

“CONDITIONS FOR VICTORY/PROTECTION IN GOD’S WILL”

S30R/ (again as #S161R)
(#245 ORIG/RV)

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God's 'will' is for us to always be victorious in prayer, and protected from the attacks and oppressions from Satan. As we allow the Holy Spirit to teach and train us, we will learn about God's plan in His Scriptures for our deliverance and protection, and He will also strengthen our faith to enable us to receive that. We may be tempted and waver in our faith at times, but God's faithfulness cannot be questioned nor ever lacking. If we haven't yet received our victory, then we have to look at the sincerity of our position of 'faith and trust' that we have placed on God, and not to question His faithfulness, nor the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ.

God's plan for victory in our life of faith and trust on His Son, is for us to use our 'power of choice' to make a 'final' decision to trust on His faithful promises to deliver us, and to claim the Atonement Blood as our 'merit' for receiving it. That 'freewill' choice on our part, should never be considered as 'works', rather, it is our responsibility (or 'duty'), and it is God's 'condition' for us to receive the benefits of the Atonement work of Jesus Christ.

We are to serve Him in 'spirit and truth', and Jesus said (John 16:13), that "the Spirit of Truth – He' will guide you into all the truth. He is not asking or expecting us to serve Him in our own strength, rather, through the grace and strength that His Spirit provides for us.

There can be no merit of our own in the service that God requires of us, as Jesus explained (Luke 17:10), "So you also, when you have obeyed all the orders given you, must say, "There is no merit in our service: what we have done is only what we were in duty bound to do."

There are two valuable examples in the Bible, that plainly reveal the great provision that God has made for everyone who will believe it and accept it. These examples make it plain to us, what the 'conditions' are for receiving the full benefit of that "Atonement work of Christ", (which is the only 'merit' needed for 'answered prayer', or 'victory'). The examples also give us clear understanding of 'merit' and 'condition'.

The example that describes 'merit', is found in Exodus 11: & 12:. All that was required for the Israelites' 'deliverance' and 'protection' was the blood of a lamb over the door (a slain animal), only a 'type' of the real 'Passover Lamb', Jesus Christ. This makes it plain that all the 'merit' God requires is the 'Blood'. We are not required to have any merit or worthiness of our own to receive the rich blessings that God has given us in Christ (in this life and in the life to come). [We are to receive the blessings because we 'believe' on the power of His Atonement Blood.]

'Conditions' to be met in order to receive deliverance, have no merit whatsoever, and they do not cause God to do anything for us. Meeting 'conditions' is what lets the victory in, and it really means taking an attitude that will allow God's love, mercy, and power to work unhindered for us. We are 'free moral agents' who have the 'power of choice' to take an attitude where God's power can work for us, (or to take an attitude that allows the devil to work). We are not asked to do anything in our own strength, but

we have the responsibility to make the right 'choice' (and the Holy Spirit will give us the 'spiritual light' and strength that we need. God's power cannot work for us, until we have made our final decision to accept God's 'plan' or 'conditions', (instead of following plans of the self-life that will hinder our receiving deliverance from God).

The third chapter of Daniel, gives us one of the best examples that reveals the 'conditions', for actually having the full power of God to work unhindered for us. The three Hebrew children refused to disobey God's Word, by bowing down to worship an 'image' in order to save their lives,... because ...to 'bend their back' in worship of an image would have been a disobedience of 'God's Word'. "You shall have no other gods before Me." (God said, Exodus 20:3).

To bow to that image would have meant that they were "trusting in something else besides God", a 'disobedience' of His first Commandment, and committing the sin of 'idolatry'. It would have been a compromise of their faith, instead of a final decision (or choice) to trust God (even at the risk of their life).

They used their God-given 'power of choice' to trust God, instead of bowing to laws and demands of the 'Government Ruler'. They could have accepted the fear from the devil (for their very life), and chose to use their 'power of choice' in a wrong way. It was not by doing anything of themselves,... rather, it was only by 'choosing right' to trust in God instead of 'fallen man', that they had met the 'conditions' to have God's almighty power to protect them from the burning flames of the furnace. A 'final' decision to do nothing but what God's Word says (which means, to trust in Him alone instead of human plans),... that was meeting God's 'conditions'.

