

Righteousness by Faith Pt 2.

PP. HOW TO HAVE VICTORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Review: Two weeks ago we started a series on Right by faith. Discovered that Jesus has gained the victory for us and that we need by faith to trust in God's Word. We discovered that the devil's No 1 strategy is to place us in a state of despair. We need to trust that God is able to do what He has promised. That we can gain the victory in Christ if we stick with His Word.

Today: Looking at how we can have victory in the Christian life. Ultimate victory over sin.

You can't read the Bible and get very far into this conflict between good and evil without discovering that we are in a real life and death battle. The stakes are high.

Gen 3:15 portrays a real battle a struggle that will take place in the life of every Christian.

God's ideal for each follower of His to be victorious is a common thread that runs from Gen to Rev.

Especially notice the counsel to the Christian church from the time of Jesus to the end.

"He that overcomes"... Rev 2 & 3.

Rev 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:24; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21a.

If we would only understand the victories God wants to give us?

How can we understand?

Illustration: Broom and balance it as I talk. Get a young person to balance the broom, new rules, look at hand and not at the broom brush.

When you look at self fail, look up succeed. Broom more spiritual lessons than we thought of.

Heb 12:2. Look to Jesus.

Look at Jesus victory comes in, look at victory we fall.

Enemy wants us to focus on our selves instead of power for victory.

1 Chron 29:11. God's is the victory.

Psalms 98:1. God has gained the victory.

We don't rec glory for any genuine victory, because victory is His and battle is the Lords. Glory not ours but His.

PP. Def of just by faith by EW: "What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. {Faith I Live By p.111}

Illust: Bib story - David talks to Goliath.

1 Sam 17:47 – Read it. "Then all the assembly shall know...not by spear or sword, for battle is the Lord's."

PP. Victory is not something we achieve but something we receive. The old songs have faded away on the piano such as "faith is the victory" based on 1 Jn 5:4.

1 Jn 5:4. "Born of God"

We won't overcome unless we are born again.

Txt: Rom 14:23. "For whatever is not of faith is sin."

Txt: Heb 11:6. "For without faith it is impossible to please God...."

PP. So where do we get faith from?

PP. Rom 10:17. Faith from hearing the Word.

Faith and victory is by abiding in JC and us abide in Him.

John 15:4,5. Abiding in Jesus and Jesus abiding in me.

Jesus "I can do nothing of Myself but I do whatever the Father asks me to do"

"I and My Father are one."

"The Father does it all."

Rev 3:21 B. Overcome as Jesus overcame – full dependence in faith on the Father.

1 Jn 2:14. Strength from Word of God abiding in me.

Illust: Prayer for God to give me the desire to wake up and spend the first part of the day with Him.

No alarm – wait on God.

PP. Is 50:4 – “The Lord God awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned.”

Jn 16:33. I have overcome the world.

1 Cor 15:57. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory over sin through JC - text.

Receive JC victory through union with Him – key to abide in Christ.

2 Cor 12:9-10. My power is made perfect in weakness text.

Check out Rom, Gal, Jesus teachings, DA, Steps to Christ its all there.

Sin is to live in separation from God.

Rev 12:11 – overcome by blood of Lamb.

Hymn 294 “Power in the blood” – would you be free from the burden of sin, power in the blood. (Word and Prayer in faith is accepting blood of the Lamb)

Would you o evil a victory win. Quote hymn bits n pieces.

How do we get faith?

Bible, prayer and testimony.

PP. Test need to be fresh daily exp with the Lord because of His abiding in us.

Many of us exp pseudo victory – didn’t do it so we got the victory – not really the victory.

Illust: Happened to me many times, didn’t go through with something because of consequences, saved by the phone to get back and say something to my wife in spite....

Tempt 5 steps (talk on it in weeks to come but just a summary): 1.Temp, 2.consider temp, 3. consent to it that’s when we sin in mind – kill hate, lust adultery, 4. plan tempt, 5. enjoy it.

May call this a victory. Cheap synthetic victory, think we had victory over sin when we didn’t we just didn’t go through with it.

Have you struggled to gain the victory? Join the club of many.

PP. Victory in Christ by WW Prescott (dusty pioneer). Lived in 1888-90. “For a long time I tried to gain the victory over sin but I failed. I have since learned the reason. Instead of doing the part which God expects me to do and I can do and which God cannot do for me, I was trying to do God’s part which He does not expect me to do and which I cannot do and which He has promised to do for me. My part is not to win the victory but to receive the victory which has already been won for me by JC. But you will say does not the Bible talk of soldiers who are fighting, it surely does. Are we not told to strive to enter in? We surely are. What then? Only this that we are to be sure for what we are fighting and what we are to strive for.”

PP. OK Danny, so what am I to do?

PP. 1 Tim 6:12.

Fight the good fight of faith. We think that we have to fight sin and battle with it. Wrong.

Weapons not of the flesh.

Sorry new agers, or vege new agers – by trying to achieve.

We are in a war and we need to fight the good fight of faith.

But Eph 6 says it over and over again. Charles Spurgeons favourite chapter.

Eph 6:10. Be strong, old guard say be strong..... forget to read the next words, be strong in the Lord.

Active or passive. Standing war. Put on equip of right by faith for overcoming, that is our active part. That’s what we can do.

PP. Truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, Holy Spirit, Prayer, Witness. All elements of faith we are active toward.

