

Victory over Sin

Dear Friends,

Sin is any thought, word or deed that falls short of God's standard of perfection and holiness. Sin is falling short of the mark or target God has for us. Where do you go when you find yourself lost in an ocean of sin? What do you do? How do you find peace, purpose and power in the culture of sin? Paul gives us this answer in Phil. 3:10 when he says, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection" (Phil. 3:10). Paul knew that in Christ's resurrection he would find the victory over sin. This victory is so complete that the one healed will find peace, power and purpose far beyond anything he or she would imagine.

I don't know what I would do without the daily peace that Jesus provides. He "Made peace through the blood of His cross" (Col. 1:20).

Without the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness He provides there is no way I could experience any type of victory over sin in my life. As I Corinthians 15:5 says, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Envision living a life where constant anxiety is not gnawing at you. Anxiety has a way of choking all the joy of living out of us. It piles worry upon worry until we are tempted to become hard and cold. The uncertainty of the future bombards us with doubt after doubt as insecurity wraps its arms around until we can't see any way out of the pits of hopelessness. That's why our very survival depends upon us living in the reality of the victory of the resurrection. It's a fact Christ is risen. Thank God, "For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:13-14).

The fact that Christ is risen changes everything. It means I am not alone when it comes to facing my problems. The reality of His presence enables me to obey Paul's command and rejoice in the Lord. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near" Phil.1:4. This joy is possible because I know the good news that Christ is risen.

Such a joy is needed particularly in times like this. These are trying times...times spoken of in the Scriptures that would take place prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, turmoil in the Middle East, and world wide economic crisis are just part of the list of current events that Scriptures speaks of which are reported daily in the evening news. How critical it is that we understand the victory resulting from Jesus blood being shed on the cross and His forgiveness of sins can mean in our daily lives.

To talk about blood is not a very pleasant subject. Yet in Lev. 17:11 we read, "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life." What this verse is referring to is that God is a holy God, and because of our sin the only way those in the Old Testament could experience atonement, or at one-ness, with Him was through the shedding of the blood of a lamb, or bull.

In Jesus, “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us” (Eph. 1:7, 8).

A miracle unfolds in the New Testament. Jesus Christ the Son of God comes on the scene and we are told in Eph 2:13 that, “now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”

Then in I Peter 1:18-20 we read, “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

God is a Holy God who can have no part with sin. So it took Jesus who was without sin to shed His blood on the cross so we could be set free from our sins.

Timothy G. Walton explains sin this way. “Why is sin sinful, not just a little weakness? To refer to sin means ‘to miss the mark,’ implying that there is a mark or target that has been missed, so the word sin itself implies a standard. If a highway patrolman stops you for speeding, it implies that the official government has a set speed limit, and you violated it. Similarly, the moral standard for all humanity comes right out of the holy character of God. His glory, his holiness, is the standard we all fall short of.”

To help us grasp how significant this victory that Jesus Christ provides over sin is, let me list blessings that come to the believer through the blood of Christ:

1. Nearness to God (Ephesians 2:13)
2. Freedom from sin (Revelation 1:5)
3. Remission of sins (Matthew 26:28)
4. Reconciliation (Colossians 1:20)
5. Justification (Romans 5:9)
6. Sanctification (Hebrews 13:12)
7. Cleansing (I John 1:7)
8. Communion with God and Christ (I Corinthians 10:16)
9. Victory over the world, the devil and the flesh (Revelation 12:11)
10. God’s purchased possession (Acts 20:28)

The good news is that sin has been wiped out, forgiven and defeated through the shed blood of Jesus. Christ is risen and, as a result, you and I can now live in the freedom He provides as we allow His grace to spell sin backwards in our lives by declaring “Now I Surrender to you Jesus and receive you as my Lord and Savior.”

Roman 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Such a walk of faith and the peace that God provides frequently puts us in direct conflict with the power brokers of this world.

The prophets of the Scriptures boldly proclaimed that there is no peace of the wicked (Is.57:21; 59:8; Jer. 6:14; 8:11; Ez.13:10, 16). Yet even in the midst of the conflict, Isaiah would proclaim, “You (God) will keep in perfect peace him (and her) whose mind is steadfast because he (and she) trusts in you.” (Is.26:3)

As the wolves in sheep's clothing try to fight all attempts to raise the minimum wage and close the homeless shelters, we must stand steadfast in behalf of those in need. As we fight the good fight of faith in behalf of the downtrodden, we can remain in the peace of God as we heed Paul's instructions found in Phil 4:8. "Finally whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable –if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things."

The noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable things I must think about, as I take a stand for justice, must be those poor, homeless, hurting and elderly people that Jesus said as "often as you have done it to the least even so you have done it unto Me" (Matt 25:40).

Being on the front lines in service unto the Lord often means going without a lot of the "creature comforts" that those who are not serving Him have. That is why experiencing the freedom Paul speaks of in Phil 4:11-13 is so essential. "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

The secret to victory can be found in I John 5:45, "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." The key to contentment is the absolute assurance that Jesus has forgiven us and He provides us everything we need to be victorious. (1 Cor.15:57, 1 John 5:4) As Phil 4:13 indicates this ability to live victoriously in spite of the circumstances comes from Christ's power flowing in us and through us. In spite of the powers of the system, we can victoriously declare in word and deed, "I can do everything through Him (Jesus) who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13)

But what about all these bills and other needs? Paul answers, "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Phil.4:19).

In order to have this kind of assurance, He must be your God as Paul shows with his words "my God."

Knowing God in such a personal way through Jesus Christ grants the inner assurance that He has given us victory over sin and will meet all our needs in Christ Jesus" Only in union with the victorious Christ can we experience God's provision. "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

During the season of Lent you may ask "Whatever became of sin?" Easter declares sin has been wiped out, forgiven and defeated through the shed blood of Jesus. Christ is risen and, as a result, you and I can now live in the victory He provides as we allow His grace to spell sin backwards in our lives by declaring "Now I Surrender to you Jesus and receive you as my Lord and Savior."

Perhaps at this time you know about Jesus, His shed blood and His resurrection. The fact is, that is not enough. In order to experience victory both now and for all eternity, we must be cured of the disease of sin by knowing Him personally in the midst of our daily trials and tribulations. Jesus is not asking us to figure out how He will forgive our sins and solve the problem, but to accept the fact that He will has granted us victory over sin in our lives beyond what we can even ask or think.

Charles Stanley says, "Bringing our old self to the cross and crucifying its desires may be painful, confusing, or lonely, at times, but newness of life waits on the other side. God doesn't intend for you to stay at the cross; He desires for you to be raised a new creature empowered by the Holy Spirit – and to continually put to death the sin patterns to which the flesh is prone."

That's why prayer is so important. It causes us to shift our attention from the problem to the Living God who desires to be our problem solver. Jesus is the problem solver whose shed blood gives us victory over sin. That is why Revelations 12:11 says, "They conquered him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony."

As you apply by faith to the door post of your life, (your heart and mind and spirit), the power through the blood of Christ and His resurrection you will experience victory over sin, death and the devil. Even in the midst of suffering Paul could declare, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Phil. 3:10, 11).

What an unspeakable privilege we now have, because Christ is Risen. What a privilege it is to come to know God as our loving heavenly Father and pray to Him daily. How can we afford to let another day pass without desiring to know God who sent Jesus to be a cure for our sins (John 3:16)? Those who seek Him now will be able, as they trust in Christ to be set free from sin. What a great God He is!


As children of the resurrection born through the shed blood of Jesus Christ who cures us from the cancer of sin, let us now go forth with the healing given to us. For indeed, "we are more than conquerors through Him (Christ Jesus) who loves us" (Romans 10:37).

Now we are left with the decision – are we going to give into the doubt anxiety and hopelessness that the circumstances of the moment are trying to thrust upon us, or are we going to believe the Scriptures and put our faith in the Living God and be more than conquerors?

The promise remains, "And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil.4:7) We each know how some during the past few weeks have refused to accept this peace and have given up and left the work of the Lord. What about you? Are you going to cast all your anxiety on Him knowing He cares for you," or are you going to try to figure out a way out and leave all that He has called you to do?

Let us take God at His word when He says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God" (Phil.4:6). Now let's experience the victory that Jesus gives us over sin, death, and devil by committing our lives to Him in every way. Let's tell Him "Almighty God, I come to you in the name of Jesus who gives me victory over sin. Now I surrender my life to you, asking you to forgive me of my sins. I do want to give my life to you Jesus and declare I want to serve you both now and for all eternity." Do it now. Surrender your life to Jesus and experience the victory He gives you over sin.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Rice". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Larry Rice