Faith in the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ is the only 'merit' required by God, to have His power to work in protecting 'us',... (and that is the same merit that paid for the Hebrew children's protection and a miraculous deliverance). They didn't have to do anything of themselves, rather, just live up to their responsibility to use their 'power of choice' correctly,... and God's omnipotent power was at their side to save their life. It is the same plan that God wants us to understand and follow in our 'life of trust' on the Son of God.

The Hebrew children didn't just 'say' they were 'trusting' God,... their 'actions' proved they were 'trusting'. (Matt. 7:21), Jesus said, "Not every one who says to me, 'Master, Master,' will enter the Kingdom of the Heavens, but only those who are obedient to my Father who is in Heaven."

The Hebrew children's 'actions' proved their faith. (James 2:14) "What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith, and yet his actions do not correspond? Can such faith save him?" Their final decision to obey God and to go through with trusting on Him to deliver them, allowed God's power to work unhindered in saving them from the flames of fire. (Otherwise there would have been no miraculous deliverance for us to read about. There would have just been three more people killed by a 'ruthless dictator'.)

(James 2:26 says) "For just as a human body without a spirit is lifeless, so also faith is lifeless if it is unaccompanied by obedience." (The NKJ says "faith without works is dead"). By using their 'power of choice' right, and choosing to obey God's Word, the Hebrew children had met the 'conditions' for receiving a full manifestation of God's divine power. The only thing they had to 'do', was to use their 'power of choice' to 'choose' right, (and they chose not to disobey God's Word by trusting something aside

from Him. Their choice was to trust on His power to deliver them (even when their life was at stake).

These examples of foundation Truths from the Bible (those of 'merit' and 'condition'), make clear how we can have a full manifestation of God's power in protecting us from the devil's attacks, (and protecting us from his deceitful tricks to get us away from trusting God for things and situations in our life). As we grow in the faith we will be at rest, and not be tormented, robbed of our peace, or 'distressed spiritually' in our life, our body, financial affairs, our home, or at the workplace. [Everything in the true Christian 'life of faith' is covered by the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ. Our responsibility is to accept it and connect up to it, by 'believing' on the power of that Blood.] (that bears repeating).

Truly 'believing' is staying connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ, and so, receiving the benefits of Christ's Atonement work on the Cross (and bearing 'spiritual fruit').

It is not God's will for the devil to lay the weight of his finger on us, but Satan takes advantage of our ignorance of the Scriptures. He uses our spiritual blindness and unbelief in the early stages of our Christian life, as a means by which to attack us. Our 'spiritual' lack (our condition) opens the door for the devil to get a foothold in our life (even though we may not always realize it). We must come to know what God's written Word has told us, and make a final decision to place our faith on His 'promises'.

We have to get back to what God's Word says (that is His 'plan' for us to accept and follow), and stop believing what the devil is trying to tell us by His suggestions to our mind, (or by the circumstances that he wants us to see, in order to try to control our decisions and actions). (Our faith should always be in the 'unseen'). To get our victory, it is most important that we do as God's Word tells us, that is, to resist the devil, steadfast in 'faith', and have him to flee from us. When we truly take our 'stand of faith' relying on God's written Word and un-failing Promises, we are in reality, asking God to fight the devil for us, so the devil must flee from the almighty power of God.

The devil's power was defeated by Christ's work on Calvary's Cross (even 'death' was conquered by His resurrection to life), and that is what God wants us to fully realize through the Holy Spirit's teaching us from His Word (that the Blood of Christ is the 'merit' already paid for us).

