

In **2 Timothy 3**, the apostle Paul warns young Timothy that the end times will be especially dangerous because of the moral degeneration of mankind

*“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,”*

**(2 Timothy 3:2–3, NKJV)**

- And of course, this is the world in which we are now living

In the world, we now live it can be easy to feel defeated and overwhelmed yet the Bible shows us that through Jesus we are More than Conquerors

*“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”*

**Romans 8:37 NKJV**

In this series, we will see how we can be over-comers and live in victory in every area of life!

The Apostle John says we have the capacity to overcome the world and everything that is the enemy of Christ

*“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”* **(1 John 5:4–5, NKJV)**

## Overcoming Rejection

- Rejection may be the most difficult thing for many people to overcome
- Thankfully we have a Savior who understands exactly how rejection feels

From His birth to His death, Jesus was the most rejected human being in the history of the world

*“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” (Isaiah 53:2–3, NKJV)*

## Rejection for Jesus Began in the Womb

Although He was not an unwanted child by God or His mother Mary, this Child was rejected by His earthly father while still in the womb

- Mary’s miraculous pregnancy was a scandal because she and Joseph were not yet married
- They were merely betrothed

*“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” (Matthew 1:19, NKJV)*

It took an angelic visitation to convince Joseph of Jesus’ identity and to marry his betrothed

## Jesus Was Also Rejected by the Roman Rulers

When Herod learned of Jesus' identity from the wise men he became enraged that a young boy could threaten his power

*“Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.”*

**(Matthew 2:16, NKJV)**

- Joseph was warned in a dream of this approaching atrocity, and he escaped to Egypt with Mary and Jesus
- They lived there until Herod's death
- They then returned to Nazareth

When Jesus began His ministry He was rejected by His people  
They even tried to kill Him when He declared Himself as the awaited Messiah

*“So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.”*

**(Luke 4:28–30, NKJV)**

His mother and brothers rejected Him

*“But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”*

*“Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.” (Mark 3:21, 31, NKJV)*

The Jews rejected Him so much that they demanded His death

Even worse Jesus experienced rejection from His heavenly Father

*“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34, NKJV)*

- Why did God reject His own Son?
- Because He took our place on the cross
- Our sins make us deserve God’s rejection
- Jesus became sin for us on the cross
- He took every sin we have ever committed or will commit

2,000 years ago, Father God turned His back on Jesus

- God rejected His own Son so that you and I will never have to be rejected
- When we put our faith in Jesus we are accepted forever

**Jesus overcame rejection on every level, and He has empowered us to do the same**

**Rejection never affected His decisions**

- Jesus did many things even though He knew they would get Him rejected or killed
- The fear of rejection never stopped Jesus

**Rejection never affected His attitude or the way He treated people**

- Jesus was stripped naked in front of His mother, and He died the cruelest, shameful death of any human being who has ever died
- Yet even as He hung on the cross, Jesus forgave the people who put Him there

**Rejection never kept Him from accomplishing His destiny**

- Jesus did everything that God the Father called Him to do, knowing that He would suffer rejection as a result

The devil often uses rejection as a way to keep us from accomplishing God's will

- We were created to love God and people
- We were made by love to love

*“Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.*

*And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37–39, NKJV)

- Jesus said the whole Bible is fulfilled in these two commandments
- If we live to love God and others we have done everything that God asks

If love is our greatest need then what is our greatest fear?

Rejection...

- Most people fear rejection more than anything else
- I believe that most people would admit that their greatest scar in life is because of rejection
- It hurts more than anything else
- Rejection is the devil's number one control point in our lives
- When we are controlled by the fear of rejection we begin to carry a spirit of rejection
- This is common for those of us who suffer a lot of rejection in our lives

A spirit of rejection is dangerous because it takes advantage of our need for love and allows Satan to control the way...

- We make decisions
- The way we treat people
- And whether or not we will do God's will for our lives

Many children experience rejection in the womb even before they are born

- *“We wish you were never born”*
- *“We did not intend to have you*
- *“You were a mistake”*

Adopted children almost always have to deal with rejection at some point

- *“What was wrong with me?”*
- *“Why didn’t my biological parents want me?”*
- *“What did I do?”*
- *“Why did they not want to keep me?”*

Other forms of rejection can include:

- *not being accepted or loved*
- *being excluded*
- *being laughed at or made fun of*
- *being gossiped or lied about*
- *being compared in an unfavorable way*
- *divorce/adultery*
- *abandonment (physical or emotional)*
- *abuse (verbal, physical, or sexual)*
- *neglect*
- *not being accepted for who I am*

Have you ever felt rejected because you couldn’t live up to someone else's standards?

