

Gospel POWER



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

Volume VIII

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No. 16

The Victory of Faith

Ken Weliever

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith" (1 John 5:4).

Do you wear Nike shoes? Seen a Nike commercial with the slogan, "Just Do It"? Do you know what Nike means? It's a Bible word!

In Greek mythology, Nike was the imaginary goddess of victory, who presided over all military and athletic contests. The Greek word "nike" (nee'kay) is the word for victory in 1 John 5:4.

Those born of God will face conflicts, controversies, and confrontations. We can either be conquered or we can be the conqueror. The Greeks believed in an illusion. But because we are born of God, believe in the real God, and belong to the true God, we have the real resources to be victorious in running our race to eternity. Consider these three applications.

Victory over Temptation. The same writer warned about the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). Many a Christian has fallen prey to these foes. But through our growing faith in the revealed Faith of Christ, we can achieve victory. Sometimes our surrender to temptation is excused with the refrain, "I am only human." True. But through faith, God has given us super human resources

to fight and find victory. God has promised a means of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). You can win the battle with temptation. Just do it!

Victory over the "thorns of the flesh." Paul spoke of his struggle with the "thorn" in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. We're not told the nature of his thorn, but it was hurting Paul. It was something Satan used to impede his progress, to hamper his effectiveness and frustrate his faithfulness. But Paul prayed. God didn't remove the thorn. But through God's grace and Paul's faith, he found the strength to subdue the troubling thorn. Through grace and faith, we too, can be victorious over the thorns of sickness, pain, personal problems and vexing circumstances. You can win the battle with the "thorns of the flesh." Just do it!

Victory over discouragement. Discouragement can sap the strength out of us. It can deplete our energies, exhaust us physically, drain us mentally and weaken us spiritually. Discouragement is a device of the Devil. It undermines the love in our homes, cripples the work of the church and enfeebles our faithfulness. Yet, we can muster the courage to overcome this fatal feeling. Through our faith in Christ, we can see a brighter tomorrow and know that one day all of our troubles and trials will pale into insignificance when we see Jesus.

You can win the battle over discouragement. Just do it!

My Christian friend, will you be vanquished or victorious? The conquered or the conqueror? The choice is yours. The next time you put on your Nike shoes, remember that “nike” means victory. Know that as a Christian you can experience the victory of faith through Jesus. And believe (that with God’s help) you can just do it (Philippians 4:13)!

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 26.



Are You A Wise Man?

John M. Duvall

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus used a parable to illustrate the importance of listening to His word. Here is the parable:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27, NKJV).

The aforementioned parable is quite simple. The person who listens to Jesus and obeys His teachings is equated with a wise man. However, the person who hears the teachings of Jesus and does not follow them is equated with a foolish man. So, I ask you this one simple question, “Are you a wise man or a foolish man?” Do you hear and obey Jesus Christ or do you disobey His teachings?

In order to be the wise man, you need to understand what are the teachings of Jesus so that you will know to what you are to listen and

obey. To help in furthering your understanding, give consideration to the following statements made by Jesus to His apostles. Jesus said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26) Please observe that Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles “all things” and that He would bring to their remembrance “all things . . . whatsoever I have said unto you.” To what was Jesus referring when He said “all things . . . whatsoever I have said unto you”? The answer to this question is quite simple. Jesus was referring to the teachings that He had taught His apostles while they were with Him. If you want access to the teachings of Jesus, then study the four gospels, which record His life and His teachings. If you will study the epistles, such as Romans, then you will have access to the teachings of Jesus as taught by the writers inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Consider another passage which shows that you should listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20). Just as we saw in John 14:26, the apostles were instructed to teach those who were baptized to “observe all things that” Jesus had commanded.

There are other passages which point to the importance of listening to the teachings of Jesus. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23). Jesus also said, “He who hears you hears Me, he

who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.” (Luke 10:16) And then again, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48).

As is quite clear from the words of Jesus, it is truly the wise man who listens to the teachings and commands of Jesus. This wise man will obey whatsoever Jesus has taught. Consider just a handful of examples of the teachings of Jesus by which we are to abide.

“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28).

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,” (Matthew 5:44).

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12).

“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” (Matthew 19:9).

Do not reject the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. If you want to spend eternity with God in Heaven, then be the wise man and follow after Jesus Christ.

~via **TruthFactor**, Lawton Oklahoma.

Letter From Pressnells

After serving God for nearly eight with the good saints of the Anderson church, the Pressnells’ have concluded that we can be of greater spiritual service to God by joining ourselves with a faithful group of Christians in the community in which we now live. This decision has been made after much prayer and thought. We love the church at Anderson; we love each member of the group. We exhort you to be faithful in your service to God and to each other. We trust that the work will continue to prosper and that God will bless your efforts. You have good leadership, good preaching, you have good Bible classes. You can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth you. “And now brethren, we commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” We love you!

Monroe and Yvonne Pressnell

Note: It is with sadness that we learn of Monroe and Yvonne’s decision to leave. However, I understand the reason for going to Athens with many family and long standing friends there. We appreciate the way in which Monroe and Yvonne have contributed to the work here at Anderson. We appreciate the work Monroe has done for the past nearly four years in serving as one of our overseers. We will surely miss them both as they leave, but we know they will be an asset wherever they go. We look forward to seeing on occasion and look to the hope we have of one day being together in the land where there are no separations.

(D.A.C.)

Gospel Meeting

June 17-22

Mark White, Speaker

Anderson church of Christ
Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Left Behind?



There are questions about life after death and there is much speculation as to what will occur. On April 1st and 8th two lessons were presented on *“Left Behind: What’s It All About?”* and *“Death and The Second Coming of Christ”*. If you would like a copy of these tapes we will be glad to send them to you. Just call, write or e-mail your name and address to us. We will be glad to send them to you.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word* is at home and is to return to the doctor this Tuesday ... **Onzell Tucker** receive good reports from the doctors this past week. It was good to have Onzell back at services last Sunday...**Larry and Jason White** were both not feeling well and not able to be at services Wednesday night...**Mary Best** returned to doctor in Lawerenceburg on Thursday evening about her thyroid problem...**Kerry Cox's father, Travis Lowman**, learn this past week that he has a ruptured disk in his back and will undergo therapy ...**Glenda Phillips mother, Ula Pearl Green**, is to have surgery on her back this Thursday in Florence... Remember **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia...**Helen Trousdale and Gurtie Snoddy's niece, Martha Henson**, who is battling cancer ..**Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton**, continues treatments for her cancer... **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, who is continuing her treatments for her cancer ...Also remember **Mattie Blanche Word** who continues at home and not able to be out ...Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home...**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ...Remember **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Study God's Word With Us.

Gospel Power

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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