

# MERIT AND CONDITIONS FOR VICTORY



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In the early stages of our Christian life, Satan loves to take advantage of our weaknesses. Even as we become more acquainted with the will of God, Satan is very aware of our weak points and will take full advantage of them. This ignorant condition opens the door for him to get in.

We do not do this willfully or knowingly, but it is like a child just starting in school. They cannot solve the more advanced problems at first, but as they start with the simplest ones and hold steadfast and follow the guidance of their teacher, they will eventually master the whole book.

We are able to advance in the same way, in God's Word, as we hold steadfast and continue to look to God for the inspiration and wisdom that we need each time we open the Book. God is a Master Workman and a Perfect Teacher. Wherever He can find a willing soul, who will truly repent and surrender their lives fully to Him without reservation, He will do a perfect work and teach them the full knowledge of His Word as they hold steadfast.

It is God's will that we should always be victorious in all things and protected from the attacks and oppressions of Satan. As we learn, under the teaching and training of our Perfect Teacher, He will teach us how to take advantage of all that has been provided for us.

**There are two valuable examples on MERIT and CONDITION found in God's Word that tell us of that**

**great provision that God has made for us. These examples make the conditions plain for receiving the full benefits of the Atoning work done for us when our Savior willingly shed His Blood on the Cross.**

The example on MERIT is found in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> chapters of Exodus. All that was required for deliverance and protection was the blood of a little lamb, a type of the real Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. This example makes it very plain that all the MERIT that God requires is THE BLOOD. We are not required, nor can we have any merit or worthiness of our own to receive all the rich blessings that God has given to us through Christ's shed Blood on the Cross, both for this life and for Eternal Life.

CONDITIONS have no merit whatever and will not cause God to do anything for us. We are to take the attitude to let God's love, mercy, and power, work unhindered. We have that power-of-choice. We either let go and let God work unhindered, or we hold on and that will allow Satan to slip in and do his work so subtly. We cannot do anything in our own strength. If we try, God's power is hindered. His power cannot work until we have made a final decision to accept His plan on CONDITIONS.

In the third chapter of Daniel, we find one of the best examples that reveal the CONDITIONS for the full power of God to work unhindered. The three Hebrew children refused to disobey God's Word, to save their lives, by the bend of the back. That bend of the back would have meant they could be trusting in something else besides God, even if they weren't.

These men took their risk on God, a whole-hearted faith, as we know, without a risk there is no faith. These men met the CONDITIONS for the full power of God to work for them, and they came out of that burning furnace without even the smell of fire on them, and the only thing that burned were the King's bindings on them.

The only MERIT that is required for us to receive God's presence and power working within us, is the broken Body and shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

The CONDITIONS would be, a final decision to do nothing other than what God's Word says, which

will be to trust in Him alone instead of fallen man's many devices, plans, and policies.

These two great foundation Truths, make it plain how we can have the full manifestation of God's power working in us, to protect us from Satan and his many thoughts, schemes, and oppressions. It is not God's will for Satan to ever, even lay the weight of his little finger upon us.

When the blood of a little lamb was on the door, down in Egypt, they had such protection and peace that even a dog couldn't bark to disturb man or beast. It wasn't just for that special occasion either. It is a revelation of God's everlasting will. It is just as true today as it was back then and if there is any difference whatever, we have even a greater claim than they had. We are under the Blood of Jesus Christ, the great and real Passover Lamb. They were under the blood of an animal.

If the blood of a little lamb would not allow a dog to bark, nor allow the worst disease that ever came upon this earth to touch man or beast, how could anyone doubt that the Blood of Jesus Christ could do at least that much and even more, if we let Him.

Psalm 105:37, *"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."* Anyone, out of the millions of Israelites, who had an oppression of any kind were instantly healed and there was not a feeble person among their tribes.

No pen could ever write, no tongue could ever explain, how much greater Jesus Christ is than a little lamb, nor how much more our Savior means to us than the blood of a little lamb meant to them. The Blood of Jesus Christ has placed God with us and for us exactly the same as He was with them, if not more.

This CONDITION that we have, is not an arbitrary one, or just a CONDITION that comes by a random chance. It is a CONDITION that neither God nor man can change. It is one free moral agent receiving help from another free moral agent. Being free moral agents makes us arbiters of our own destiny.

We have power to decide, and it places our welfare in our own hands for time and eternity. This power of choice makes us solely responsible for the way we exercise it. God's power cannot work for us until we make our choice final, and the devil cannot harm us until we make our choice to listen to him.

