



Church of Perth Intercessory Team

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

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FAITH IS THE VICTORY

The Bible tells us: "The victory that defeats the world is our faith, for who is victor over the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5:4,5) Beyond any shadow of doubt the most notable fact in all human experience is that of conflict. Life is a journey which, if in the faith, partakes of the blessings of the Blood of Jesus Christ and is a fight to the finish. Every one of us is engaged in a great struggle. You and I must take part in this spiritual battle that rages on this stage, which is the earth. We must, of necessity, be participants in the warfare between good and evil, God and the powers of eternity on one hand and the devil and the powers of this world on the other. There can be no neutrality; you align yourself on one side or the other.

Well, what is this world that can be overcome by faith? It is not a thing of nightclubs, brothels, hotels, gambling dens, discotheques or racecourses. You may have nothing to do with any of these and still be very much on the world's side. No, the world is not a thing of places and pastimes; it is something more elusive and subtle. You could live your life in an office or factory where the entire atmosphere and conversation was sordid, even sinister, and remain uncontaminated. On the other hand you could live in a monastery surrounded by saints and sing the most angelic songs and yet find the world raging in your heart. What then is the world that faith can conquer? It is the name given to all that is not God nor of God, all that is earthly and evil, all that tempts to sin, all those who live without God, apart from God or opposed to believing in God who sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross of Calvary, was resurrected and now is seated with His Father, where He intercedes for us through faith in His Blood.

The world of today is very different from the world of the first century when the Apostle John wrote those words. There is no Nero or Domitian on the world's throne, no Coliseum with its hungry lions and cruel crowds. The fight of today is in another area. The great foe of today is materialism, with its cousins secularism and hedonism, showing itself in scepticism on the one hand and selfish living on the other. The Western world has laid aside its torture and persecution and has taken up the weapons of self-satisfaction and affluence to overcome faith. The world today can be seen as a spirit of deception and carnality, with corrupt human life taking no account of God whatsoever. If you are to be on God's 'divine timetable' you must free yourself of its pull on your life. If you do not overcome the world by trusting and believing in God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it will conquer you.

When is it that the world is conquering us? When we are persuaded to accept its standards instead of those of God's Word, when we are influenced by the opinions of men rather than the truth of Scripture. The world has us in its power when all our desires for a loving God are deadened; when we feel no desire to pray or to worship Him. The world is overcoming us when we are afraid of man, when we are afraid to speak for Christ. It is conquering us when it fills us with false values and idols, with a love of material things and sets our affections on money and what it can buy. The victory that the world has over us is our doubt, unbelief and compromise. The world itself has a kind of faith, when we trust in earthly riches and possessions and good works to save us. This type of faith will conquer us if we have no true faith in God and His Living Word.

So much for the world. Now let us turn to the faith that gives the victory. What exactly is it? Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith we understand that the Word of

God created the world and that He gave His Son's blood for the atonement of our sins. But it is more. It is the link that connects us to the source of the all-encompassing power in the universe – God (the HOLY SPIRIT). Is there any power in faith? None at all. Is there any power in a railway coupling? No. But look at that train speeding along. Where is the power? In the locomotive which the coupling links to the train. Break the link and all the power is gone. So with us – God in Christ Jesus is the source of power, and the blood covenant faith connects us to Him and we are sanctified and energized by His Holy Spirit. In fact, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in His obedient and faithful followers.

Faith is spiritual insight in the all-encompassing power of the Blood that makes all things possible. It is the heart-possession of God's Word. It has been called the eye of the soul. Yet it is more than that; it is the blood-cleansed soul beholding the things of heaven; the soul looking upon the glories of the spiritual world which is ever around us, underlying the natural world. It causes us to enter into an alliance with The Anointed One who has already conquered the world. What Jesus Christ has done once, He can do again – in us! The faith that overcomes is a living faith in a living Conqueror. Surely the truest test of faith is to have lived in a world of unbelief and still to trust, despite the assaults of modern doubt, in the Holy One who said, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world". Without faith it is impossible to please God. Moreover, "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world". If you want victory in life you must come to Christ, acknowledging that you need Him, surrender and commit your life to Him. Will you declare yourself for Him? Do this and He will declare you before His Father in heaven. Let this active faith make you a victor in life's greatest battle. By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, He has purchased our pardon from an 'eternal prison' called hell. Rejoice, for God has promised us the overcoming power of Jesus' blood through which He made everything right for us at Calvary. Remember, it is God who puts us on the path to holiness. "Faithful is He who called you, who also will do it."

OUR PRAYER:

Our loving Father, Almighty God of Israel, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly come united to join the hosts in heaven to praise, exalt, worship, glorify and magnify the Name of our Lord of Glory, JESUS CHRIST. Abba Father, we come boldly before Your throne of grace and mercy to sincerely thank You for sending Your only begotten Son Jesus who died for our lost souls, conquered death and destroyed the evil works of the devil for us on the cross of Calvary through the divine power of His blood shed for us. Lord Jesus, we are grateful You are our Resurrection and Bread of Life and that the all-encompassing power of the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant reconciles us to God. We know that Your loving Father is also our loving Father who loved us before the foundation of the world and who proclaims in His Living Word that "the just shall live by faith".

Omnipotent Father, we acknowledge that You are the Potter and we are Your earthen vessels. May we yield to Your Holy Spirit and allow Him to consume the dross in our lives so we shall come forth as vessels of pure gold, living oracles of the Lord God to proclaim our King of Glory to the world. Spirit of the Living God, help both leaders and citizens of this land to open their hearts to obey Your Word of Truth in their daily lives to be vessels of honour and righteousness in Your omnipotent blood-covered army. Help us all to pull down the strongholds of pride, greed, unforgiveness, dishonesty, corruption, lust, hatred, fear, compromise, selfishness, spiritual ignorance and all unrighteousness in Jesus' Name.

Lord God, make us courageous soldiers of the cross as we take refuge in You, LORD JESUS, our mighty Captain. Help us too to be faithful stewards of Your Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, healing the sick, setting the captives free, making the blind to see and the deaf to hear, never forgetting to take up the shield of faith with which to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. We fervently pray that the life of the Spirit, which burns and abides in us, will make us one in accord with our Lord Jesus Christ to do Your will on earth as it is in heaven. Merciful Father, may Your grace help us to live by true faith in Your 'divine timetable' today. We prayfully ask all this in Jesus' glorious and victorious Name. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Amen.

C.O.P.I.I Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name. Amen and Glory

[REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS]