



INFLUENCE BUILDER: WOMEN OVERCOMERS

What do Eleanor Roosevelt, J.K. Rowling, and Oprah Winfrey have in common? It goes well beyond gender. They are all **overcomers**. Not one of these women was set up for success. Each one had to grow beyond their environment and circumstances.

“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” – 1 John 5:3-5

Overcomers don't turn away in the face of difficult circumstances. They don't buy into the naysayers or give into feelings of hopelessness. They rise above fear and temptation with the willingness to **fight the good fight of faith** (1 Tim 6:12). Overcoming requires complete dependence on God for strength, direction and favor.

- **Eleanor Roosevelt** lost both of her parents and one younger brother before the age of 15, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Sent away from family to finish her education, she became involved in politics. The rest, shall we say, is history.
- In a period of seven years, **J.K. Rowling** experienced her mother's death, divorce in her first marriage and relative poverty. While those facts may have escaped your attention, you have undoubtedly heard of a book series titled Harry Potter. With sales of more than 400 million copies, Rowling's books have become the bestselling series in history.
- **Oprah Winfrey** held onto the dream that she was meant for more than her beginnings would indicate. Her journey and story are very public. She has inspired millions of people through her television show, magazine and books and has become one of the most influential women of our time.

You can become an overcomer with God's strength, regardless of your background. Even if you don't believe in yourself, **do you believe in Him?** Do you dare to consider there is more for you to do, there are more people for you to influence? Each and every day that you are stronger than your circumstances, you are an overcomer. You are being called to action.

1. What does God want you to overcome today?
2. How will you lean on God for the strength and direction you need?
3. Who in your life is there to encourage you?

Check out the YouTube video, of Mandisa performing "Overcomer" for a little inspiration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8VoUYtx0kw