

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)

Sin Is Slavery – Jesus Wants Us Free

One of the metaphors in scripture about sin is “slavery”. The idea that we are enslaved to sin and our fallen nature is taught by Jesus in *John 6:34*, “*Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin'*” and in several of the epistles; especially in Romans 6:16, “*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*”

We Were Dead In Sin – Jesus Wants Us Alive In Him

The bible teaches us that we were once dead in our sins and were under the dominion of darkness and the sway of the prince of the ruler of the air (Satan) look at *Ephesians 2:1-2*, “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*”

The Law Does Not Make Us Righteous – Jesus Does

Scripture also tells us that we were under the law and therefore all of us were guilty before God because of our trespasses and sin. As law breakers we were subject to judgment and the penalty of death, eternally separated from God. Paul describes this in *Romans 3:21-24*, “*But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*”

The Good News – Freedom And Victory

Our Gospel is “good news”. Because of Jesus all of us have the gift of forgiveness of sins, eternal life; we are reconciled to God; we have been redeemed; we are justified and sanctified and have become NEW CREATIONS in Christ Jesus.. This is all positional – it has been accomplished by no effort on our part. It is a free gift of God to all who believe and accept for themselves (personally) what God has done for them.

That being said, we do have a part. God expects us to allow Him to live in us and change us from the inside by His Holy Spirit. We are to put off the “old man” and call to death our sinful nature. This too is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, but it involves our will. We will only walk in VICTORY over our sinful nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. This does take effort, discipline, hard work and cooperation. The Lord would have us live free of our old sinful nature and for us to walk victoriously over the “world, the flesh and the devil.”

God’s Provision For Living Victoriously – The Holy Spirit

Living victoriously is for every area of your life. The Lord intends for us to have victory in our physical behavior, in our emotions and attitudes and lastly in our spiritual lives. When Paul wrote to the church at Galatia he talked about having victory over the sins of the flesh by walking in the “Spirit”, *Galatians 5:16-21* says,

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

As you read through this list representing the fallen nature (the flesh) you will see bodily sins (immorality, debauchery), you will see sins in the heart (ambition, envy) and you will see sins in the spirit (witchcraft, idolatry). Jesus tells us we can overcome all of this by walking in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Not Perfect, But Purposeful –

Although we have access to the Holy Spirit this does not mean we will be perfect and never sin again. The fact is we will constantly face temptation and occasionally we will stumble and fall. It is not perfection that is required and the Lord knows our frailty and that we are truly “dust”. All of us can relate to Paul as he writes in *Romans 7:19*, “*For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*”

There are times we know the right thing to do, but we do not do it. This reality is part of our fallen condition. Thank the Lord, we have provision in *I John 1:8-9*, “*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” When we do stumble and fall, we can confess our sins and receive full forgiveness and restoration.

Living Victoriously – This Training Manual

This training manual is designed to teach you How to Live Victoriously. It will cover the concepts of crucifying the flesh; renouncing the devil; renewing your mind; and fighting good fight. It will help you understand all that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. He not only died for our sins and defeated Satan, but He has given to us power and authority to walk in newness of life.

Another reason this is important is simply this: we are to look different from the world. Our language, our behavior, our spending, our service, our entertainment, our social activities, our viewing, our marriages, our work ethic, our moral standards are all to be exemplary and noticeable to those around us. Victorious Living is noticed and it is attractive. It also gives you a very powerful witness and testimony.

May the Lord bless you in this study.

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