

“Trials Met According to God’s Word”

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The importance of meeting every situation according to God’s Word, cannot be rightly valued via of our own mind and reasoning, but it is of great importance in a Christian’s life, because all the things we need and desire to have, can be obtained and enjoyed only as we meet things according to His Word. Our hope of entering God’s Kingdom depends on living our life according to God’s Word.

When we are on Scriptural grounds in our personal life of faith in God, then will we see and enjoy the blessings of God. God’s faith lessons are for people fully surrendered to His will, those who are called to meet things according to His Word. When we decide to do God’s will (which would always be according to His Word), ...many Spiritual benefits and blessings will be received.

Any spiritual battle, trial, or temptation we are called to go through, is for the purpose of increasing our knowledge of God, and, developing a ‘keep our faith on God’ attitude. To the extent that we understand God’s character, and importance of conducting our life according to the Word of God, will we be able to enter into those blessings from God, and eventually enter Heaven itself. (James 1:12) “Blessed is the man that endures temptation (patiently endures trial), for when he is tried (stood the test), he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those that love Him.”

The Word of God informs us that following His Word is very important; (Deut.6:5) “Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Loving God is the foundation of every blessing and victory. (Matt.22:37) “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Too many Christians are promised eternal life by false teachers even though they were not taught to live according to the Word, nor to follow and obey the teaching of our Lord Jesus, (but to just live an outwardly good life, and then be preached into Heaven when they die). Job’s self-righteous attitude brought terrible oppressions of body and calamities in his life, but when he confessed and repented of an outwardly pious life of self and met his troubles according to the Word that God brought to him, the way was opened for God’s blessings, and to give him twice as much as he had at first. Job’s experience and victory over trial and temptation, can be the same for anyone else, because (James 1:12) “he who patiently endures trials” and have “stood the test,” are promised “the victor’s crown.”

We need to rise above our trials and meet them according to the Word of God, confess our shortcomings, lack of faith, and efforts of a self-life. When we decide to meet these troubles in the right way as God’s Word instructs us, and to where not one thing and not one person will cause us to move away from God or outside His will (no matter how severe the trial), we can have all the blessings God wants to give us

here on earth, and we are promised the ultimate crown of Eternal Life. That is the entire purpose of the trial!

Of course, a person would not ask for trials to come, nor invite trouble into their life; nor would we want people to do and say things to us or about us that are hurtful, trying, or upsetting. But when those things happen, we are given the privilege by God to meet them according to His Word.

God does not want us to be worried or disturbed or angry over harsh remarks, criticism, or wrong treatment that others may have said or done toward us; nor does He permit us to say or do anything to retaliate toward them. We are not permitted to do anything, and not permitted to even change our attitude toward them. Those things were allowed by God to happen in order to test our attitude—to see how we would respond to wrong treatment (as the world responds, or as Jesus would humbly respond).

The devil will always find someone to say or do something to disturb our peace and upset us. When it happens, we must realize that Satan is behind the injustice, and trying to have us be upset, discouraged, depressed, and angry over it. When we meet the issue in a right way, which is always according to the Word of God, it will be remedy for a spiritual shortcoming in our heart, which was reason for the injustice. *That is the value* of meeting things right.

We are to meet a physical oppression according to God's plan of trust for deliverance; meet a financial battle via His plan of trust, a disturbing incident, a rude remark, or unprovoked insults are not to be resented, but to also be met in a right way. If we do not resent such things, but obey the Scriptures concerning them, God promises to make it right on our behalf. (Rom.12:19) "Do not be revengeful, my dear friends, but give way before anger; for it is written, 'REVENGE BELONGS TO ME: I WILL PAY BACK,' says the Lord."

Not a word; not a resentful look; nor a complaint to anyone; nor even a hint of resentment; and no change in our attitude toward them; but simply to act the same toward them as if nothing was said or done and place the matter before God in prayer (which allows good to come from it). Any attitude change or show of resentment from us, would be avenging the wrong ourselves, after God promised that He will avenge those wrongs for us. We must surrender self, and give the matter entirely over to God, before He can work to avenge that wrong. God considers it His work to fight our battles, conquer our enemies, and avenge our wrongs. We are not allowed to do anything, as it would hinder God from helping us (and allow the enemy to do worse things toward us). When our last act of self-retaliation is out of the way and forsaken finally, then God can work for us spiritually, physically, financially, and otherwise. We are to get out of the way (and allow God to work for us! "The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement for all that are oppressed." (Psalm 103:6).

God can deliver us from wrongs against us, and right them for us, whether they are directly from the devil, or whether he works through other people saying or doing things against us. Even if someone would hit us in the face, we are not privileged to defend ourselves. We need to consider the fact that Satan is back of the assault and

remember that it is a test to prove that we are sincerely surrendered to meet things 'according to God's Word'. (Rom.12:21) "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good."

God is well able to deliver us from troubles and tests, whether directly from the devil himself, or from someone he influences to say and do things against us. Even if we are harmed physically, we must respond according to the Word. (Matt.5:39) "If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well." We obey this instruction because "The **LORD** gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly [oppressed]" (Psalm 103:6)

God has spoken clearly in saying, "*Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath;*" so that means we respond according to the Word of God.

Offenses toward us often happen in the home where we are constantly tested, so if we resent anything we are outside the will of God at that moment, and that must be corrected with God and the other person. The devil works constantly in people's homes and in the workplaces, by having someone to say or do some mean or unkind thing (which can be very difficult to meet). Nevertheless, this is an opportunity for us to try out the grace of God (the grace and strength Jesus came to give us and to show us by His example). And God's Word commands that we are to walk in His footsteps. (1 Pet.2:21-23) "And it is to this you were called; because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you an example so that you should follow in His steps. He never sinned, and no deceitful language was ever heard from His mouth." (no wicked, deceitful, guile words ever passed His lips). "When He was reviled, He did not answer with reviling; when He suffered, He uttered no threats, but left His wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge."

Jesus left us this example that we should follow in His steps. (1 Peter 2:19) "For this *is* commendable (thankworthy), if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully."

[In that verse, God is actually thanking a truly surrendered Christian for enduring grief or suffering, so to not defile their conscience toward Him. That being the case, we should be thankful for the privilege to go through with God and His Word.]

Therefore, to meet tough things without a word of complaint, is taking advantage of the grace of God as endowed by the power of His Spirit, by which we are not permitted to seek revenge or get back at someone in the least way. The thing that we are privileged to be able to do, is to turn the matter over to God. (James 4:7) "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Our change of attitude; the healing; or the blessing that we need; all hinges on resisting the devil and refusing in Jesus' Name to have our peace disturbed.

God wants us to make our free-will choice to take shelter and abide under the shadow of His Almighty wings, and so to be kept safe in that "secret place" of the "Most High" (as promised Psalm 91), so we should not touch any injustice, oppression, or problem in our own way. Instead of that, God's Word gave us His plan of trust on Him and how to meet our trial or battle, whether physical, financial, or otherwise. (1 Pet.5:8-10) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your

adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, may perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you".

Since Jesus Christ, Himself, told us that He will work to perfect, strengthen, and settle us, we should never (by God's grace), allow Satan to discourage and tempt us to think that we are not going to get our deliverance.

As we are willing to put aside our efforts of self, it allows God to inspire and enable our full surrender to do 'according to His Word', and instead, allows Him to avenge and remedy the situation for us in His way. God can then work effectively to deliver, bring change, correct us, and perfect our faith. It is actually very easy to resist the trial from the devil, when we just refuse to do anything about it ourselves; refuse in Jesus' Name to be oppressed; refuse to be angry, and just turn it over to God to settle for us. He can then keep us safe in that Secret Place of the Most High!

Many believers in the Bible gave a marvelous example (even though they did not have a Bible and never heard a sermon), they just resisted the devil by giving the matter over to God (in their heart). The result was a full deliverance, which should be very encouraging to us today. We are to refuse to have that financial lack; refuse to have the oppression; refuse to have our peace destroyed; and refuse to be unemployed any longer, knowing that God has a job where we can work diligently to please Him.

Our Scriptural responsibility is to get out of the way and allow God to work for us in supplying the money; in delivering us from Satan's attack; to restore peace to our home and family; and in seeing that a suitable job is brought to our attention, (when all those requests are placed before God in prayer and left there). When we fully accept God's way of deliverance, we will refuse to depend on the Internet; on an advertisement; the newspaper; or any other source of help that we thought could help us to become employed.

When we are looking to human sources, we are not trusting God, nor are we expecting help from Him. We are simply not depending on the Lord for whatever we need. It seems at times, that God has to take drastic measures to get us to turn the situation over to Him, and to keep our own ways and plans out of it. We often have to become desperate before we decide to trust God, but He should be our *first* and only source of help or deliverance, and the Cross of Christ should always be our starting point and basis for our faith for victory.

