

The Assured Life of Victory – Elder David – 1/20/13

Romans 8: The Life of Victory

Passages in 2 Corinthians:

- 3:7-18 (transformation into the image of Christ)
- 4:7-18 (persecuted but not abandoned, momentary afflictions for eternal glory),
- 5:9 (aiming to please God) ,
- 11:22-33 (Paul's trials),
- 12:7-10 (our weakness is God' strength)

1. **Victory does not come without a conflict**

- a. To achieve a victory means there must be a conflict, a fight, a battle, a struggle
 - i. Have you ever been to a competition where there was no struggle, the other team does not even show up – that is more a forfeit than a victory. To have victory means there is a conflict and we must recognize that there is a conflict.
- b. To achieve victory is work/there is a cost to victory
 - i. Look at the time put in by athletes
 - ii. Look at the fierceness of the competitions

2. **What is our victory (Romans 8):**

- a. That we have the assurance of salvation – Romans 8:1
- b. Nothing can separate us from the love of God – Romans 8:37-39
- c. To live lives that are pleasing to God
 - i. 2 Corinthians 5:9 – we must have the aim to be well pleasing to God
 - ii. Romans 8:8 – We cannot please God living in the flesh
 - iii. Romans 8:28 – we are walking according His purpose & being conformed into His image!
 1. We've got to have a relationship with God for this to happen!

3. **God allows us to go through trials so He can deliver us, thereby strengthening our faith and equipping us for more victory.**

- a. Paul's trials in **2 Corinthians 11:22-33** ²² *Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.* ²³ *Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.* ²⁴ *From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.* ²⁵ *Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;* ²⁶ *in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;* ²⁷ *in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—* ²⁸ *besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.* ²⁹ *Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?* ³⁰ *If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.* ³¹ *The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.* ³² *In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;* ³³ *but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.*

- b. These in fact are credentials, Paul boasts of them of how God has delivered Him and worked in His weakness.
- c. Paul's thorn in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**: ⁷ *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.* ⁸ *Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.* ⁹ *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* ¹⁰ *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*
- d. In our weakness He is strong

4. We have an assured victory through Christ

- a. 2 Corinthians 4:7-15: ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.
 - i. Hard pressed but not crushed
 - ii. Perplexed but do not despair
 - iii. Persecuted but not abandoned
 - iv. Struck down but not destroyed
- b. What is not seen > what is seen
 - i. We have the assurance of victory even when it is not seen
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - 2. Romans 8:24,25
- c. This assured victory is sealed by the Holy Spirit transforming us more into the image of Christ – Romans 8
- d. Our victory is in Christ
- e. To please God is the victory! Which is to be more in the image of Christ!
 - i. Our victory is not from just going to church
 - ii. Our victory is not from being a preacher
 - iii. It's not from what we do, but from what Christ did and our following and imitating our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

5. Through trials we sharpen the use of the weapons of spiritual warfare

- a. Ephesians 6
- b. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

6. There is an exchange/transformation through Grace that leads us to victory

- a. Exchange Sin for Righteousness - Romans 8:3-4
- b. Exchange the flesh for The Spirit – Romans 8:1, Romans 8:9
- c. Exchange self-image for Christ's image – Romans 8:29-30
- d. Exchange old ways for The New Way -- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- e. Exchange death for Life – 2 Corinthians 4:10-11
- f. Exchange weakness for strength – 2 Corinthian 12:10