

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #26 — VICTORY OVER SATAN AND SIN

That brings us to our next thought. With God's help, then, we can win the victory over sin and over death, stressing, with God's help. We can win the victory over sin and over death. Let's look at several passages that tell us that. 1 John chapter 5, verse 4 and verse 5. 1 John 5, verse 4 and 5. "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

God talks about whatever, or whoever, is born of Him, born anew, become a Christian, a child of God, through their obedience to the gospel. He talks about them, and that the fact that He does, or we do good, we overcome the world. We can be victorious. And what is the victory that overcomes the world? Our faith. If we believe in a living, active, obedient way, we are going to be victorious. We are going to win the victory. God promises it, and God never lies. So we can depend on this promise.

Also, in 1 John in the fourth chapter, and verse 4. 1 John 4, verse 4. "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." God talking to Christians, talking to you and me, says, "You are My little children, and you have overcome them." That is, those who would lead you astray. Why? Because "he who is in you, is greater than he who is in the world." Who is it that is in the world? Satan — described in the Scriptures as the prince of this world. But the Christian has God in him. We have God in us. And God is more powerful than Satan. So we can know that through our faith, through our living, active, obedient faith, and through God's help, we can win the victory. We can be greater than Satan. And we thank God and praise Him, that He has made that possible. Yes, we face a very powerful enemy, but we can use the whole armor of God, exercising our faith, and we can defeat Satan.

And just think, another wonderful thought that fills our hearts and minds is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 57. 1 Corinthians 15, verse 57. "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Thank you, God! Thank you because you give us the victory. Victory over what? In this context of 1 Corinthians 15, he's talking about the Christian's victory over sin, over death, over the grave. And that victory is possible through our Lord Jesus Christ. How? Because He came and lived the sinless life. And he died the cursed death of the cross. He shed His precious blood, that we can have the forgiveness of our sins. And He arose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. And He is in heaven today at the right hand of God, representing the children of God and interceding for us. That's how we have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then in the book of Romans, in the eighth chapter, verses 35-39. Romans 8, verses 35-39. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are

killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Here, God through Paul, talks about many of the enemies of Christianity, things that are difficult, trials, suffering, persecution, lack of food, all of these things. God says, "Will those things separate us from Christ?" His answer: "No." We are more than conquerors. We are over-conquerors. We conquer abundantly. How? Through Him who loved us. Through Jesus, we win the victory. And he says, no other created being can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. Satan can't do it. Our enemies can't do it. Our friends can't do it. Only you or only me, can separate ourselves from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.

We can win the victory. And we're thankful to God that we can. Through our living, active obedient faith, by taking the whole armor of God and using it to fight the spiritual battle that we're engaged in if we're members of the Lord's army. And we pray that each one of us will use this material, these Scriptures to be better in our fight against Satan, and his forces, against sin and unrighteousness in our life, in the lives of others. And that we may do it for the praise and honor and glory of the Father and His Son, Who died to make it possible for us to win that victory.

TRANSITION

We're studying in our second lesson, we're talking about Man's problem with sin, and God's solution, His abundant love, as seen in His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ. And this last portion of this lesson, we've been studying about man's battle against sin, that we do have to struggle against Satan and against his forces. But that God has not left us defenseless, Here. He's given us the tools, the armor, to protect ourselves and defend ourselves, and to win the victory over Satan and over sin. We do that by using the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and that armor, to protect us, and winning the victory through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Now, let's continue on along the thought of this battle that we have, and the promise of God that we can be victorious through our faith. And look at the next point in our study, and that is, after our battle, God has promised that there is much in store for us, if we have been victorious, if we remain faithful to the Lord. Let's look at several passages of Scripture that tell us that after our battle, there is much in store for us if we remain faithful to the Lord.

