

“MERIT & CONDITIONS; FOR VICTORY & PROTECTION 2”

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In God's plan for a Christian's life of 'trust' (through the teaching and training of the Holy Spirit), it has always been His 'will' for the 'believer' to be victorious in prayer, and fully protected from Satan's attacks. When we make a sincere and full surrender to trust God and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us, we will be taught about God's plan for our deliverance and protection, and He will strengthen our faith to receive those blessings. He will enable a true 'believer' to understand how far-reaching the power of the shed Blood of Christ really is (in every part of our life), and how to receive the benefits of that Atonement work.

As 'part one' of "Merit and Conditions" explained, when God enables the fully surrendered person to realize that the "Blood of Jesus Christ" is the only 'merit' needed to pay for their deliverance, then we only have to use our "God-given, power of choice" in the right way, to receive the victory we have asked for. When we choose not to depend on man's plans and devices, but, choose to trust God alone for our deliverance, it opens the way for God's power to work unhindered for us. That final decision on our part is God's 'condition' to be met (as Bible examples clearly reveal), and, meeting that 'condition' is what 'lets the victory in'.

It really means that when we take the attitude that we will not go against God's Word under any circumstances, God's love, mercy and almighty power can then work unhindered in our behalf. It is a 'freewill choice' on our part, and should never be considered as 'works', rather, it is our responsibility and it is God's 'condition' for us to receive the benefits of the Atonement work of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, we are to 'serve' Him in 'spirit and truth' (not in our own strength),... but, that still is not the 'merit' that pays for our deliverance, rather, the 'merit' is His Blood (already shed for us), that has paid that price.

Since His promises are faithful (and that price for our deliverance was already paid), then in any circumstances where we are praying for victory and protection from God, 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). Is our 'trust' fully on God's written 'promises' and His 'faithfulness', or are we only partially trusting on Him?, (with part of our 'trust' on some thing or someone else aside from God). Do we have another plan in the back of our mind (just in case we need it, we may think),... or, maybe if we just tell some other person, then they will help us out of the situation? If we do have another plan in mind, then our decision to trust God is not a 'final decision'. We would not be meeting God's 'condition' to 'believe' His Word, like the three Hebrew children, (and others who received their deliverance).

The story of the Passover night for the Israelites in Egypt, is meant to give us a clear understanding of the only 'merit' that God requires, for it reveals that it was a lamb's blood over their doors (only a 'type' of the real 'Passover Lamb', Jesus Christ). That 'blood' was the 'merit' required for the Israelites' 'deliverance', and 'protection' from the deadly plagues cast on the Egyptians, because God told Moses, "when I... 'see the blood',... I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). (He didn't say that He would pass over them because of their goodness.)

That should enable us to realize that all the 'merit' God requires is the 'Blood' of His Son (already sacrificed for us), and not any worthiness of our own as our 'merit'. By obeying God in placing the blood of a slain lamb over their door, Moses and the Israelites met God's 'condition'. By their actions they showed they believed God's Word that He would protect

them from the plague, and rescue them from the Egyptians. 'Faith' in what God told Moses the blood would mean to them, is what God was seeing in the Israelites. That same faith in the power of Christ's Atonement Blood, is what God wants to see in our heart!!

God sees our heart (not the outward person), and when He sees that in our 'faith of heart' we have placed ourselves, family, loved ones, and other things, under the protection of the shed Blood of Christ, (and are claiming that precious Blood as the 'merit' price paid for our answer to prayer),... it opens the door for God's power to work for us. It is God's plan for us to receive in answer to a prayer in faith, and it is the condition to be met through our God-given 'power of choice',.. that lets the victory in. God's power cannot work for us, until we have made our 'final' decision to accept God's 'plan', (instead of following plans of the self-life that will hinder our receiving a deliverance from God). When our 'choice' to trust God is a 'final' choice, we are then in a position to receive the rich blessings that God has given us 'in Christ', (in this life and Eternal life to come), because the 'merit price' was already paid by Christ's Blood.

The three Hebrew children made their 'final choice', in refusing to disobey God's Word (and not 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 the image would have been a compromise of their faith, instead of a 'final choice' to trust God (even at the risk of their life). They used their God-given 'power of choice' to trust God. They could have accepted the fear from the devil (for their life), and chose to use their 'power of choice' in a wrong way. By 'choosing right' (to trust in God instead of 'fallen man'), 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,...was ... meeting God's 'conditions'. They didn't just 'say' they were 'trusting' God, their 'actions' proved they were 'trusting'. By obeying His Word not to trust in an idol, the Hebrew children showed their love for God was sincere,. "If you love me, you will obey my Commandments" , Jesus said (John 14:15). By their obeying God's Word, they met the 'conditions' to 'receive' protection from Him.

These foundation Truths (of 'merit' and 'condition') reveal to us, how we can have a full manifestation of God's power to protect us from the devil's attacks,... and to grow in faith, be at rest, and not be distressed spiritually, or robbed of peace in any situation. [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.] Truly 'believing' is the 'condition' for staying connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ, and to receive the benefits of Christ's Atonement work.