We are passive toward enemy because God is active toward him, we cannot. Strange material for many Christians.

If we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against spirits etc, then we cannot fight them, we need to have some spirits fight them for us. Diff realm for us. Angels are ministering sp Heb 1:14; Is 59:19 (HS).

In Christain warfare we are active toward fight of faith and passive toward fight with sin. Really???

God has never asked us to fight sin and the devil but to come to Him and fight faith with faith tools Eph 6.

JC come unto me and have rest.

No plan B, that is why prayer fast, training first session, right by faith in Christ.....

Let J fight battles for you.

If we fail to do this then we battle on our own, the strong succeed and become proud and the weak struggle and become discouraged. Sinning and repenting until dog tired.

Our biggest victory is trying to get the victory over trying to get the victory, and looking to JC instead.

This is the Gospel of JC all about abiding in JC. Overcoming in Jesus.

If we are depending on J when tempt comes, we are repulsed by sin as J was when tempt comes. Because we are one with Christ.

Then we discover that is not in me, but JC gives is – its effortless. Strange for those who equate victory with lots of effort.

Illust: Sydney Morn Herald website Thurs night. Front page as pic scrolled down, and web page opened up quickly saw a woman, she was half naked it was Aust fashion week, split second view it gave me wearing a tiny bit of material. I was disgusted by it and quickly scrolled down.

In the past I would have said oh so shocking looking at what they call fashion these days, terrible, what's the world coming to, living in the last days by that time had a very good in depth look at this nude woman and sinned in my mind.

Pray in faith Ps 101:3. "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes."

Ps 119:37 – "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in your way."

Illust: Hear sermon then go home and put TV on or hire video from store or go to the movies, all the same – impossible to overcome tempt, bec not abiding in Christ.

Living in the Last Days and only victory is as Jesus overcame.

Rev 14:12. Faith of Jesus.

Key is in abiding in Jesus – that's our work of faith.

In Rev 15:3 - redeemed on the sea of glass sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Israelites: Surrounded by mountains and enemy.

Ex 14:13. Stand still..... People stood still.

Go forward. How do you stand still and go forward except on a train or bus.

PP. Stood still as far as enemy passive, active to walking through red sea. Act in terms of what God would do next – and tremendous victory that day and had song about that read it.

Illust: Jasna don't just stand there do something. But no, just stand there and do nothing – watch the Lord work for you. Fight the fight of faith, go forward in faith.

God never intended for Israel to fight the enemy. God said He would fight for them. But spent lots of time scrapping with the enemy.

At times they let go and had faith.

2 Chron 20. King Jehosaphat got word... Jeh feared, me to. Called a prayer meeting. Fight of faith instead of fight of muscle...

Send the choir to lead, how would you like to be in choir, not singing onward Xian soldiers. But Praise God..... Enemy infuriated. Not one escaped.

Passive toward enemy and active toward God said.

Written just as history lessons but sp truth for us today.

Stand still and watch the salv of the Lord.

Illust: Parable: Amazing Facts.

I am in a ring, A boxing ring.

My gloves are on and I'm ready to fight.

My tag partner is waiting outside the ring.

My eyes are cast down on the canvass which begins to shake and tremble.

I look up and to my horror my opponent is bigger than I am.

He weighs in at 500 kgs and stands 12 feet tall.

He has loose flesh about his jaw and a slanted forehead.

Ever heard of him.

But strangely I seem comforted for after all he looks a little old about 6000 years old

The bell rings and we rise. Before I take the second step toward him his 3 foot glove hits my jaw and I'm out cold.

The next round I am somewhat apprehensive. I plan a new strategy.

The same 3 foot glove and I'm out again cold. But for some strange reason I stay in there.

My partner outside the ring has an anxious look of pity on his face.

Every time I rise to fight he leans into the ring so I can tag him but I don't, after all someone once told me that He was only the son of a carpenter.

After a 1000 rounds with my 500 kg opponent I become discouraged and think to give up.

Somehow I'm not doing so well. But a bond of friendship begins to develop between me and my partner and I discover that He has fought before.

He drops a few names of His former partners, there was Able a sheep herder, a man named Enoch, a ship builder called Noah a father called Abraham and his son Isaac a woman by the name of Sarah. The list gets longer, Joseph a leader in Egypt, Moses a shepherd turned Patriarch, Samuel, David, Mary Magdalene, a man named Paul. The list begins to look like a list I've read somewhere.

The next time I go to the battle I notice my tag partner more anxious to enter in.

As we spend time together our relationship gets closer. At one point my partner even crawls into the ring with me, He wants to be closer to me.

Then one day as my opponent full of confidence towers over me my heart fails. I want out. I'm tired of fighting. Just as I am about to be clobbered for the 2000 th time I reach out and tag my partner.

In a flash he's in the ring. Through my tired eyes I notice that He enters the ring with both hands stretched into the air, the sign of victory and to my amazement the 500 kg bully is running out of the ring overcome with fear. The battle is over.

My partner gives me the victory and soon I discover that as long as I invite Him into the ring to fight the battle for me on my behalf the enemy is totally defeated. My partner and I now spend a lot of time together. I have now found out that he is no longer only a superb victor, but He is a problem solver, a comforter, teacher, and a guide."

JC won the victory on wooden cross, good for everyone every time every day.

Prayer.