

THE BELIEVER

VS.

DEFEATED SPIRITUAL POWERS

We live above the circumstances of the world, because our God lives in us and we live in Him.

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As a Christian believer, you can live a victorious life. But in order to do that, your believing must be based on the rightly-divided Word of God. The Adversary has absolutely been defeated because Christ Jesus conquered the Adversary, and we as believers are completely identified with Christ in his completed work.

Galatians 2:20 says, "I am [was] crucified with Christ. . . ." That means that when Christ died, we as believers died with him. The believer, the one whom God had chosen from

before the foundation of the world, went with him when Christ was crucified.

Galatians 2:20:

I am [was] crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh [in the senses category] I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Isn't that fantastic? The Adversary may be the keeper of the prison house of death, but our God blew off all the locks with the resurrection of Christ Jesus. Romans declares that Jesus

Christ was delivered to the power of death for our sins, but then God raised him when we were justified.

Romans 4:25:

Who [Jesus Christ] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Jesus Christ laid down his life because of our sins. He was dead for three days and three nights until all facets of legal requirements were completely fulfilled. And when we were justified, when our debts as Adam's offspring were completely paid for, then God raised him from the dead.

Romans 5:1:

Therefore being justified by faith [believing what Jesus Christ did], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The world is crying for peace, but no one has peace except the believer. You cannot have peace without the prince of peace. God's Word says we are justified and we have peace. And if you have it, you don't need to pray for it. We already have peace with God. God is not angry at us. God has already justified us and has given us peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Adversary may be the keeper of the prison house of death, but our God blew off all the locks with the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:2:

By whom [Jesus Christ] also we have access by faith into this grace [divine favor] wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

It is in this divine favor of God that we stand. If people want to be saved by good works, that is their privilege. As Christians who believe God's Word, we know that we are saved by grace and that is where we stand. Not only do we stand, we rejoice. The reason we can rejoice in a world like this is that we have the hope of Christ's return.

Abraham looked forward to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That was his hope. You and I have experienced the first coming of Jesus Christ via the reality of Christ in us. Now we look forward to his second coming. In the meantime while we are living here, awaiting the return, all principalities and powers which are against us have been exposed for what they are and they have been triumphed over.

Colossians 2:10 and 15:

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

And having spoiled [put off from himself] principalities and powers, he [Jesus Christ] made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, he had stripped off all adverse principalities and powers. He had conquered and was no longer subject to tauntings from Satan. And since we arose with Christ, we are no longer subject to Satan's powers either. We have a victorious life-style.

Colossians 3:1-3:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth:

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Our life is hid with Christ in God because Jesus Christ destroyed the enemy through his own death and resurrection.

Hebrews 2:14:

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus Christ] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy [the word "destroy" in Rotherham's translation is "paralyze"] him that had [held] the power of death, that is, the devil.

Now, we know the Adversary is not completely out of commission. But spiritually the battle for us has been won; it was fought and won for us by Jesus Christ. There is no battle for you to fight against the principalities and powers directly; the only struggle is in one's own mind. Do you and I actually believe and live like all principalities and powers have been overcome, or do our minds flounder in doubt? We must eradicate the remnants of the Adversary which linger in our minds with the Word of God. The reality of our redemption is accomplished. Now we just speak it forth.

