

# Victory through Faith !

We receive Christ through His Word, **and the Holy Spirit is given to open the Word of God to our understanding, and bring home It's Truths to our hearts.** We are to pray day by day that as we read His Word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the Truth that will strengthen our souls for the day's need.

In teaching us to ask every day for what we need--both temporal and spiritual blessings--God has a purpose to accomplish for our good. He would have us realize our dependence upon His constant care, for He is seeking to draw us into communion with Himself. **In this communion with Christ**, through prayer and the study of the great and precious Truths of His Word, we shall as hungry souls be fed; as those that thirst, we shall be refreshed at the Fountain of Life.

**“Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us.”** Luke 11:4.

Jesus teaches that we can receive forgiveness from God only as we forgive others. It is the love of God that draws us unto Him, and that love cannot touch our hearts without creating love for our brethren. After completing the Lord's Prayer, Jesus added: “If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive **mercy from God**. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, **we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries**; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us.

But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the Promise that **He “will abundantly pardon,”** He adds, as if the meaning of that Promise exceeded all that we could comprehend:

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:7-9 and ref: Jeremiah 29:11-14

God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. **It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin.** It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, **“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”** Psalm 51:10. And again he says,

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”  
Psalm 103:12.

God in Christ gave Himself for our sins “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself . . .*” II Corinthians 5:19. He suffered the cruel death of the cross, *He* bore for us the burden of guilt, “the Just for the unjust,” that He might reveal to us His love and draw us to Himself. And He says, “**Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.**”

Ephesians 4:32, R.V.

Let Christ, the divine Life, dwell in you and through you reveal the heaven-born love that will inspire hope in the hopeless and bring heaven's peace to the sin-stricken heart. As we come to God, this is the condition which meets us at the threshold, that, receiving mercy from Him, we yield ourselves to reveal His grace to others.

The one thing essential for us in order that we may receive and impart the forgiving love of God is to know and believe the love that He has to us. 1 John 4:16.

Satan is working by every deception he can command, in order **that we may not discern that love**. He will lead us to think that our mistakes and transgressions (rebellions) have been so grievous that the Lord will not have respect unto our prayers and will not **bless and save** (deliver, set free, heal and make whole) us.

In ourselves we can see nothing but weakness, nothing to recommend us to God, and Satan tells us that it is of no use; we cannot remedy our defects of character. When we try to come to God, the enemy will whisper, It is of no use for you to pray; did not you do that evil thing? Have you not sinned against God and violated your own conscience?

But we may tell the enemy that “**the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin !**” (I John 1:7). When we feel that we have sinned and cannot pray, it is then the time to pray. Ashamed we may be and deeply humbled, but **we must pray and believe !**

*“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save (deliver, set free, rescue, heal and make whole) sinners; of whom I am chief.”* I Timothy 1:15.

**Forgiveness**, reconciliation with God, comes to us, not as a reward for our works, it is not bestowed because of the merit of sinful men, but **it is a gift** unto us, having in the spotless righteousness of Christ it's foundation for bestowal.

We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. We must accept God's estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us ! But the sinless One has taken our place; though undeserving, **He has borne our iniquity**. (Isaiah 53:1-12, 59:16-21).

“If we confess our sins,” God “is Faithful and Just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9. **Glorious Truth!** — just to His own law, and yet the Justifier of all that believe in Jesus.

“Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity (perversity), and passeth by the transgression\* (rebellion, apostasy) of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy.” Micah 7:18.

“Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Matthew 6:13, R.V. **Temptation is**

**enticement** to sin, and this does not proceed from God, but from Satan and from the evil of our own hearts. (Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 51:10-17). “God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempteth no man.” James 1:13, R.V.

**Satan seeks to bring us into temptation**, that the evil of our characters may be revealed before men and angels, that he may claim us as his own.

In the symbolic prophecy of Zechariah, Satan is seen standing at the right hand of the Angel of the LORD, accusing Joshua, the high priest, who is clothed in filthy garments, and resisting the work that the Angel desires to do for him. This represents the attitude of Satan toward every soul whom Christ is seeking to draw unto Himself. **The enemy leads us into sin, and then he accuses us before the heavenly universe as unworthy of the love of God.**

But “**the Lord said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?**” And unto Joshua He said, “Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.” Zechariah 3:1-4.

God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that through divine power resists temptation reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency (strength and working power) of the grace of Christ.

But while **we are not to be dismayed by trial, bitter though it be**, we should pray that God will not permit us to be brought where we shall be drawn away by the desires of our own evil hearts. “*For God is Faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a Way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*” I Corinthians 10:13. In offering the prayer that Christ has given, we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, “**This is the way, walk ye in it.**” Isaiah 30:21.

It is not safe for us to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped through yielding to Satan's suggestions. Sin means dishonor and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature, and it will entice us with flattering presentations. If we venture on Satan's ground we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should **close every avenue** by which the tempter may find access to us.

The prayer, “Bring us not into temptation,” is itself **a Promise**. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He “will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:13.

The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because **selfishness** exists **in our hearts** that temptation has power over us. **But when we behold the great love of God**, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul. As the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, our hearts are softened and subdued, the temptation loses its power, and the grace of Christ transforms the character.

Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died.

The soul may leave Him and be overwhelmed with temptation, but Christ can never turn from one for whom He has paid the ransom of His own Life !

Could our spiritual vision be quickened, we should see souls bowed under oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath sheaves and ready to die in discouragement. We should see angels flying swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. **The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil** that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant their feet on the Sure Foundation. The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.

To us, as to Peter, the Word is spoken, “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: **but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.**” Luke 22:31-32.

Thank God, we are not left alone. He Who “so loved the world, that He gave *up* His Only-Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him (the Word and promise of our Salvation) should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), **will not desert us in the battle** with the adversary of God and man.

“Behold,” He says, “I give unto you \_\_\_\_\_ (your name) power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”  
Luke 10:19.

Live in contact (communion – John 17:21) with the Living Christ, and **He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go.** Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. “The name of the LORD is a Strong Tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 18:10

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p.118-119