

PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH FOR AN OVERCOMING LIFE- Pt II

S285R

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Our previous message on this subject of the "PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH (that enable one) TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE", had pointed out to us that we are shown after we 'get a good look at God' from our reading and 'believing' His Word and Promises as being 'fact', and we learn of what He can do for us by His almighty power and presence in one's life (for we will witness His power being manifested in our life). The message had closed with the story of how Jonah (who, after one good look at God), he came to know that "Salvation is of the Lord,"

When Jonah realized what God was really about, and what God was really like, he was inspired to say, "Yet I will look again toward thy holy temple." [Jonah had 'gotten back to having his eyes on God', and he then confessed of his mistake of looking away from God, and He then could believe on what he had been shown because he had confessed of his mistake. He thought about the God Who made the Heavens and the earth; Who created that great fish which had swallowed him. A God Who made everything; and Who could and would deliver him out of the stomach of that fish. Then he could say, "Salvation is of the Lord," and he had learned what God's Word means, to "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov.4:23). [It is for all the issues of our life (as Jonah had to learn), that the trust in our heart must be kept "with all diligence"; on God alone.]

Jonah received his deliverance from that 'desperate position', that hard place. It is a positive fact that it makes no difference what entanglement our feet are in, what trouble or snare has overtaken us, what sorrow has overwhelmed us, we are to look at and dwell upon God. If we keep our eyes on the trouble or circumstances (they only become worse). But, when we get our eyes on God, that entanglement will be immediately unloosed; and we will find that 'looking at ourselves' will only bring despair'. But a good look at God fills us with quietness and confidence (and it could not be otherwise). That is a natural law as well as a Divine one; and it works the same in Divine things as it does in human affairs. (2-Cor.3:18) "And all of us, with unveiled faces, reflecting like bright mirrors the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same likeness, from one degree of radiant holiness to another, even as derived from the Lord the Spirit."

In a Christian's life it is the same. If Satan can get our eyes to look at difficulties which surround us and we dwell on human considerations (possibilities and impossibilities), immediately our faith goes away; but when we consider a fact that God can make "the desert to bloom and blossom as the rose, and, He can "cause streams to break forth In the desert; the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land to be springs of water; in the habitation of dragons, shall be grass with reeds and rushes." (Isaiah 35).

With such a God as that, (and with our choice to take a 'good look at God' through what His Word says), we can readily see that the hardest place (the most difficult place humanly speaking), is that place Divinely speaking, where God can work best with us and for us. God delights to handle 'difficult cases' humanly speaking; which is His work to do for us, and which brings Him all greater glory; whether it be in our home, in the workshop, or in Christian work. We could take, for instance, the 'demoniac of Gadara'; there never was a worse case of home trouble than his was. (Mark 5:1-20)

Also, the woman with a physical oppression which had been ongoing for twelve years', which was (humanly speaking), an impossible case. However, one little touch with the tip of her finger touching Jesus' garment, healed her body, and filled her with the Spirit, so instead of her just being a woman (and a sinner) she had then become a "daughter" as Jesus called her (a "daughter of God." She had been sick for twelve years, had, had a horrible experience with going to doctors for help, and no hopes of recovery, had spent all her livelihood; but one touch brought her Salvation and healing. She had peace in her heart and was entirely healed of her plague.

Why was that? Because she 'got her eyes on God'; that 'one look' at God gave her a confidence to 'touch His garment', which she believed would bring her the deliverance that she was seeking. For she said, 'If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole'. (It was the wisest choice (for an impossible case humanly speaking); and, there was not a particle of 'human help' in that whole procedure (as we can read God's Word and be inspired to take 'one good look at God' for ourselves. (And the message this past Sunday service was titled and emphasized, 'God is Waiting For us' (so that He can do the same for us),

(Mark 5:25-34) "Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him. Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked around about to see her that had done this thing, But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him and told him all the truth. And He said unto her, 'Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace and be healed of thy plague."