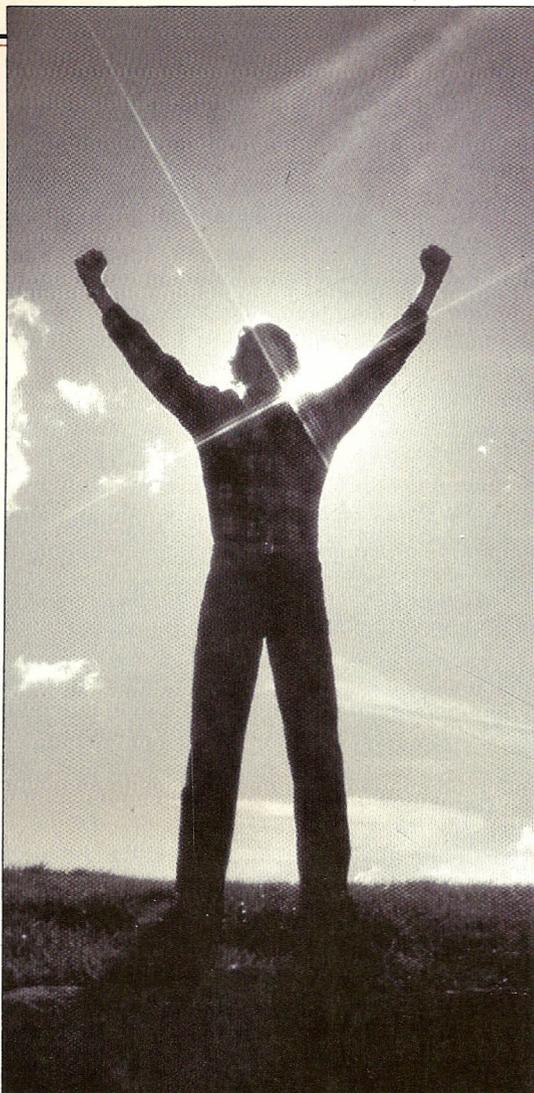
Genesis tells us that God created by speaking. He spoke into being the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:3:

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Peter, a short time after the day of Pentecost, ministered to a man seated at the Gate Beautiful of the Temple. Peter did not lay hands on him, he did not anoint him with oil, he simply *spoke* God's Word to him. In Acts 3:6 Peter spoke the words, "...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Laying on of hands and anointing with oil are for those who have not been completely initiated into the Mystery. They are for those who are pledges, who have not realized their standing as God's children. Peter delivered men and women by speaking God's Word. Likewise, you and I live in victory or in defeat by words. You bless and you comfort people with words. You can bring deliverance to people with God's Word.

It is enlightening to study God's Word concerning the things that Jesus Christ did for us. Look at the declaration in Isaiah 53:4: "Surely



he hath borne our griefs [sicknesses] . . .” Those two words, “he hath,” are tremendous. He has *already* borne our sicknesses. These are words. Now the question is, do we want to believe them or doubt them?

One of the heartrending aspects in my ministry has been people who simply do not believe God’s Word. You go to the grocery store, you look at the label on a can, do you believe what is written there? If it says “peas” do you doubt that the can contains peas and worry that it might contain carrots? People watch TV and they believe that, they read a newspaper and believe it. The Bible says every man is a liar, but the Word of God is truth. If we will believe what a man writes on a tin can, then why not believe God and His Word? Why not get to the place where we believe God’s Word? If we never saw anything come to pass, it would still be God’s Word! Down through the centuries when men believed God’s Word, the positive results followed. It took Abraham until he was ninety-nine years old to believe what God told him, but God’s Word did not fail. The thing we need to do is to literally believe the Word of God.

Psalms 107:20a:

He [God] sent his word, and healed them.

God sent His Word through the prophets, both in written and spoken form. Then, He finally sent His Word through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God in concretion. God sent His Word and healed them. Jesus Christ is that Word, and today it is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Therefore, wherever you go, wherever you speak God’s Word, it is victorious living, for you are that Word as a living reality.

A great truth of our new victorious life is that God is now our source of supply.

Philippians 4:19:

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by [through] Christ Jesus.

God shall supply all your need. That is why our believing is based on God and His Word. All of us have been taught through the years that we need others to supply our need. Now we have to renew our minds and become fully persuaded that it is God who supplies our need. God does this according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.

III John 2:

Beloved, I wish [desire] above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

The reason we can rejoice in a world like this is that we have the hope of Christ’s return.

Psalms 37:25:

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper . . .” That is God’s will. There is no reason for an unbeliever or a God-rejector to be more prosperous, more successful, than the Christian. Our God is in favor of His children’s prospering; the Devil desires the opposite. What you believe determines the outcome.