Like a young child learning to solve arithmetic problems under guidance of the teacher, if they stick at it they will eventually learn to solve all the problems in the book. It will be the same in the Truth if we hold steadfast in wanting to trust on the Son of God. He is the Master workman and a perfect Teacher, so whenever He can find anyone who will truly repent and surrender their life to Him without reservation or compromise, He will begin doing a perfect work of teaching them and leading them to a full knowledge of the Truth of His Word.

He will enable us to realize exactly what the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross has accomplished for us. Once we truly understand what Christ's Atonement Blood has done for us, we will have confidence to trust on the power of His Blood for every 'thing' and 'situation' in our life.

When the blood of a slain lamb was over the doors of the Israelites in Egypt (only a poor type of Jesus' shed Blood), they had such perfect protection from God, that a dog could not bark to disturb their peace. That protection is not just an historical record,

nor was it only meant for that special occasion, rather, it gives us a true perception of what God's everlasting 'will' is for us today. It is just as true and effective for us to receive and enjoy today, as the day it was recorded (for us to read).

It is our responsibility to accept and believe it, and we have a much greater provision on which to base our claim, in order to reap the results of knowing and believing on the power of Jesus' Blood (the real Passover Lamb) over our doors, ... (than they had with the blood of a slain animal). How far more efficacious is the shed Blood of Jesus Christ!!

The Israelites received God's perfect protection under the blood of a slain animal, so we should have much more protection than they had, as the blood of Christ is far more valuable than that of an animal. They were not only protected from the terrible pestilence, (or even the bark of a dog to disturb their peace), they were also delivered from the bondage of slavery, and everything the devil and his agents would try to do to them. If being under the 'blood' of an animal would not allow the worst disease that ever cursed a land and its people, to even touch an Israelite man or beast,... how could anyone believe that the Blood of Jesus Christ does not mean as much (or far more) to us now, as the blood of that lamb meant to them? All who were sick among millions of Israelites were healed. (Psalm 105:37), "He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

No one could ever really explain how much greater Jesus Christ is, and how much more His shed Blood means to us. 'His Blood' has placed God with us and for us, exactly as He was with Israel. He is always at our side with pure, perfect love for us, and He longs to do for us, everything that we could need or desire (within His 'will'), to be happy in this life. Accepting what His Blood has done for us, and believing on the power of that Blood, is the 'condition' to be met for us to receive from God, all that He wants to give us.

It is the same as conditions we meet in every day life, and a 'condition' that neither God nor man can change,... that of, one free-moral agent having confidence to receive something from another free-moral agent. It really places our welfare in our own hands for this life and for eternity, for this 'power of choice' is God-given and we are responsible for the way we exercise it. God's power cannot work for us until we make our choice final to trust 'Him', and the devil cannot harm us unless we use our 'choice' to listen to him.

Jesus died for the whole world, and His Blood can be over every door, but only a very small number of people in the all the world get any benefit of it. Christ need not have died as far as many people are concerned, and they do not get any more benefit than if He never died and rose to life again. Why?? Because they use their 'power of choice' to listen to Satan instead of God. God cannot reveal that to most professing Christians, as they have never made a final decision to listen to God's Word instead of Satan. They have allowed their ministers and Churches to come between them and God, so they only have a poor quality of 'outward religion', which 'cannot' save such people from the Lake of Fire. (Mark 7:6-8), "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites," Jesus replied; "as it is written, "This People honor Me with their lips, while their hearts are far away from Me: But idle is their devotion while they lay down precepts which are mere human rules.' "You neglect God's Commandment: you hold fast to men's traditions."

Instead of meeting the condition of 'choosing' to trust on the Son of God, they choose to trust on the precepts and plans of man. (God cannot help anyone who chooses the wrong 'place of trust', and who refuses to repent).

The Holy Spirit will teach us exactly as He did with the Hebrew children, of how important it is to settle it finally to depend on the Living God, regardless of the consequences or risk. Once we have made a final decision to meet the various circumstances of life according to God's Word, everything that touches our life, every trial and temptation from the devil, will eventually work together for good, as we meet them right. Everything works out well for those who love God, and we show our love for God by listening to and obeying His requirement to trust on the power of the Blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. As we place our trust on Him, God will give all the spiritual light and strength that we need to meet things according to His Word, and we can 'reap the benefits' of the Atonement Blood that supports His Word.