It is not God's will for us to be tormented by the devil. However, a lack of faith, or a misplaced trust on our part, shows that we are living outside of God's will, and it allows the devil to gain a foothold. A person's ignorance of the Scriptures is used by the devil to deceive them and hinder their faith, and it is what allows the devil to oppress. We need to consecrate our life to doing God's 'will', and pray for the Holy Spirit to give us a knowledge of God's Word, so He can teach us what God's 'will' is in every circumstance of life, (and enable us to 'choose' to do His 'will'). (John 14:17, Jesus said that He would send to the 'believers',... "the 'Spirit of Truth',... whom the 'world' cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." "He will guide you into all Truth."

So, we want to come to know what God's written Word has told us, and (in the strength of the Spirit whom He sent), make a final choice to place our faith on His 'promises'.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (Prov. 3:6, says). We have to get back to following what God's Word says is (His 'plan' for us), and stop believing what the devil is trying to tell us by his suggestions (or circumstances he wants us to see, instead of believing God's promises).

In trusting for our victory, it is most important to resist the devil, steadfast in 'faith' (as God's Word tells us), and have the devil to flee from the almighty power of God (who will fight the battle for us). The devil's power was defeated (even 'death' was conquered by Christ's resurrection to life), and God wants us to fully realize that through the Holy Spirit's teaching. He is the Master workman and a perfect Teacher, so when He finds someone who will truly repent and surrender their life to Him (without compromise), He will begin leading them to a full knowledge of the Truth. 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 everything in our life. It means far more to us than when the blood of a slain animal was over the doors of the Israelites in Egypt, (when the worst disease that ever cursed a land and its people, could not touch an Israelite) (or even their animals). They were protected from the terrible pestilence, delivered from slavery, and victorious over every other attempt of the devil to harm them. All who were sick among millions of Israelites were healed. (Psalm 105:37) says, "He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."

How far more efficacious is the protection of the shed Blood of Jesus Christ to us!!,... when we once realize that His Blood is the 'merit' for our deliverance!! We must be willing to meet God's easy conditions to receive that deliverance, just by 'trusting' ('through our power of choice'), on the One whom God sent to die for us. Neither God nor man can change that. it really places our welfare in our own hands for this life and for eternity. This 'power of choice' is God-given and we are responsible for how 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' Blood could be over every door in the world, but only a very small number of people in the world get any benefit of it. Most people get no more benefit than if Christ 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, because they have never made a final decision to listen to His Word (instead of Satan's). They only have a form of 'outward religion', which 'cannot' save people from the Lake of Fire. (Mark 7:6), Jesus replied, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites;" "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." ["God can't help anyone who chooses the wrong 'place of trust', and who refuses to repent."]

The Holy Spirit will teach every repentant person (exactly as He did with the Hebrew children), of how important it is to settle it final, to depend on the Living God, (regardless of the consequences). Once we have made our final decision to meet God's conditions, every trial and temptation from the devil will eventually work together for good. As we meet them right (through the spiritual light and strength that God gives), we can 'reap the benefits' of the Atonement Blood that supports His Word. The principle is the same today as when the Hebrew children used their 'power of choice' to trust God's power, and not compromise.

A valuable truth to always remember is, the Scriptures tell us to judge ourselves (so the Lord will not have to judge us). When God has to judge us, we are disciplined in order that we might not be condemned with the world, (thus, be saved from the Lake of Fire). God

shows His great mercy by chastening to bring confession and repentance, (and by His 'grace', saved from condemnation). (1 Cor. 11:28-31) says, to judge ourselves to be protected from physical attacks. "But let a man examine himself, and, having done that, then let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. For any one who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgement to himself, if he fails to estimate the body aright. That is why many among you are sickly and out of health," (32) "But when we are judged by the Lord, chastisement follows, to save us from being condemned along with the world."

We should always leave ourselves open for God's conviction, for Him to reveal any foothold of the devil in our life. The moment we realize anything unscriptural in our life (any wrong action or attitude that is against God's Word), we are to confess and forsake it right away. Christ's blood (shed for us) was a sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10: explains), "so when we sincerely confess and put our mistakes under the cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ, God will be faithful to forgive us." We have to truly 'believe' that we are free from Satan's hold over us, (free from the temptation to return to the sin that we have confessed), and God will take it from our heart. Having judged ourselves and repented, we will receive spiritual victory, and the faith to be protected from Satan's temptations.

Paul set an example for us, by judging himself (Acts 23:), when he realized that he had spoken wrongly to the high priest (who had commanded Paul to be struck). Paul immediately confessed that he had done wrong, (so God did not have to judge Paul for that offense against the Scriptures).

When Job realized that he had been depending on his own goodness and outward actions of 'self' to be declared 'righteous', he humbly repented saying, (Job 42: 5-6), "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (his spiritual eyes had been opened). "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

After Job sincerely repented, the Holy Spirit could then teach and train him to live a true life of faith, which included God's manifold blessings on Job and his family. All that he had lost and the things (gotten through efforts of the self-life) that he had now 'forsaken',.... were then restored by God and more-so. (Job 42:10) says, "And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."

