

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD #5

VICTORY OVER SATAN

Review

We are continuing our study of the Power of God's Word and what God's Word can do for us. So far we have seen...

- It has the power to give us faith (Romans 10:17)
- It has the power to bring about our new birth (1 Peter 1:23)
- It has the power to feed our souls and sustain our very life (Matthew 4:4)

Tonight I want to show you how the power of God's word gives us...

I. Victory Over Satan

A. Avoiding Two Fundamental Errors

1. In my experience, there are 2 fundamental errors Christians can fall into regarding the Devil, as described by the great...

C.S. Lewis

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. You can give the Devil too much or too little attention.”

a. In more modern times, Pastor Chip Ingram put it this way.

Pastor Chip Ingram

“Christians usually fall into one of two extremes—either we place an undue emphasis on Satan and his powers or we ignore his existence as a personal enemy.”

2. It is a great mistake to think of the Devil as some abstract evil “force” or refer to him as the “dark side”; he is a *person*; and he is the *personal* enemy of every Christian; the great evangelist once said...

D.L. Moody

“I believe Satan exists for 2 reasons: first, the Bible says so; and second, I’ve done business with him.”

a. Martin Luther, the great Protestant reformer, wrote much about his dealings with the devil.

“If you young fellows were wise, the devil couldn't do anything to you, but since you aren't wise, you need us who are old.

Martin Luther

3. So tonight I want to show you 2 things and connect them together:

- First, how Jesus defeated the devil by the power of God’s word
- And then how we can use His model as a pattern for defeating the devil in our personal lives

4. We begin with a look at the classic conflict in Matthew 4...

B. The Warfare in the Wilderness

1. In the first 11 verses of Matthew chapter 4 we find the famous account of the “temptation of Jesus”; a personal encounter between the Devil and the Son of God.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

2. Without looking at the details, we can sum up the story very simply: Satan systematically sets 3 specific temptations before the Lord and in each case Jesus defeats him the same way.

a. He answers each temptation by quoting the Word of God.

“It is written...”

Matthew 4: 4, 7, 10

3. This is really remarkable! Here we have the very Son of God, the One who created all things:

- One flick of his finger, one blow from his hand and the Devil would be consumed
- One quick prayer and His Father would send 10,000 angels to His side
- One command could consign Satan to hell in a moment. But He did not.

”He had a great choice of weapons with which to fight with Satan, but he took none but this sword of the Spirit-It is written.”

Charles Spurgeon

4. How many miss this message; though He was God in the flesh, He did not depend on His special status as God.

Spurgeon continues...

“If our Lord had but exercised his godhead, a single word would have sent the tempter back to his infernal den. But instead of angelic or divine power he used, "It is written"; thus teaching his church that she is never to call in the aid of force, or use the carnal weapon, but must trust alone in the omnipotence which dwells in the sure word of testimony. This is our battle-axe and weapon of war.”

Charles Spurgeon

5. Early on in my walk with the Lord, I studied deliverance ministry under the great Derek Prince who taught us this:

Derek Prince

“Even Jesus relied solely on the Word of God; Satan does not fear our church, church membership, or seminary degree-but he does back away from the Word of God.”

6. Jesus defeated the Devil in His earthly ministry by using the power of God’s word; and I want to show you how this is the model of how we can do the same...

C. How the Power of God’s Word Gives Us Victory Over Satan

Revelation 12:10 NKJV

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

1. Here we have the Devil, “the accuser of the brethren”, cast down into the earth to walk among us.

a. This is the one we must overcome; the very one who has been destroying souls for 6,000 years.

b. But notice this next verse...

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

2. The first thing to notice is that it is the “they” refers to the “brethren” in the verse before; those he accuses are the very ones who overcome him!

3. Many Christians do not understand that it is our personal responsibility to confront and overcome the Devil. It says, “*They* overcame him...”

4. But someone says, “I thought that Jesus has overcome the Devil for us!” That is right. This is true. Jesus defeated the Devil on our behalf in His atoning work on the Cross.

a. At the end, He cried out from the Cross, **“It is finished”**; but He never said *we* are finished!

b. The Greek word for “it is finished” is “tetelestai”; this was the word written on a bill in those days to show that the debt had been fully paid!

5. The blood of Jesus paid for our sins; He cancelled every *legal* claim the Devil has against us!

a. But as one said, **“It is finished but it’s not over”**.

6. Why? Because here it says we do not defeat the Devil by the blood of the Lamb alone; there are 3 elements to victory over Satan:

II. 3 Elements of Victory Over Satan

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by (1) the blood of the Lamb and (2) by the word of their testimony, and (3) they did not love their lives to the death.

