

Overcome

“Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good”

Romans 12:21

Overcome—In some English translations, the word in this verse is “conquer”. A very popular shoe has made this Greek word a household name, *nike*. In the verb form (*nikao*) it means “to prevail, be victorious, conquer.”

So how do we put on our *nikes* when it comes to evil? Paul tells us that you can’t fight fire with fire. That idea is not part of God’s world. Victory over evil takes a special brand of *nike*. It takes the *agape nike*.

Do some warm-ups with these shoes on. Start with the coach’s stretches. Jesus gave us the demonstration of these exercises when he said that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. He told us to go the extra mile, to give the extra gift, to turn that last cheek. He told us that *nike agape* was a brand worn by those who know what it means to sacrifice for someone else. Get in some miles running with your brothers. Practice this stride with those who wear the same shoes. Then when you run across a competitor you will treat him just like you treat them.

If you already have your old shoes on today, take them off. They are not the right ones for this job. You have to leave your old shoes behind because they are used to the old paths, the ones where you were comfortable kicking gravel back at those who didn’t match your stride. Put on those new *agape nikes*. The coach selected them to be the perfect fit even if they are a bit uncomfortable at first. You have to wear them awhile before your feet will conform to their shape. The best part about these shoes is that they come with a lifetime guarantee walk around in them and your life will be guaranteed. You’ve got the manufacturer’s word on it.