

GOD GIVES POWER TO MEET THINGS IN HIS PLAN

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The subject of the message is the power to meet things right. The way we meet things depends altogether on the power by which we meet them. If God's power is controlling us, we will always meet things Scriptural ly, but if His power is not fully controlling us, there will be a limit to our meeting things in His way. God has planned that we are to have a power that will enable us to meet everything right. He never asks us to meet anything in our own strength, and as long as we attempt to meet things in our own strength, we will fail to that extent in our Christian life and walk.

God's plan has always been for us to meet things in His strength. He has provided and placed His entire power at our service, to enable us to meet every kind of trouble and trial in the true Scriptural way, and the importance of meeting all things in our life in accordance with His will, cannot be overstated. If we are not meeting things in God's way, and instead, are meeting them in the old human nature way, we would not be ready to meet the Lord if He should return suddenly (and we would have to spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire). That is too terrible even to think about, let alone to go there.

We can recall that apostle James says in the 1st chapter of his epistle (vs.12) "Blessed (or, some modern versions say "Happy") is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive . the crown of life." That means eternal life "which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

This verse, as is brought out in the Twentieth Century New Testament and Weymouth's translations is more plain; they give us a better understanding of it, "Happy is the man who goes through his trials successfully."

That means, to meet the various things that come upon him in a Scriptural way, "for when he has stood the test" (or has met every-thing Scripturally), then "he will receive the crown of life which the Lord will give to all them that love Him."

Also, it is brought out for us in other parts of Scripture, and especially in the 12th chapter of John (vs.24-25). When the disciples came to Jesus and told Him that there were some Greeks who desired to see Him, He said: "except a corn of wheat fall into the ground, and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

The next verse applies that to our present life on earth, as He says that if we do not lose (or give up altogether) the human way of meeting things, (which means to fully die to them and be as free of them as one who has passed on to the next life), we will never get eternal life; but if we do abandon them, we will have God's blessing here as well as hereafter.

"He that loveth his life shall lose it;" means (to hold on to their own human way of meeting things, or loves his life in this world, and will hold on to it), (will not only lose it here, but hereafter;) "and he that hateth his life in this world" (means, lays it aside, gets rid of his own ways and meets things in God's way), "shall keep it unto life eternal."

This being the case, it shows that it is of utmost importance for us to meet everything in our life in the true Scriptural way (a thing that has been altogether lost sight of in the Christian world).

There are some who believe that all we need is to get converted. The only thing that some of the well-known religious teachers ask, is "Have you been born-again? Have you been sanctified? Have you had a time of good feeling, or a second feeling that you would say is sanctification?" Most people think that when you have received either (or any) of these, then you are ready for Heaven.

Some others only think and talk about healing. Healing is a very important doctrine of the Bible (if it is taught in a true Bible way (of trusting on God alone for His divine healing from oppression).

There are some teachers who are teaching only about the second coming of Christ. Of course, that might be all right as far as that goes, but, there are many people who have had no spirituality at all, and could not understand the basics or the details (historically or prophetically) about the 'Second Coming'. Some religious groups (organizations) make a big issue about the Second Coming of Christ, yet they fully reject the necessary 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', as well as all other real Bible teaching (including what is brought out directly from God's Word in this message, the Pastor said).

The Bible teaches that our whole hope of Heaven and every blessing to receive in this life here, depends on how we meet things (because how we meet things indicates who we are trusting in). We are to meet all the attacks of the enemy, spiritually, physically, and financially, the things people say and do to us, and every unpleasant condition in our life is to be met in accordance with God's will, (as taught in the New Testament). This Truth is brought out very clearly by Jesus in His letter to the church at Laodicea. (Rev.3:21) He said: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne. (That "overcame" means, to have met all things in a Scriptural way.)

We are also told in 1st John, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." (meaning, that he ought to meet things even as Christ met them).

Then we always have that wonderful and encouraging passage of Scripture in Philippians chapter 2, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."(Vs.5—11).

The cause of all our difficulties and our distresses is, that there never has been a final decision made, that is, a full and final surrender to meet things in God's way, not only as it concerns our life as a whole, but each individual circumstance as it arises. Somewhere there is hidden down {in our hearts}, a possibility of our using our own way to meet a circumstance, instead of making a final settlement and decision to go God's way (within His plan). That is the cause of every attack from Satan (whether it be in our spiritual life, in our body, in our finances, our home—life, or elsewhere). As long as there is any rebellion left in our heart and mind, or an unwillingness to meet things in God's way, instead, to hold on to our own plans, there will be something allowed to be said or done to expose that to us. God has promised, so He made Himself responsible to do that for us.

Things that people say and do to us, are not just an arbitrary thing that took place; but, God Himself has permitted that thing to come to us, (whether twisted or straight). It is how we meet it that matters and counts in God's sight (for God can see what is in our heart, so He permits circumstances to take place that will expose to us where we have or are falling short of obedient trust on His Word.) If we meet the circumstance in God's way, it will result-in a wonderful blessing; but/if not (and met in the world's way),it will prove to be a curse, if it is not repented of. Our peace in this life here, depends on how we meet things [either in God's way as He gives us the power to do that, or, to try to meet it in our own feeble way or strength.] God does not ask us to meet things in our own strength; if He did, we could not do it. The Jews tried to do this under the Old Law, but they failed entirely. Under the Gospel we are not asked to do one thing in our own strength. We can recall that in the 6th chapter of Romans that is brought out clearly for us: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace (meaning, God's mercy to us may be the greater, or) may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Vs.1-2). [Dead-to-sin because of the cleansing power of Jesus' shed Blood after we have sincerely repented.] THAT IS THE POINT!" [and because of that repentance, God gives us a power to meet things in His way.]

