

God's Provision For Perfect Victory

PART ONE

SO39 26 O201C

We want to take for our subject today, God's provision for perfect victory. This means to be victorious in everything—spiritually, physically, financially, the home life, and in all else that concerns us.

God has made the provision for us to be victorious; the Blood has been provided as the merit; the entire power of God is the means, and the Word of God tells us how to receive it.

Furthermore, God does not ask us to do anything in our own strength, for He has provided not only the things we need and desire, but He has furnished the wisdom and the power to receive them.

Now, Satan's great object is to keep us tagged with some unscriptural thing, or keep us doing something, or cause us to be short of perfect victory on some one thing, just enough to defile our conscience and hinder our faith. He tries to make us think that we cannot have perfect victory in everything.

This is his greatest delight, to have one place in our lives where we are not victorious, and where he puts up his stiffest fight, trying to keep us from having perfect victory in it. He does this for the purpose of defiling our conscience. But God has made a provision for our spiritual deliverance from every power of the devil and every evil thing, and for us to have a heart and conscience in a position to exercise real faith and also to enjoy God Himself.

As long as Satan can keep anything tagged on us that is not Scriptural and hold us there, and convince us that we cannot get victory over it, he will hinder our communion and fellowship with God and, our enjoyment of God's presence, as well as the manifestation of His presence.

That is the most valuable thing a Christian could have—a realization of the presence of God and His favor and blessing, and of the manifestations of His presence and of union and fellowship with Him. That, it would seem to me, is the one need of us all, the greatest and the only all-sufficient need of everyone.

When God has that place in our lives, nothing else will matter; it will make no difference whether friends are favorable or unfavorable, whether foes are active or silent, whether things turned out as we expected or just the opposite. While God lives and God exists our every interest will be fully safeguarded, and everything we need and desire will be supplied, and we will be perfectly safe and happy.

You know, the reason people are so upset when something happens or somebody says something very unpleasant, is because they are resting in these things and not resting in God. Those who are resting in God do not mind what happens.

Jehoshaphat had learned to rest in God. It did not make any difference whether an enemy was encamped against him, armed to the teeth ready to kill them, or whether his enemies were dead, he was just as safe before those three armies came against him, as after.

Why? Because God's presence, God's power and blessing, God's ability is sufficient for everything, it makes no difference what the circumstances might be. God can make circumstances, and He can change anything and even turn the worst circumstances into the greatest blessings.

By the time any trouble passes through God—and it all has to pass though Him to reach you—it will turn into the greatest blessing, if met in God's way.

So, when we get upset, it is because we are resting in circumstances. If a certain thing goes to suit us, we would be happy, but if it turns out opposite, we will be unhappy. If we are settled that everything works out for good according to Romans 8:28, we will be happy, for if we have God, we would not mind how it turned out.

Suppose a person has a million dollars, and they have some little deal that involves perhaps fifty dollars. What do they mind whether it turns out good or bad? If it turns out bad it would not mean so much loss, and if it turns out good, it would not mean so much gain to them. They have plenty left and far more than they will ever be able to use. It is the same in our relation to God. If we have God, we have more than sufficient for time and eternity.

So, as we said, Satan always tries to keep us tagged with something that will hinder our enjoyment of God and try to convince us that it is not possible to be victorious in everything. He may suggest the peculiarities of our make-up, the circumstances of our home life, etc., as excuses for not being victorious, but when once convinced that God has made a provision that is ample and more than sufficient for any need we could possibly have, we are a great way toward victory.

It is only our toleration of the devil, our bearing with his plans, which allows him to do this. If we once see that we are making excuses for our lack of victory and accepting the devil's excuses and letting them keep us out of victory, and stop accepting those excuses, we will be at least half victorious at once.

It is simply a plan of the devil to rob us of God's presence and what it means and the blessings of it, and our fellowship with Him and our resting in Him, and also of robbing us of our faith. No one can exercise faith as they should while their conscience is defiled and while the devil has something tagged on to them that they know is not exactly right and would like to be victorious over it but just do not see much hope of getting it.

Well, God has a plan for our full deliverance, and we can be victorious in everything. This is the first thing we want to settle---that God has made a provision that fits every case, and there is not a particle of excuse for our not living an overcoming life in every part of our lives, whether it be spiritual, in our home, or elsewhere.

It leaves us no excuse for not meeting things right; for as long as we make excuses for ourselves, we will never meet things right, but when we have settled it that there is no excuse for us and that our blessings here and our hope of eternal life depends upon meeting all things Scripturally, we will begin to scratch around, as it were, and find out just what God has provided and how to apply it—and it is delightfully easy.

From the moment we become willing, God will work for us. He cannot work until we are willing, but the very moment we surrender without reservation to God's will and plan, then He can work. He can give us just the light we need, just the strength we need, just the victory we need at the very moment that we are absolutely willing.

The first step to be taken in order to get full victory in all that concerns us, is to make a surrender of our lives to be willing to go God's way regardless of the cost, which means to live up to the teaching of the New Testament,

not in our own strength, but in dependence upon the power of God. Those in Bible times who reached the place of perfect blessing and victory started out in this way.

Consider how easily Cornelius got his victory. It was no trouble for people in the Bible to get their victories, because they were definite and concrete in their dealings with God, and you will notice this about Cornelius. He said—
"We are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." (Acts 10:33) And, of course, they could believe because they were surrendered.

Notice how Paul was healed of blindness and filled with the Holy Spirit without any trouble because he had said to God, *"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"* (Acts 9:6) This was an unconditional surrender to go God's way. God was able to work in that man's life. Three days afterward He sent Ananias to him. Ananias said, *"Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."* (verses 17, 18)

Paul was healed without any trouble because he had settled to go God's way. He was instantly healed, and the scales dropped from his eyes, and they were opened. He was given perfect eyesight and the fulness of God's Spirit.

Now, some people are trying to tell us, especially ministers, that Paul was blind simply because the Galatians said of him, according to Paul's letter, that they would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to him. Well, that was only to show the great interest they had in him and the great love they had for

him. The idea of plucking out eyes is to do it for a great purpose.

Jesus said, "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out," because your eternal interests are at stake. It would be better to go through life with only one eye than have two eyes and be cast into the lake of fire.

Paul said the Galatians were so deeply interested in him and had such love for him that if it had been necessary, they would have done the great thing of plucking out their own eyes and given them to him.

But he had splendid eyesight, because on that ship, between midnight and morning, while it was still dark, Paul was the one who discovered the sailors trying to leave the ship in the lifeboats. He told the captain that if he allowed those sailors to do that, they would not be saved, as everyone would have to stay on board if they wanted to be saved.

"And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under color as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship. Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, *"Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off."* (Acts 27:30-32)

Well, it must have been very good eyesight to see from one part of the ship that men were cutting ropes and trying to get away by stealth.

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