ground from the Adversary  
Pastor Earl, Marconi C, and Kai K  
September 2 & 3

Welcome back to our Overcoming Darkness series for the fifth message in series. And we are gonna do a dive deep into our session titled "Reclaiming Ground from the Adversary".

Let's review of what we've learned. There is a spiritual battle that is taking place. Maybe you don't see it in the natural, but it's happening. And if you said yes to Jesus, we are according to Jesus, people of the light. Our eyes are open to the truth, and because we have the spirit of Jesus now living in our lives, we have the power to overcome the dark forces that so want to mess with us and keep us in the dark.



(SHOW PIC of the battle). But this pic portrays more a defensive position against our adversary. Today I'm gonna paint a different picture. We are taking back territory!

And cuz of Jesus, we are fighting from victory, not for our victory? Why? Because of our victorious, triumphant, winnah, spirit of Jesus in our lives. Paul reminds us, we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus!

And last wk we learned, we've been given mighty weapons to fight, not just to protect us, but to move forward in victory with the sword of the spirit (The truth). And we've also learned and been made aware of the strategies of the devil, to discourage us, distract us to live for the here and now, deceive us, divide us, and ultimately destroy us. But we know better. Or should I say, we should know better.

Sadly, instead of fighting offensively (taking back territory), many are still not victoriously in different areas of our lives. Cuz as we learned too that maybe we have given the devil a foothold on our lives and there is a stronghold that hinders us from living victoriously.

Some of us still have those strongholds of stinking thinking we are dealing with. We not removing and replacing with new truths, new promises.

And TODAY, I'm ready to to say, "enough is enough", we're gonna choose to go on the offensive, shine brightly for him and **take back territory from our adversary**, from the demons of darkness, from the sinister ways of satan, from the devils deceptions. Are you ready to take back territory as fellow conquerors, people of the light, especially with the Jesus' weapons we have to fight. Are you ready?

We are lights in and to this dark world, spiritually speaking. We are different because of the very presence of Jesus is shining in and through our lives now. But why are some of us not living like this, giving us more joy, more peace, more positive in our outlook, smelling different to those around us? Maybe we not taking up our spiritual armor and we are being open to the attacks of the enemy, so you discouraged, divided, distracted, and obviously deceived to thinking you are defeated.

But with Jesus' power in our lives, we should be taking back territory. Light always defeats the darkness. Light always takes away the darkness. That's why we have to get our lights, our lives, into the darkness. Let's examine why our lights are not defeating more darkness around us.

And today, I'll share why most of us are not taking back territory as we should.

John tells us that in his good news book in verse 5 **(KEYNOTE)**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:5 NLT).

Who is John speaking about? Jesus! Then, let's read what Jesus says about us.

And then Jesus clearly says "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:14 – 16 NIV). **(KEYNOTE)**

**OG Discussion Q1:** What does it mean when Jesus says to us, "You are the light of the world"?

Tell the person next to you "you are the light of the world". "I'm the light of the world". John later writes this letter and speaks about overcoming the darkness by walking in the light. Let's read here: **(KEYNOTE)**

Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the *true light is already shining* . . .

And John goes on to write. And let's see how John directs us to overcome the evil one.

I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning. I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, *and pride in our achievements and possessions*. These are not from the Father, but are from this world (1 John 2:7 – 8, 14 – 16 NLT). **(KEYNOTE)**

John says that the pride of life is from this world.

**OG Discussion Q2:** Discuss the difference between pride and humility and how that character trait affects one's walk as a Christian.

What I've noticed in my years of being a pastor is that many people who want to walk victoriously sadly don't because they are **too prideful** to walk closely with Jesus cuz people do life on their own terms. Many believe that they can handle life alone. They believe God for fire insurance, just so that they no burn up in hell. But that's not you, right? We all know we need to admit, we can't do it alone, we need Jesus and also we need others. That's why you are here today, aren't you? What's the opposite of pride, being prideful? Being humble, having humility, isn't it? Let us read what I am convinced of that holds people back from walking in victory and overcoming darkness. This is what Peter says in his letter about this:

In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. **(KEYNOTE)**

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith (1 Peter 5:5 – 8 NLT). **(KEYNOTE)** separate these two section of this passage)

What does humility look like? How does a humble person act?