(vs.3-4) “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk (or live) in newness of life.”

The very same power that raised Christ from the dead, is the same power with which we are to meet things. It is the very power that enabled Christ to meet things while He was here on earth, and power that we are to rely on and meet the devil with, to overcome trial (via that same power provided by God, and to “walk in newness of life.”) It is the only possible way that we can overcome.

If we undertook to meet Satan in our own strength, we would be defeated at the first attack, and utterly fail. Apostle Paul told the Ephesians in the 1st chapter of his letter to them, that he prayed that God would open their eyes to see the exceeding greatness of His power ‘toward us that believe’, also that their minds might be enlightened to see that the entire Power of God was at their service (to enable them to meet things in His way, and to overcome all the power of the enemy).

Jesus told the church at Laodicea that His power was knocking at their door. He told them that they were lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, also that, “I would thou were cold or hot.” (Reve.3:15) “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.” (Vs.16) [A solemn reminder from our Savior, that we cannot afford to go half-way with our commitment to God, for as He told them, “I will spew thee out of my mouth.”

He would have to do that, so, He then gave them that wonderful ‘message of encouragement’ “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door”, (meaning, of course the door of our heart), “I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”(Vs.20).

Jesus had already told them (vs.17-20) “You say, I am rich, and have wealth stored up, and I stand in need of nothing; and you do not know, that if there is a ‘wretched creature’ it is you — ‘pitiable’, ‘poor’, ‘blind’, ‘naked’. Therefore, I counsel you to buy of Me gold refined in the fire that you may become rich, and white robes to put on, so as to hide your shameful nakedness, and eye-salve to anoint your eyes with, so that you may be able to see.” (ask Me for the power of My Spirit, so that you ‘may be able to see’, Jesus meant.) (vs.19) “All whom I hold dear, I reprove and chastise; therefore be in earnest and ‘repent’.”

This ‘gold tried in the fire’ means that it is the power to believe God aright and fully. It is ‘living faith’ in everyday situations. While ‘the white raiment’ is the full power of the Holy Spirit, which means for us to be ‘clothed with His Spirit’! Thus, to “anoint thine eyes with eye-salve”, would mean for us to seek and have the ‘enlightenment of the Holy Spirit’, of which God has promised that He would be there for all of us (as ‘believers’) to partake. (John 14:17-21) “That Spirit the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He remains by your side and is in you. I will not leave you bereaved: I am coming to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me: because I live, you also shall live. At that time you will know that I am in my Father, and that you are in Me, and that I am in you. He who has my commandments and obeys them — he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will clearly reveal myself to him.” (What could be more encouraging for us, than that Promise from Jesus!!)

Under the Gospel, God is promised to do a great double work. Under the Law He just blessed people if they were obedient to that Law; but in the New Testament He puts a power within us (when we are surrendered to do His Will in our life. In other words, He causes us to be obedient via His power within us, (and, via that indwelling Spirit within ourselves), He enables us to ‘meet the conditions’ and then gives us the blessings that come for meeting those conditions Scripturally. We should never (and are never) to lose sight of this ‘truth of God’, and that He is doing that whole work under His Gospel Plan (for us to be made ready to enter His Kingdom for Eternity!

[Jesus warned us, and his apostles who followed Him also warned us, that it is with great difficulty that one will enter the ‘Kingdom of God’ (Mark 10:25-27, Acts 14:22, and others), but, it is too important for us to miss out by a hairs-breadth, so we absolutely must meet people and circumstances right in accordance with God’s Will and His Word via the power that God provided for us to do that. The most encouraging part is (because of God’s compassion and His desire to save us (and all other obedient believers), from the condemnation of unbelievers, and of the disobedient who are deceived by the devil, God has made Himself responsible (via His Promises), to do that

double work for us in this Gospel Age that we are now living in. We all have God's merciful Promise written for us to take courage from, and to never lose hope for God's mercy. (Luke 12:29-31) "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."

Jesus summed it all up for all of His flock who believe on the Words and Promises of God. (vs.32) "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

And, Jesus encouraged a vast host of 'triumphant saints' who had successfully passed through the distress on earth, and who would stand before the Throne and before the Lamb, (Reve.7:14-17) "They are those," he said, "who have just passed through the great distress, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they stand before the very throne of God, and render Him service, day after day and night after night, in His sanctuary, and He who is sitting upon the throne will shelter them in His tent. They will never again be hungry or thirsty, and never again will the sun or any scorching heat trouble them. For the Lamb who is in front of the throne will be their Shepherd, and will guide them to water-springs of Life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

That is the glorious result of our allowing GOD to give us His Power to meet things in His Plan!

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

S298R SOME MAIN POINTS:

1. .. The spiritual guidance needed for us to make Scriptural decisions, along with the power for us to resist Satan and the trials and temptations that he devises, has already been provided for us by the Promises of God. So, we are told in God's Word, that "happy is the man who goes through his trials successfully."
2. .. Everything must come through God in a true Christian's life, and Bible passages reveal that God allows things to take place to test us and our faith, to see how we will meet them (because how we do meet those circumstances will indicate who we are trusting in). And Jesus told the Laodiceans (Reve.3:21) "To him who overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His Throne! (Quite a Promise for him who overcomes!)"

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