A third 'principle of Truth for our deliverance' can be found in (John 15:5) "for without me ye can do nothing." What a combination for victory that is; 'taking our stand on the bare Word of God that we are pardoned and cleansed, and "dead indeed unto sin but living unto God in Christ Jesus; and then 'maintain that stand' against all the suggestions and wiles of Satan; and then get our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith; the great God of the Universe. Then we realize in our hearts that there will never come a time when we will meet anything in our own strength; we will be enabled to realize that need to not depend on human power again; but that we will depend absolutely on the power of God for all results, every day. We can take the same attitude and position that King David took after his remarkable experience in an 'overcoming life' with his

faith on God (Psalm 16:8), "I have 'set the Lord' always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

As the late Pastor had commented, "that is a stinging rebuke to us 'twentieth century Christians'; what a contrast to what we as Christians have done in the past, when we have set our own troubles, our sorrows, trials and temptations before us (instead of us 'always setting the Lord before us', as David said). We were determined to look at and meditate upon our trials. We need to realize that when we do that we lose our faith at once; and we cannot stand for a moment when we get our eyes off of God; more importantly we become easy prey for Satan. (God's Word says), "I have set the Lord always before me."

Paul stated (Colos.3:17) "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." That is the real secret of God's 'moment-by-moment' overcoming Christian life. That means whatever we do, we should do in dependence upon the power of Jesus Christ. That is sensible, because Jesus Christ has all power and authority in Heaven and earth. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt.28:20).

We cannot stand one moment against Satan, if we are 'living according to the flesh', or, 'allowing the devil to reign in us'. For example, if we are tending to our children via our own efforts; if we have stepped aside from depending on God Himself; and thinking that by a gentle word, or via some kind manner that we would act, that we could accomplish something (instead of depending on God to control the children), that is 'human effort' that allows Satan to get in, and then we would not stand against him.

A 'human effort', 'good' or 'bad', is exactly the same in God's sight; the motive and power with which we do something is what counts with God, and God knows what 'motive' we have in our heart."

Job was just as bad in God's sight (as far as spirituality goes, as was Saul of Tarsus in his going to murder and destroy the Christians who believed in Jesus Christ. King Manasseh filled Jerusalem with innocent blood (he had "bad self" within his heart, while Job was filled with a "good self", and he boasted of his self-righteousness. Both were alike in God's sight, but it is much easier to get rid of "bad self" than to get rid of 'good self'. 'Bad self' is more easily detected and discovered, than to detect 'good self', (such as it was with Job and Cornelius).

(The late Pastor said) "allow me to give you an illustration." "In controlling children, we may contend that children ought to obey, also that it is proper for them to be obedient to their parents, but that is a 'human reason', (however, there is a divine plan involved), and it depends by what power we rely on to get that obedience."

"Do we merely say there is a human relationship between parent and child; and that that should be the power to make them obedient? If such be the case, Satan will make the children disobedient and rebellious. If we say that we want obedience, and that if the children do not obey, then we will hold something back from them, or forbid them going somewhere they would like to go; that would be

depending on a threat to cause them to obey. That is a human effort and a carnal weapon, the Pastor said, as that would be depending entirely on one's own fleshly efforts. That is what is done by people who are claiming to walk in the full light of God's Word.

When we ask a child to do something (in fact ask anyone), we must do so with a conscious dependence that it will be done in a right way, and through the power of God alone; depending on God's power to accomplish the results that we want. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

If, as a pastor we give a message to people, we cannot depend on our own argument or logic or advice to influence or help them (the late Pastor said), rather, we are to depend upon the Holy Spirit to open their minds and give them willing hearts to bring them into the Truth. It is God Who is to back up that Divine Word of His, for each one of us.

When we start out to live an overcoming life, the moment we start to 'make a good resolution to do better', to 'live a better life in our own strength' 'we will fail'. Peter said, "Lord, if the whole world forsakes you; I never will." That was Peter still in his natural condition of 'self-life', and speaking according to his own fleshly efforts. When the test came, Peter discovered his true condition and how helpless he was; for he denied his Lord, and he even swore that he never knew Him. Peter tried to live the Christian life in his own strength; (and if we do not stay on our guard and 'be watchful' as Jesus said, (to "keep our heart with all diligence", we also will begin to walk in this Christian life in our own strength. It does not matter how honest we are, nor how sincere we are; the devil is going to 'set a trap' to harass us, and try to bring us to grief and shame, just as he did with Peter.

There are several illustrations in the Bible which reveal 'principles of truth and trust', of how God teaches His people of how we need to keep our trust centered on Him, so that we can be victorious and successful in living an 'overcoming' true Christian life. One example pertains to the time when Israel came out from Egypt and their first battle was with the Amalekites. They were to go out on the battlefield and meet the enemy; and it was so easy to depend on their own vigor, energy, and power to try to destroy the Amalekites; but God gave them a 'plan of victory' which took away all the glory from man, and His plan placed the glory where it belonged (on God). When Moses held up the rod, Israel prevailed and won; when the rod went down (because of Moses' arms being weary); Israel was defeated. He made Israel realize that their only hope of winning the battle with the Amalekites, was to depend on the power of their living God.