Let's look first of all in the last book of the New Testament, the book of Revelation, chapter 2, verse 10. Revelation 2, verse 10. "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." Now God, through his Son Jesus, is trying to encourage us, to exhort us, not to be afraid. Yes, we're going to be involved in this battle, and Satan is going to test us throughout our life. There are going to be some things that are difficult, and he's going to throw temptations in our way. He talked about how those in the first century, even were thrown into prison. And

some lost their life, because they were faithful to God, and would not yield or give in to Satan. But notice at the end of the verse. Jesus says, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." So if we remain faithful, that is, we obey God, to the best of our ability. "Unto death" means literally, "up to the point of death, up to the point of willing, being willing to die for Christ." And certainly it means until the time that we die. If we remain faithful, willing to die for the Lord, until our death, then what? Jesus said, "I will give you the crown of life." The victor's crown, the winner's crown, and it's a crown of life of eternal life. So if we remain faithful to the Lord, up to the point of our death on this earth, we can look forward to an eternal life in Heaven, and the victory, the victory that we have over sin and death, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

Another passage that gives us abundant hope is found in 2 Timothy, chapter 4, verses 6-8. 2 Timothy 4, verses 6-8. Of course, God using the apostle Paul towards the end of his life, he was in prison when he wrote this epistle. Notice how he describes his life. "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." What a beautiful end to the life of the apostle Paul. He spoke about how he was already being offered up as a drink offering. He pictured his life as a sacrifice to the Lord, willing to die for Jesus, Who died for him, and for us. And that's the way God wants us to be.

He says, for example, in Romans 12, that we ought to give our bodies a living sacrifice. That's what Paul was talking about here. He had made his life, a drink offering. And he knew that the time of his departure was at hand. That is, his departure from this life. He knew that he was not going to live on this earth much longer. Notice what he said in verse 7. He said, "I have fought the good fight." What is that? That's the good fight of faith that he talks about in Timothy. That's the good spiritual warfare against Satan and his forces, which we've been studying in the last class, and this one. He knew that he had been a courageous warrior for the Lord Jesus Christ. And he said, "I have finished the race." Christianity is often pictured as a race. An endurance race, one that takes great perseverance, sticking with that difficult battle. And disciplining our minds and our bodies, and bringing them under control, and pushing ourselves toward the finish line. Paul could say at the end of his life, "I have finished the race."

And then he said, "I've kept the faith." As we've seen, the faith is the gospel, as we see in passages like Acts chapter 6, verse 7, and Philippians, chapter 1, verse 27. So what's Paul saying? "I've lived my life, to the best of my human ability, by the standard of the gospel of Christ." He had worked diligently to live obediently to the faith of Jesus Christ.

So, he had fought the good fight. He had finished the race. He had kept the faith. What did he see in store for him at the end of his life, at the end of the race? A crown of righteousness. Again, the winner's crown, the one reserved for the ones who would finish the race, the crown of righteousness. And of course, righteousness refers to our being righteous before God, our being justified, declared innocent. Because Paul lived in accordance with the Word of God, and He trusted in God's love, and His mercy and His grace, he could look forward to that crown, being crowned victorious over life and over death. And that crown would be given to him by Jesus, whom he loved so dearly.

But notice, that promise was not just reserved for the Apostle Paul. He said, “Not only to me, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.” Have loved the appearing of the Christ on this earth, to live for us, to reveal His will to us, to suffer and to bleed and to die, to be raised from the dead. And His second appearing, when He'll come again, and receive His church, and offer that kingdom up to the Father, and there we'll ever be with the Lord in the air. The words of 1 Corinthians chapter 15, and 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verse 17. So not only Paul, but each person can look forward to a crown of righteousness. What do we need to do? We need to finish the race. We need to keep the faith. We need to fight the good fight of faith.

We need to win the spiritual battle with the tools that God has given to us. His whole armor, including the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. And then in the book of Matthew, the 25th chapter, verse 21. Matthew 25, verse 21. “His lord said to him, ‘Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ Won't those be wonderful words to hear? “Well done good and faithful servant.” Notice those words, “Well done.” That is someone who has done well, done the good works of God. And notice: “faithful servant,” one who was dependable, one upon whom God could depend to do His will. And a servant, one who served the Lord and served his fellow man, by doing the will of God. Those will be wonderful words to hear. And he says, “Enter into the joy of your Lord.” Think of that: the joy that God has prepared for all those who will prepare to be in heaven for eternity. The joy of being there worshiping and praising God, where there is no sin, no sickness, no sorrow, no darkness, none of the things that are associated with this world. “Well done good and faithful servant.”

So, as we work for the Lord and strive to do His will, to the best of our ability, and struggle against sin, and against Satan and against his forces, we can always keep in our mind: If we remain faithful unto death, we fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith, then we can look forward to victory. We can look forward to great things in that realm that we call heaven, revealed so beautifully to us in the Word of God. So yes, we have a struggle against sin, but we can win the victory. And when we win the victory, there is a wonderful life of eternity ahead of us, in the joys of heaven.