Jesus told us that it can be that way for us today. (Matt. 19:27), "Then Peter said to Jesus, "See, *we* have forsaken everything and followed you; what then will be our reward?" (29) Jesus replied, " And whoever has 'forsaken' houses, or brothers or sisters, or father or mother, or children or lands, for my sake, shall receive many times as much and shall have as his inheritance the Life of the Ages."

When we forsake efforts of 'self' and turn away from the 'plans of man' to obtain things in this life, and instead, follow Christ in a 'life of trust' for things that we need, Jesus promised we will "receive many times as much and inherit the 'Life of the Ages'." The things that we obtain in this life are not nearly so important, as is ...how... we obtain them,...(through efforts of 'self', or in a life of trust' in God!) (along with valuable spiritual rewards). It brings us back to a personal relationship with God ... (that place which we all have to return to), ... so we can see why it is so important to obtain things in this life through "believing in Him whom He sent". We can readily understand why the Apostle said, "Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you, unless you are insincere?"(2 Cor. 13:5).

Another valuable teaching that Jesus gave, is to "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. (Matt. 26:41). Also, to 'watch and pray ahead' for the provision of daily needs,

protection from Satan's oppressions, and, to be forgiven of our sins as we must 'forgive others', (Luke 11:2-4).

"Watch and pray", that you may not enter into temptation, and to be forgiven, also means, keep us pure in heart and filled with the Spirit, and do not allow Satan to attack us today. In this command Jesus is telling us to pray in the morning for 'this day',...and it is important to heed and meet that 'condition' that He gave, to keep us pardoned, cleansed, protected from physical oppression, and from temptation that would lead us astray from His Word. (Heb. 2:1), admonishes us, "For this reason we ought to pay the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, for fear we should drift away from them."

'Watch and pray' is a 'condition' Jesus gave us, to be kept victorious and protected from Satan. "Lead us not into temptation", includes our spirit, soul, and body,... as well as to be protected from trials in our home, financial affairs, in the workshop, and everything else that concerns us. Jesus told us to end our prayer, by saying, "for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." That means "may it be so", because we are depending on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ, and we have placed ourselves (home, and family), in God's hands in a prayer made in faith. There must be a personal relationship with God, the place we all have to return to.

God's Word also tells us to resist the devil (when he tempts us to accept his thoughts, suggestions, or oppressions of the body. As a person holds steadfast in their full surrender to God, (and are willing to listen and follow God's plan), the Holy Spirit will teach them how to resist the devil, as well as every other principle of Truth in the Bible. James 4:7 tells us "resist the devil and he will flee from you". Again, this Truth reveals that it is in our own hands (through our own 'power of choice'), to take an attitude that will allow God to deliver us from the devil's attacks. Resisting in real faith in the 'Name' of Jesus Christ, will cause the devil to flee from us, because he cannot stand against the power of the Lord.

Resisting in faith, is an individual decision to be made in one's personal dealing with God, (for no one can act out our faith for us). Our faith is between us and God, (with no family, Church, or anything else in between that we could depend on). The victory is between the individual and God, when one resists in the 'Name of Jesus Christ', in full dependance on the power of His Atonement Blood shed on the Cross.

It is always right to agree in prayer with others, as the Bible instructs us to pray for one another. Also, (Matt. 18:19, says), "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." ["It is when one resists in faith, and acts in faith, that God's 'conditions' are met, and it gives a blood-bought right to be delivered and protected from the devil's attacks."] Satan is always trying to get us to consent (either consciously or unconsciously), to surrender these Atonement rights, and to accept his disturbances and oppressions. If he gets our consent, and we give up our blood-bought rights,... of course he can attack us, and we are fully responsible for allowing it.

Psalm 103:6, says, "The Lord executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed." So, the real Truth is that Satan cannot attack us until he gets our consent, (which is by putting thoughts in our mind which seem like our own thoughts, and he suggests that we are definitely going to have trouble of this kind or that). If we refuse to have it, (standing firmly on our blood-bought rights in Christ Jesus), the devil cannot get in, (nor can he stay any longer than we allow him to stay, if he has already gotten in). As Paul told the Ephesians, (6:16), "above all, taking the 'shield of faith' with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

It brings us right back to a personal relationship with God ...the most valuable position anyone could be in, and the place we all have to be! It takes us back to depending on God alone for all these things to be done in our life, realizing that the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ is our merit, and (making our choice to trust only on the power of that Blood as the 'condition' or 'requirement'), is what gives the victory and the protection!

It is when we resist in faith, and act in faith, that God's conditions are met, and that gives a blood-purchased right to be protected and victorious!!

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'MERIT & CONDITIONS';

(For Victory & Protection-II)

SOME MAIN POINTS TO CONSIDER

- 1./... will remind us of the value of Christ's shed blood (in claiming our victories & answers to prayer).
- 2./... depending only on God, & never on outward deeds of self for deliverance (will be emphasized).
- 3./... the main point made is; God cannot work for us, until we make a final decision to trust Him; & Satan cannot harm us, unless we choose to listen to him.
- 4./... It really places our welfare in our own hands, for this life and for eternity, through our "power of choice".