- Physical, financial, social, or spiritual

Rejection affects our lives the most by the way we react to it

Perhaps you...

- Live in a way that assures you will avoid the risk of rejection
- React in anger and aggression
- You have a feeling of hopelessness and despair
- You are overly sensitive or overly dependent

When we carry a spirit of rejection we become some of the most offendable people on the face of the earth

- Rejected people can become self-centered and self-absorbed
- We become overly dependent on the approval of other people
- When you are a people pleaser you will do anything to gain other people's affection
- Sometimes even compromising your morals in the process

*“Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD.”*  
**(Jeremiah 17:5, NKJV)**

- When we live to please others our hearts drift away from the Lord

*“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”* **(Proverbs 29:25, NKJV)**

- Our approval should come from God



## How To Overcome The Spirit of Rejection

### *Base Your Life on God's Love and God's Word*

*“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*

**(Hebrews 13:5–6, NKJV)**

- Not one person feels rejected by what God has done
- It is always what people have done, sometimes in His name
- Even good people have bad days
- When you live your life based on the love and acceptance of people you will end up disappointed and scarred

God promises that He will never leave you

- Physically or emotionally
- He is absolutely committed to you
- On our worst days, He is our best friend
- When no one else is there He is still there
- When God says “never” he means *never!*

*“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18, NKJV)*

*“He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.” (Psalm 107:20, NKJV)*

- God's love heals the spirit of rejection, and His Word delivers us from a life of destruction

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, NKJV)*

- One side is the sword to slay the enemies of God
- The other is a scalpel to heal us
- You do not read the Bible, it reads you
- The Bible can heal you from the spirit of rejection

God will replace the spirit of rejection with the Spirit of adoption and acceptance

*“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:6, NKJV)*

*“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:15–17, NKJV)*

- We do not need to live in the bondage of fear and rejection
- We are children of God and joint heirs with Christ
- The Spirit of God can turn your suffering into glory
- In Jesus' Name!

## *Pursue Relationships With Fellow Believers*

*“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”*  
(Proverbs 17:17, NKJV)

Look for friendships with the right people with the right standards of acceptance

- Christians are not perfect, but we are different
- If your closest friendships are with worldly people you will face disappointment
- Worldly people only love you for your looks, money, position, or what you can do for them

The truth is that most Christian friends are committed

- When you are struggling they do not turn the other way
- They show up!
- We have a different value system
- They may challenge you
- They may stand up to you to keep you from hurting yourself or continuing in sin
- But they are faithful
- We are to love everybody, but our closest friends should be fellow believers

*The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin,  
But there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24, AMP)*

## *Don't Take Rejection Personally*

*“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.” (Luke 6:26, NKJV)*

- Rejection is part of life
- You are going to be rejected sometimes

If everyone has only good things to say about you there is a good chance that you have never stood up for what you believe

- You may be a social chameleon
- Trying to win the approval of the group of people you are with at the time
- Yes, we should be nice and gracious to others
- But the truth is if you stand up for God you will get rejected at times

*“Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.” (Luke 6:22–23, NKJV)*

- When we know who we are in Christ we don't have to bow to the spirit of fear and rejection
- We can stand up for God knowing He will reward us

Not everyone will like us but He will always love us and always be with us!

## ***Forgive Those Who Reject You***

*“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.” (Luke 6:27–30, NKJV)*

*“You know that you are being controlled by a spirit of rejection when you cannot love a person beyond the way they are treating you” – Jimmy Evans*

- If you are nice to me I'll be nice to you
- If you're mean to me I'll be mean to you
- I am going to treat you the same way you are treating me
- That kind of response shows how weak in spirit you are
- When God's love is flowing through us we can rise above our circumstances
- We can smile when others are frowning at us
- Bless others when they curse us

***You have overcome the spirit of rejection when you can love people in all circumstances***

*“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” (Luke 6:31, NKJV)*