As one holds steadfast in faith, our growth and development will be rapid. It seemed like a small, insignificant human effort that would have saved the lives of the three Hebrew children, (humanly speaking, just by bending their backs), but it would have meant to worship a man-made image (something that God's Word forbids). Their final decision to worship and to trust in the living God alone to save them, enabled Him to manifest His great power to perform a great miracle of quenching the violence of fire. The spiritual growth was very rapid.

That final decision to do nothing but what God's Word says, and to trust only on the living God (instead of 'fallen man' and his devices to mislead), is the 'vital principle' in all of our dealings with God. God will do exactly the same today for anyone who uses their 'power of choice' to take the same attitude as the Hebrew children did.

Three valuable truths are involved in being delivered and protected from Satan's attacks. First, we are told to judge ourselves, so that we would not be judged by the Lord. When we refuse to do that (and God has to judge us), we are chastened so that we might not be condemned with the world, and to also be saved from the Lake of Fire. God shows His great mercy and love for us, by chastening, to bring confession and repentance in order to save us by His grace alone (from condemnation).

The Apostle Paul made special reference to physical attacks of the body, as a reason to judge ourselves (1 Cor. 11:31-32). It means that the moment we realize anything is unscriptural in our life, any wrong thing we have done, or an attitude that is not according to God's 'will' and Word,... if we confess it and forsake it right away, God will be faithful to forgive us, and that will be the end of it. We will not only receive the necessary spiritual victory, but we will be protected from Satan's attacks in our body or otherwise.

Paul set an example of judging ourselves (Acts 23:), for when he realized that he had spoken wrongly to the high priest (who had commanded for Paul to be struck), the apostle immediately confessed (for rebuking the high priest). He had done wrong and repented of it, so, God did not have to judge Paul for that offense against the Scriptures).

A second valuable admonition that the Scriptures teach, is to 'watch and pray ahead' (Jesus told His disciples in Luke 11:),... pray for our provisions, protection from Satan's oppressions, and, to be forgiven of our sins as we must 'forgive others'. "Watch

and pray”, that ‘you may not enter into temptation’, and be forgiven, also means, keep us ‘pure in heart’ and ‘filled with the Spirit’, and do not allow Satan to attack us today.

Jesus meant for us to pray in the morning for ‘this day’,...and this command from Jesus to ‘watch and pray ahead’, is a very important condition that He gave to keep us pardoned, cleansed, and protected from temptation that would lead us astray from His Word, and, a condition to be kept victorious and protected from Satan. “Lead us not into temptation”, includes our spirit, soul, and body,... our home, finances, workshop, and everything else that concerns us.

Jesus told us to close our prayer, by saying, “for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” That takes us back to depending on God alone for all this to be done in our life, and, back to trusting only on the power of the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ, as the ‘condition’ or ‘requirement’ that God laid upon us.

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Lord willing, we will consider (in a follow-up lesson), a third ‘condition’ and more, in Biblical examples and explanations of ‘merit’ and ‘conditions’ for God’s plan for victory, and how to receive it through faith.

S30R/ 3/14/04 \ #245 ORIG/RV
‘MERIT & CONDITIONS’ (for VICTORY)

1. It has been God’s will from the beginning for believers to receive victory in the prayer life. So, it is important that we understand how His plan for victory works for us.
2. Bible examples explain the difference between ‘Merit’ and ‘Conditions’, and that the Blood is the ‘Merit’ price already paid for us.
3. Exercising our ‘power of choice’ (in where we place our trust), is our responsibility, & the ‘condition’ that lets the victory in (as Bible examples have proven). So our right ‘choices’ should never be considered ‘works’.
4. Our ‘choice’ to accept or not to accept what Christ’s Blood has done for us, places our welfare in our own hands for this life and for Eternity. It is a ‘condition’ that neither God nor man can change.