What I've seen over and over, is instead of people having the humility to admit they need help, saying I'm can't handle it no more on my own, is people just isolate themselves. They suffer silently.

One face of Pride is this: "I can handle by myself". Or I'll try to figure it out alone, nobody else understands, I no like bother nobody, I get um pastah. It's this, "I get um" attitude, PRIDE. And the devil will whisper, "Yeah you get um, you no need nobody, try harder, and when you fall, see you neva try harder, look you, you weak Christian, shame you, AND HE TRIES TO ISOLATE YOU.

How do lions catch it's prey. I like watching national geographic shows. The Lions, they try to isolate the sickly, old, and ones in the heard that no like stay together. Even wolves! They go after the stray sheep that's not staying close to the shepherd and the rest of the flock.

There's power in being together. We are mo bettah togedda, fo shua. We no just get da shirt, we believe in the truth of that.

When Jesus sent out his disciples before he left this earth, how did he send them out to be lights to the world with the good news of the Kingdom, about Jesus being king. Did he send them out one by one. No he paired them up and said go togedda! We know of other groups that do this even now. Strength in numbers. (Jesus wanted to show that my light will be send out in relationships – don't go it alone!). Important point!

**MARC SHARING:** Introduce Marc and share how God brought him out of darkness into the light in one area of his life. He'll share how God had to humiliate him before he could humble himself. But the good news today is because he has humbled himself, he's taking back territory from the devil today.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings (1 Peter

**KEYNOTE**

**OG Discussion Q3:** How did Marc experience victory and take back territory to help you in your battle to do so in your own life?

I wanna share with you about another setting in our church ohana that is experiencing the power of being mo betta togedda and growing in shining brightly for Jesus.

It's like charcoal. When you make a barbecue with charcoal briquets, do you put them a part? Of course not, you put um together so can stay hot longer. But so many people today try for be hot/light by themselves. Yes, you have Jesus, but don't allow your pride to isolate from others. Bring stuff into the light.

**KAI SHARING:** Share what's happening on Th evenings here as there is no isolation in this setting, just charcoals being lit up for Jesus by being together!

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near (Hebrews 10:24 – 24 NLT). **(KEYNOTE)**

Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it (Proverbs 22:6 NIV). **(KEYNOTE)**

**This link includes video clips & Photos from Youth Ministry. I'll show during Kai's sharing.**  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VqrfMuVYL6ag4GaM8>

**OG Discussion Q4:** What is the Holy Spirit asking you to do to move forward in victory and take back territory in your life?

End message with a call to heed Jesus call to come out of darkness and into the light by humbling yourself. The best thing that happened to me is that I grew stronger as I connected with others.

You wanna be a stronger guitar player, what do you do?

You wanna be a better husband, hang around other husbands who are trying to be better

Better diver/fisherman, hang out with me (Hang out with others who are better than you)

You wanna shine brighter and take back ground from the enemy, church ohana, ask God to direct you to others:

The devil is a roaring lion, looking for stragglers, to eat up.

Part of it is being baptized afresh with his spirit over your life! Saying, I need a fresh infilling of his power to be witnesses.

You know when Jesus when Jesus first talks about the church, this Greek word we translate from "Ekklesia", do you know the context.

**Response: Let's stand.** I'll end with teaching you some Hawaiian words. Onipaa (Remain steadfast). Paa is solid. We gotta remain steadfast on Iesu Christo, Jesus Christ.

And then we must Imua (Go forward, take back ground). That's what Kamehameha warriors would say, IMUA. And we as a church are family. What's the word for family in Hawaiian, Ohana. So I call out to you, Imua Ohana, In Lokahi, unit! From our Lanakila, victory we have in Christ Jesus.

\*Important Pt to make: That's why we are not to gather just to keep the light for us. We are to gather to scatter our light!