However, Israel won the battle, but they were made to realize that it was not the rod that won the battle, but that 'the rod' was a 'symbol of God's power', .. it was not the rod, nor was it Moses' hand, .. but it was God's power alone that conquered their enemies. It was not their efforts which won the battle, but absolutely and only the power of the living God. When we come to the place that we realize it is not our hand which accomplishes things, and that we

are helpless and useless, then we are in a place where we can give glory to God, and a place where God can work unhindered in our life.

Another time (in the days of Gideon), 'the Midianites' came with a great host to conquer Israel. Israel only numbered a very few men, and the Midianites were composed of a great multitude; (it is written that they came as 'grasshoppers'). The Lord told Gideon He would give Israel the victory and He kept taking men away from that army, until He finally made those men lap water in order to bring the number down to the least that he could use to conquer their enemies. So, Gideon went out with three hundred soldiers, against an army of tens of thousands of expert soldiers and the best equipment.

Why did God do that? It was lest Israel should pride themselves and say, "Mine own hand hath saved me." Brethren, when God's Spirit leads us to the place that we realize that our own hand hath never done anything, nor can it ever save us; and, that we are nothing in ourselves; God can then work effectually. But when we let down in the least and begin to congratulate ourselves that we 'are a little something', or 'someone', and that we can do something, God is hindered at once. However, as we see our true state of utter helplessness, and that we are really nothing, God can then work unhindered in every battle for us, and every battle will be a victory, because it will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

David is another example for us. Before he went out to meet Goliath, humanly speaking it meant death (and completely absurd to say the least), a giant, a man of war, with real training from his youth, fully equipped with sword and spear, clad in a 'coat of mail' from head to foot; he was furnished completely for the conflict. David came with only a little sling and a few stones he had picked out of the sand as he went along. But what won the battle? It was not David's slingshot, nor his own ability. We must read the salutation that David gave; "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but, I come to thee in the Name of the 'Lord of hosts', the 'God of the armies of Israel', whom thou hast defied." (1st Samuel 17:45)

The giant had the greatest, mightiest, and most powerful of human weapons, but David was depending on the power and authority back of the Name of Jehovah; he did not say, "I come with sling and stone, instead, he said, "I come to thee in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the 'Ever-living God', (meaning 'I am going to depend entirely on the Living God). "When that stone was slung, it 'struck the mark'. There was no man, humanly speaking, who could have used that sling and killed that giant; 'but the power of God accomplished it'. God's power accompanied that stone and did the work; destroyed that man's life. "For without me ye can do nothing," Jesus told us (John 15:5).

It was and always is, and always will be, that story of 'the vine and the branches' exactly. That is, we are to draw all power and help from our great and true 'Vine'; the One Who told us that, 'If we abide in Him, and He in us, we shall 'bring forth much fruit'. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you, (John 15:7)

So, we need to take the verses of (Romans 6:1-11) to heart, and believe that we are indeed 'alive in relation to God, because we are in Christ Jesus'. Also, those of (Colos.3:17) "whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and let it be through Him that you give thanks to God the Father." Then, as we couple those verses with our 'abiding in Christ' and depending on 'His power alone', while looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and we 'set the Lord always before us' (as King David said), we will then not only ("not be moved"), but with such a combination as that, we will be able to, "keep our heart with all diligence", (if we will apply these verses to our heart.)

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

#285R SOME MAIN POINTS:

The Bible verse written (Proverbs 4:23) "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the 'issues of life.", is a foundation 'principle of Truth and Advice' for a Christian to take heed to and follow us in living an 'Overcoming Life of faith on God.'

(Rom.12:1) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.", is also a most important guideline to follow, so that we do keep our heart clean "with all diligence" (as we are told in Prov.4:23).

By our taking heed and following God's Word to consecrate our life to God as a living sacrifice acceptable to Him, God will enable a surrendered person to realize that they indeed can "Likewise reckon ye, also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Bible examples are used to emphasize for us that God's awesome power and endless love can do for us exactly what He did for those Bible characters who witnessed His almighty power to deliver them, when they called on His Name!

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