

## FUNDAMENTALS OF FAITH

### Victory In These Hostile Times

- I. **We live in a hostile, cursed-filled, death filled environment-1Jn5:4-For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes (Get the victory) the world (all things earthly) even our faith; 5 Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God**
- A. There are things in this life to overcome-This isn't a, harm-free, danger-free, enemy free environment that we live in
  - B. Our adversary is here to steal, kill and destroy-1Pt5:8-Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary (opponent, enemy) the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour (swallow up, destroy); Jn10:10
  - C. The force of death is here working to weaken, decay, destroy-Rm5:12-By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin
  - D. The curse is here-The curse is everything death produces-**Is24:6-Therefore hath the curse devoured (destroyed) the earth**
  - E. People ask the question why does this happen, why did that happen-A big part of the answer has to do with the environment that we live in and in this environment if you're not hooked to a supernatural source for provision and protection you are susceptible to the hostility of this environment
- II. **Even though we live in this hostile environment God didn't create us to live defeated lives in this Earth-1Jn5:4-Whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world; 1Jn4:3-4**
- A. God created you to live in victory in spite of this environment-2Co2:14-Now thanks be unto God, which **always** (at all times) causes us to triumph in Christ; Rm8:35-Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword 37 Nay **in all these things** we are more than conquerors through him who loved us
  - B. You are not exempt from trials, challenges, attacks, but you are exempt from being defeated by them
    - 1. To preach no challenges contrary to the Word-Jn16:33-These things I have spoke unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation (pressure, trouble, distress, affliction): but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world
      - a. Having a challenge doesn't mean something's wrong with you-There are things we can avoid by listening to the Lord, but no matter how good you listen you'll not avoid everything; Jesus had problems perfectly listened
    - 2. To not preach anything less than victory over every challenge is to preach contrary to the Word-We don't preach struggle, weakness, defeat because to preach the word we must preach victory-Ps34:17,19-The righteous cry (proclaim, speak loudly) and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles (adversity, distress) 19 Many are the afflictions (distress, adversity) of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all
      - a. Our deliverance isn't just Heavenly-Many say when you die you'll be delivered but now you'll struggle-2Tm3:11,4:17
    - 3. Paul didn't live a defeated existence or preach a defeated gospel-Don't project a weak, defeated existence onto Him-2Tm3:11-Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch and Iconium at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me; 2Tm4:17-The Lord stood with me and strengthened me...I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom; 2Co4:8-We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Ph4:13
  - C. Who does it help you being defeated, weak, broken, struggling?
    - 1. It compromises your ability to minister to others-Ac20:35-I have showed you all things how that so laboring you ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said it is more blessed to give than to receive
    - 2. It doesn't minister to God-It does not bless the shepherd to see his sheep struggling-Ps35:27
- III. **How are you going to live in this hostile environment and overcome and live in victory? Faith is our victory**
- A. This environment is not getting less hostile-2Tm3:1-In the last days perilous (dangerous, difficult, fierce) times shall come-Mt24:3-7
    - 1. This idea that we are going to get the majority of people saved and turn this Earth into Heaven is not scriptural-The earth will be turned into a glorious place again, but that'll be the new earth when the enemy is removed-2Pt3:12-13
    - 2. What is our answer to this growing hostile environment? Is there an answer?-Wed October 9, 2019-Week Of Increase-The Lord said, "We are coming into a time where it is imperative that my people know how to live by faith
  - B. Faith gives me the ability to live in a hostile environment but not be touched by it-Jer17:5-Cursed be the man that trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good comes; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited 7 Blessed is the man that trust in the Lord whose hope is in the Lord 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf will be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, nether shall cease from yielding fruit

1. Faith in the wrong direction leads to destruction-Clearly it matters what you believe and where your faith is
  2. This tree here flourishing in a hostile environment-To a tree heat and drought is a hostile environment
  3. Faith hooks me to and activated the blessing in my life-The blessing is supernatural power to prosper in any environment-**Pr10:22**-*The blessing of the Lord makes rich and adds no sorrow with it*
  4. Faith hooks me to a supernatural source and gives me the ability to get supernatural results in this natural world-A tree producing in a year of drought is beyond natural law, that's above natural law and it's not naturally explainable
- C. It's possible to live in the world and be kept from the evil here-It's not possible to never encounter evil-**Jn17:15**-*I pray not that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep (guard, fortress) them from the evil (hurtful, bad)*
1. Get me out of here shouldn't be our prayer because it wasn't Jesus' prayer for us-We were made for this
  2. The enemy may try to hurt you, but he won't hurt you-**Lk10:19**-*I give you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you*

#### IV. NOTES

- A. Another part of the answer is that God is not completely controlling everything that happens here-The majority of the planet is lying under the power of the evil one, yielding to him and giving him place to steal, kill and destroy-**2Cor4:4**-*Satan is the god of this world; 1Jn5:19-AC*-The whole world is under the power of the evil one
1. Before Satan was here there was no evil and when he's removed in the future there'll be no evil-Don't blame God
- B. Mt7:14-Few will find it in terms of the whole number
- C. *2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection (hard hearted) trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded (inflated with pride), lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*
- D. In preaching victory people accuse us of preaching that if you live by faith you'll never have a challenge, trial, problem or attack
- E. *The disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*
- F. *Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*