The Holy Spirit will teach us, exactly as He taught the three Hebrew children, how important it is to settle it to depend on the living God alone regardless of the danger or what men or demons try to do. When we have settled it to meet the various trials and circumstances of life according to God's Word, everything that touches us, every battle and temptation of the devil will work together for good. God will give us all the light and strength that we need.

As we hold steadfast, our growth and development will be rapid. If a small and insignificant human effort, humanly speaking, would have saved the lives of the three Hebrew children, just a bend of the back, it would have meant they were trusting in the devices and plans of man instead of God and His power. Their final decision to trust in the living God alone, instead of fallen man's plans and devices, enabled God to manifest His great power and perform this miracle of quenching the violence of fire.

**We have three valuable Truths, given to us in God's Word, in being delivered and protected from Satan's attacks.**

**The first condition** would be to judge ourselves. This is found in 1 Corinthians 11:31-32, "*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*"

Here God tells us that if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged of the Lord. But if we refuse to do this and come to the place where God has to judge us, we will be chastened that we will not be condemned along with the world, and also to save us from that Lake of Fire.

To judge ourselves would mean that the moment we discover anything that is not according to God's will in our lives or have said or done anything that is not according to His will, we should judge ourselves

by confessing and forsaking it at once. We will not only receive the spiritual victory, which is necessary, but we will also be protected from Satan getting in in any part of our lives.

**The second condition** would be to 'watch and pray' ahead. We are to pray ahead for protection from Satan's oppressions before he tries to get in. Jesus told His disciples to "watch and pray, lest they fall into temptation." Pray each day, not only for the needs for that day, but also to be delivered and protected by praying ahead rather than waiting until after we have been attacked and Satan has gotten a foothold.

We have a good example of this in the book of Ezra 8:21-32. The Jews were returning from captivity to Jerusalem and bringing much gold and silver and other valuables with them. They had to pass through a land that was infested with bandits and robbers, and humanly speaking, they were sure to be attacked, robbed, and killed. Before they entered that part of the country, they proclaimed a fast and prayed ahead for God to guide them and take them safely through this bandit infested country. They received God's full help, perfect protection and arrived in Jerusalem without any loss whatever. It certainly would have been harder to get the victory after the bandits came on the scene and started to attack them.

**The third condition** would be to resist the devil as soon as he tries to get in. The Holy Spirit will teach anyone how to do this and every other Truth in the Bible as they hold steadfast in their full surrender and are willing to listen and follow God's plan as given in His Word.

James 4:7 tells us to, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" That tells us that it is in our own hands and our own power of choice to take an attitude that will deliver and protect us from the devil's attacks, and it will always cause him to flee from us. What "*resist*" really means is to refuse to have any oppression of any kind from the devil.

We have a legal, Blood bought Atonement right to be fully protected from the devil. The scriptures tell us that by refusing to accept any suggestions that

he puts into our minds and to refuse to have any oppressions of any kind to disturb our peace, that he will flee from us, and we will be delivered and protected from him.

Our Blood bought Atonement rights include having the fullness of God's righteousness and peace in everything, perfect health, protection, peace at all times, a full supply of every need, and to be fully delivered and protected from everything that would disturb our peace in any way whatever.

Satan is always sneaking around stealthily to see where he can get in, any way that he can, to get us to consent, either consciously or unconsciously, to surrender our Atonement rights and to accept his attacks to disturb, upset, and oppress us.

If he gets our consent and we surrender our Atonement rights, he will not waste any time about it to take full advantage of it, and we are fully responsible for it.

If we refuse to be attacked, then the great God of Heaven, the Supreme Justice of the Universe, is waiting with all His might and power to deliver and protect us from the devil and all his oppressions. That is what it means in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and elsewhere throughout the Bible that, "The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement for all that are oppressed."

We have that Divine Atonement Right to be fully protected from Satan getting in to disturb our peace in any way. The only way that he can get in is by our consent, which is usually by the thoughts that he puts in our mind that seem like our own, suggesting that we will have this trouble or another one, this sickness or the other, or a battle of some kind. If we stand firm on our Divine Atonement Right, and refuse to have it, Satan cannot get in.

That is what Paul meant when he said in Ephesians 6:16 (WEY), "*And besides all these take the great shield of faith, on which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the Wicked one.*"



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