You don’t sit and wait for God to send you millions; you go to work. You use every ounce of your being to do your utmost. It is God’s will that as a Christian believer you prosper and be in health.

Remember that kingdoms of this world and the unbelievers legally belong to the Adversary; however, the Adversary has no right—absolutely none—to touch the believers.

Matthew 4:8 and 9:

Again, the devil taketh him [Jesus Christ] up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him [Jesus Christ] all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Can you give anything you do not have? There are other records in the Word that show

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that the kingdoms of this world belong to the Adversary. The Adversary has never shown us all the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them and then said, "I'll give them to you." For most people he doesn't even need to show them one-half of a kingdom and they sell out to him. But he said to Jesus, "All of this I'll give you if you'll fall down and worship me."

Ephesians 2:3:

Among whom [the kingdoms of this world, the unbelievers] also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature [by natural birth] the children of wrath, even as others.

A man of body and soul is dead in trespasses and sins, without God and without hope. He has no eternal life, no spirit. That is why the unbeliever, the natural man, belongs to the Adversary. We believers belong to God. He has given us a new realm to live in.

Colossians 1:13:

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us [given us citizenship] into the kingdom of [by the work of] his dear Son.

God has delivered us. By nature we were children of wrath, but when we became born again, we were taken from the Devil's realm, his jurisdiction, and given citizenship in God's kingdom. The translation given for this verse in the Power for Abundant Living class is, "God rescued us out from among the exercised or operative influences of darkness and separated us, bringing us as citizens into His kingdom by His dear Son." In order for God to rescue us, we had to be bought with a price. And the price was God's only begotten Son. For God so loved that God gave His only begotten Son. We were bought with that price, paid for in full.

I Corinthians 7:23:

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

You are not a slave to the senses world or to man, for we were bought with a price.

Romans 8:31b:

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Ephesians 6:12:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [from on high].

Our struggle to live victoriously is a mental struggle against principalities and powers, spiritual powers, who have already been

defeated by Christ. The Adversary knows he is defeated, but he doesn't want you to know it! So he bluffs. The Adversary wants to keep the born-again believer ignorant, away from God's Word, because he knows a believer cannot know the will of God without knowing the Word of God. The Adversary will try to keep you from knowing God's Word, so that you will not believe that he is defeated by Christ Jesus for the believers, for all time.

Ephesians 1:3 and 4:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all [every] spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

God called us, He chose us. When you have a basketball team, the coach chooses the first five players who open the game. We are all playing first string on God's team. We are not second-string Christians. We walk with the greatness of the power of God—His Word. In His foreknowledge He chose us before the foundation of the world and made us acceptable.

Ephesians 1:6:

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted [acceptable] in the beloved.

If God made you acceptable, why would you say anything less than His Word about yourself? There is, therefore, after He has made you acceptable, no condemnation. So walk with the greatness of God's Word. That is victorious living. You are what the Word of God says you are; you have what the Word of God says you have; and you will be what God's Word says you will be.

If God be for us, who can be against us? Our worst enemy is not a foreign nation; it is ourselves, our own unbelief within our nation. Today there is an atmosphere and an aroma of defeat permeating our country because the truth of God's Word is foreign in our nation. Has God gone out of business? Has He changed His ability or His desire? Is His Word no longer His will?

Look at the world that twelve men faced after the day of Pentecost and what they did with it. These twelve men faced the great political and military power of Rome and the religious power of Jerusalem, yet they dared to start believing God and, thus, turned the world upside down. They changed people's hearts and we can too, for our God has not changed. God's ability has not waned. We simply have to believe in and be committed to the greatness of God's Word. We must take our places as born-again believers and shout the truths of God's matchless Word.

We can do what the Word of God says we can do, for we are His, He chose us. We live above the circumstances of the world, because our God lives in us and we live in Him. You and I meet every circumstance as conquerors. ☑