If Satan can deceive us to think we *have to be* oppressed; that we have to put up with a lack of money; or that the peace in our home is often disturbed (so we might as well just put up with it), then he has effectively hidden out Atonement privileges from us, and our exemption rights in Christ Jesus through the shed Blood of the Cross. Satan suggests many things to hinder us from claiming our Atonement rights.

We must realize that our sins and sorrows, all diseases, poverty, and family troubles, and every other disturbance of our peace, was already borne for us on the Cross of Calvary about two thousand years

ago, so we do not have to accept to have them again. If a loved one is disturbing the peace of the home, the devil will have us looking at them and focusing on things that we see, instead of on the *unseen* God. We are to keep our eyes fixed on the Atonement work of Christ on the Cross, because *that* is what exempts us from what Satan always tries to bring upon us.

That marvelous work of Atonement that Jesus accomplished on Calvary's Cross, has exempted us from the least oppression or trouble; it exempts us from pain or poverty; exempts us from trouble in our home and from problems in the workshop. His work on the Cross is why we claim our deliverance and victory.

Again, the starting place for victory is by faith at the foot of the Cross. *That* is where the battle is won, because it is the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, which has exempted us from every sin; every trouble; every financial lack; and anything else that could disturb our peace. The Cross is the foundation for our victory. We must see our rights in Christ by faith before we can claim them.

When we begin to realize and see the plain teaching of God's Word, through the enlightenment provided by the Holy Spirit, we are then in position to receive our Atonement rights. The cleansing work accomplished by Jesus Christ on a Cross at Calvary could never be too well understood, (but all too often it is not understood well enough). When we see and believe that Calvary's Cross destroyed the power of the devil, then we will understand that work of Atonement. We can and will then enjoy what Jesus died to give us.

(Hebr.2:14-15) "Since then the children referred to are all alike sharers in perishable human nature, He Himself also, in the same way, took on Him a share of it, in order that through death He might render powerless him who had authority over death, that is, the Devil, and might set at liberty all those who through fear of death had been subject to lifelong slavery."

As a present-day example of a person who by God's mercy and grace was forced to turn to God for their deliverance, the late Pastor told of a member named Mary, who was in need of employment, but being weak in faith on God, she had resorted to several human plans for her victory. Instead of trusting God to provide a job for her, she turned to depending on the influence of a friend at a bank, a local politician, and she looked up job listings in newspapers (and surely would have depended on an Internet if it were available to depend on in her day).

However, by God's mercy, she never got one answer or result from any of those human sources of misplaced trust. As she became desperate since her 'nest egg' in a bank account to depend on had all been used, the Pastor said, that she finally turned to God and told Him that she absolutely had to have a job by the end of that week. No job offer had come to her, however, and it was ten o'clock Sunday evening (just two hours before the desperation deadline that she has told to God), when she received a call from someone asking if she was out of work, and to tell her there was a cashier job for her start the next day. Mary got her job!

What we want to realize from her experience, is that after all of her human places of trust had expired (she no longer had the banker,

the newspaper job listings, the politician, nor any Internet to depend on), and she had no where else to turn to but to God. God then went to work on her behalf, the late Pastor said, and He brought a job offer to her attention. If a person who was weak in faith could receive their answer to prayer when they were not living up to the whole Truth, then we certainly ought to be able to get our victory when we resist the devil 'steadfast in our faith'!

According to God's word which is always true, the Atonement work of Christ has taken away our sins, conquered all diseases, poverty, and our enemies, and God's Word teaches that if we "resist the devil and refuse his oppressions he will flee from us. After we have learned and realize that is so, the first step of faith we must take, is given (Phil.4:6-7) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

So, we should not mince matters when resisting Satan in Jesus' Name, nor when dealing humbly with God. If we are not receiving the deliverance and blessings as we desire, we should ask to be shown the reason for the delay, remove the hindrance, and make a final decision to go through with trusting on God according to His Word, and so, 'make our requests known to Him' without reservation. As we do so with that combination of obedience and faith, the devil is bound to be defeated, and we can receive victory over every trial or temptation (whether it be spiritually, financially, or physically. We should strenuously refuse to have temptation from a foe who was conquered by Jesus and believe on God to give us the deliverance that was already paid for us without any human effort to merit our victory, rather just believing that it is as we prayed, as we step over onto God's Promise.

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

MAIN POINTS: 1... A truly surrendered Christian will learn that every trial must be met "according to God's Word", ... and that fulfillment of all of God's Promises is also "according to His Word".

2... Also, that "blessed is the man who endures temptation when he is tried" he is blessed by God, and he shall receive the 'crown of Life as the Lord has promised to them that love Him."
