

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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Give Voice To Victory

BY BECKY COMBEE

All my life I heard it said, "Good, better, best. Never let it rest until the good is better and the better is best." Profound, isn't it? Yet, this old saying has one flaw. It doesn't mention recovery from overwhelming disappointment and loss. Every day starts with good and grows stronger until "better is best." Oh, that this were so. But, it is not! Sometimes good has to be achieved, and better is slow to arrive.

Everyone wants life to be easy, without challenges, a bed of roses, some might say. Yet, even roses have thorns. We cannot expect life to be without challenges. **We can however, walk with God through the dilemma**, stand in His strength, loudly declaring the glorious victory He has promised.

The apostle Paul writes that we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS. He declares that **God's magnificent love walks with us through every distress**.¹ Certainly, if God is by our side, we cannot be destroyed. He will enable us to conquer every difficulty.

The apostle Paul gives another wonderful Word from the Lord in his second letter to the church at Corinth. Here, he opens his heart to us saying, "I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Tiltus my brother." Quickly, he moves beyond this concern, declaring that God ALWAYS CAUSETH US TO TRIUMPH.² Triumph! What a great word for a troubled heart. Similarly, the apostle John writes that we will OVERCOME and walk in VICTORY.³

Many times, however, we do not feel victorious. We do not expect to triumph nor do we anticipate

True Repentance

BY SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

*When He arrives, He will **uncover** the sins of the world, **expose** unbelief as sin, and allow all to **see their sins** in the light of righteousness for the first time. (Jn 16:8 VOICE)*

*And when He has come, He will **convict** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (NKJV)*

We wear our feelings on our sleeve and dare anyone to bump up against us. Instead of bandaging our wounded pride, we draw a target around it and wait for the first person to draw aim. Everything goes. Anything anyone wants to be, do, think, or anyway they want to behave is acceptable. We are, after all, "born this way."

When did sin stop being sin? When did the "works of the flesh," adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and etcetera become passé?¹ The Bible says the Word of God stands forever, but clearly, in the eyes of many, the things spoken in the Word are outdated.² We avoid the subject of hell, not wanting to offend anyone. But the Truth is "no man" will see Father God without first accepting Jesus as Lord. He is the ONLY way to heaven and part of that process is repentance.³

*So produce fruit that is consistent with repentance [demonstrating **new behavior** that proves a **change of heart**, and a **conscious decision** to turn away from sin]⁴*

(Continued from "Give Voice To Victory")

having any overcoming power. During times like that, we often make a critical mistake. We begin to talk of our difficulty and the possibility of things ending in failure. If someone mentions our dilemma, we are quick to say things might not work out. With every word we speak, our faith deteriorates until loss is certain.

LESSON REMEMBERED

During one of these times in my life, I heard the whisper of God say, "DON'T INCUBATE YOUR DOUBTS!" When one incubates an egg, he protects the egg, providing an atmosphere that prompts it to hatch successfully. When the words of our mouth constantly voice doubt and unbelief, we are preparing to hatch loss and regret. Instead of talking about the overcoming power of God and believing that His enabling hand will guide us, our words put great faith in our trauma.

Jesus said that if we believed in the words of our mouth, we could speak to our mountain and it would move. What a great God-given truth! We can destroy a mountain of difficulty with words of faith. Yet, it is also true that we can build a mountain by speaking words of despair. When we continually talk of our trauma and expectation of loss, we create a roadblock that prohibits our victory. Although we believe that we are giving an accurate description of our difficulty, we must remind ourselves that no matter how we feel or what we perceive, God has promised that our mountain will move.

Isn't it time to REPENT and quit speaking words of unbelief? Think on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.⁴ Meditate on the promises of God and give voice to your victory. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."⁵ So, unplug your incubator of doubt and speak life. Let God's Word dominate your thoughts.

¹Ro 8:35-39 ²Co 2:13-14 ³Jn 5:4 ⁴Php 4:8 ⁵Pr 18:21

Happy Thanksgiving

(Continued from "True Repentance")

Repentance implies our conviction of wrongdoing. The Greek word means "compunction (for guilt)."⁵ People have a ready list of excuses for their misbehavior, but to show repentance, we will, first, feel guilty. We will be ashamed.

Both inside the church, as Christians, who are following Christ AND people outside the church, the unsaved must come to the point where they see sin as sin and feel the weight of that sin. Yes, God loves everyone, and Jesus died for "whosoever."⁶ Yes, we are told to "love our neighbor as ourselves."⁷ That thought, in itself, is profound and speaks of having humility.

But shame for wrongdoing serves a purpose.

Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life." The fact there is a choice to make says one of those choices is wrong, and wrong choices lead to wrong destinations, outside of the will of God. Additionally, Romans 8:1 tell us there is no condemnation to those who walk in Christ. That means, there IS condemnation outside of Christ.

However, you can walk outside of Christ's instruction while going to church, while reading your Bible.

The apostle Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."⁹ He was also the first to admit he was the chief of sinners.⁹ How can he say both things? Because no matter who we are, how we've lived, or what we've done, true repentance leads to life and peace.⁹ And once it is received, we never have to look back at the past again. We find freedom.¹¹

But we cannot dismiss the power of conviction, of shame and guilt, in putting us in a position to receive that life.

The target we carry, our need to be defensive of our sin, our being so easily offended when anyone steps on our toes will prevent us from having God's best, and without acceptance of Jesus' death and Resurrection, it will send us to hell.

He's provided the way out. He's provided love and safety and blessings. It's up to us to turn away from sin and take hold of it.

¹Gal 5:19-21 ²Is 40:8 ³Jn 14:6 ⁴Mt 3:8 AMP ⁵G3341, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance ⁶Jn 3:16 ⁷Gal 5:14 ⁸2Ti 4:7 ⁹1Ti 1:15 ¹⁰Rm 8:6 ¹¹Rm 8:2