A. First: By The Blood of the Lamb

1. The 1st requirement for victory over Satan is Christian salvation; those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
2. We know that all Christians are covered by the blood of the Lamb; so why are so many still defeated by the Devil?
3. Because the blood of the Lamb is only the first element we need for victory over Satan.
4. **It says “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”**

B. Second: By The Word of Their Testimony

1. After all these years of Bible study, it was only recently that the Lord gave me a fuller understanding of what is by “the word of their testimony”.
2. The word translated “testimony” is from a Greek word which means to give evidence, to give witness to report.

“Testimony”

**Marturia (mar-too-ree’-ah, from which we get the English word “martyr”)
The Greek word means evidence given; record, report, witness**

- a. This is legal language; in a courtroom, a witness gives testimony; it means *to speak*.
 - b. And what did they speak? The *word*.
3. The Greek word translated “word” here means the substance of what is spoken forth; a testimony consists of words.
 4. When we put the 2 thoughts together we can quickly see that the “word of their testimony” refers to their “speaking forth the Word of God”!

We overcome the Devil by (1) the blood of the Lamb and (2) the word of our testimony; which means that we are speaking forth the Word of God out of our mouth!

5. Remember that Jesus overcame Satan by speaking the word of God to him; and this is the same way that we overcome him!

“The word of their testimony is the great instrument of war, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Matthew Henry

6. Think of spiritual warfare in terms of offence and defense: In the Old and New Testament, the blood of the Lamb is our defense against the Devil; but our weapon of offense is the sword of the Spirit...

a. In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of a soldier in armor to describe our spiritual warfare.

b. Almost all the armor is for defense: the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness.

c. There is only one weapon in the list that is for *offence*:

Ephesians 6:17

Take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (rhema) of God.

7. The power of the blood of Jesus *defends* us from the Devil; but we go on *offence* by the speaking forth the power of God's word.

a. F.B. Meyer, an English Pastor and friend of D.L. Moody captured the concept this way:

“We overcome only in so far as we take shelter in the blood of the Lamb and wield as our weapon the Word of God.”

F.B. Meyer

Review:

So we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of God as our testimony; but there is one more thing, often overlooked...

Revelation 12:10

And they overcame him by (1) the blood of the Lamb and (2) by the word of their testimony, and (3) they loved not their lives unto death.

C. Third: They Loved Not Their Lives Unto the Death

1. Here is the one we never hear about; but it's as important as the first 2.

John Wesley

“By the word of their testimony is meant the word of God, which they believed and testified, even unto death.”

John Wesley

2. It literally means that those who overcome the Devil are completely committed to the Word of God; so much so that they are not afraid to die!

Revelation 12:11 (NET Bible)

...and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

3. Think of it this way: No nation ever won a war without soldiers; and no soldiers ever go to war if they are afraid to die!

4. A soldier who fears death will never win a war; he lacks commitment; but show me a soldier who is not afraid to die and I will show you a soldier to be feared.

a. The most feared enemy in WWII were **the Japanese "Kamikazi" pilots;** because we knew they were not afraid to die.

b. Kamikaze pilots would crash their planes into American warships known to be carrying explosives and ammunition.

c. **They were deeply committed to the Samurai tradition of Japanese culture where one would rather die than suffer defeat.**

5. This is a poor, worldly example of what we have here in the overcomer; one who is totally committed to victory over Satan.

6. This is the kind of soldier Jesus died to produce:

Hebrews 2:14-15 NIV

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

7. The Devil holds the human race bondage by fear of death; but our faith sets us free to speak the Word of God and stake our lives on it.

8. Cowardly Christians can never win the culture wars; no matter how many numbers we think we have.

Charles Spurgeon

“I do not think the devil cares how many churches you build, if only you have lukewarm preachers and people in them.”

a. God has given us the weapon of His word for defeating the Devil; but we must be committed to us it. (Not like the tribe of Ephraim)

Psalm 78:9 NLT

The warriors of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned their backs and fled on the day of battle.

III. Conclusion

A. Review

- Jesus defeated the Devil with the power of God’s word; “It is written”
 - We overcome the Devil the same way; by speaking the Word

We overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of our testimony, and loving not our lives unto death.

Revelation 12:11

Charles Spurgeon

“Now, beloved, if our Lord and Master, with all the choice of weapons which he might have had, nevertheless selected this true Jerusalem blade of the Word of God, let us not hesitate for a moment, but grasp and hold fast this one, only weapon of the saints in all times.

Charles Spurgeon

“Cast away the wooden sword of carnal reasoning; trust not in human eloquence, but arm yourselves with the solemn declarations of God, who cannot lie, and ye need not fear Satan and all his hosts. Jesus, we may be sure, selected the best weapon. What was best for him is best for you.”

Closing Prayer/Ministry Time/Congregational Instruction

Title