

5. Surrender (The Key to Victory)

In the culture that we live in the word “surrender” is synonymous with defeat. As persons struggling with life dominating sin there could be nothing more absurd than the concept of surrendering in order to gain victory. We have tried so hard for so long to overcome addiction and we seem totally powerless to triumph over it. Some who do not understand, or who aren't tempted as we are tell us simply to “get over it.” If only it was that easy! “God helps them that help themselves,” is a phrase that we hear from misguided individuals who may believe that it is taken from Scripture. It is not. In fact God's way is just the opposite. Listen to what God says to His people who are facing a battle that they cannot logistically win;

And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you" (2 Chronicles 20:15-17 NKJV).

Although being totally overwhelmed by a problem doesn't seem like something that will work out for our good, as all things are supposed to for those who love God, in reality it is good. Here, according to the Apostle Paul is why

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NKJV).

So if you find yourself in a place of utter despair understand that God has brought you there to teach you to surrender your will to Him in order to receive His victory in your life.

5. Surrender

Meditation Passage for the week-2 Chronicles 20:1-29

We must **surrender** or **die** to **self** by accepting:

1. Our **inability** to change
 - A. Our **circumstances** (**James 1:2-5** two parts)
 - B. Our **loved ones** (**2 Timothy 2:24-25**)
 - C. Our **past failures** (**Romans 6:17-18**)
2. Our **need** for God's guidance
 - A. In providing **spiritual directors** (1 Peter 5:2-3)
 - B. In **reconciling** our past (Matthew 5:23-24)
 - C. In **planning** our future (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
3. Our need for **total life change**
 - A. In our **thought** life (Philippians 2:3-5)
 - B. In our **habits** (Romans 6:17-18)
 - C. In our **social** life (**1 Peter 4:1-3** two parts)
4. That it is **Christ** who must live in us (Galatians 2:20).
5. The victory was won at the **cross** (**1 Corinthians 15:57-58**).

Questions for Discussion;

1. What are we incapable of changing in our lives? Explain.
2. Where do you have the most difficulty in accepting God's right to tell you what to do? Why?
3. Why is changing our thought life the key to change in every other area of our lives?
4. What must we do in order to allow Christ to live in us?
5. How can we win the Victory?