

Faith & Prayer !

“Not by Might, nor by Strength, but by My Spirit saith the LORD of Hosts . . . !”

The means by which we can overcome the wicked one is that by which Christ overcame,-- the power of the Word. God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, **His Promises are ours**: “Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.” “If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.” John 8:32; 7:17, R. V.

Through faith in these Promises, **every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control of sin.**

Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. **None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they can find deliverance in Christ.** The demoniac, in place of prayer, could utter only the words of Satan; yet the heart's unspoken appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. **Those who will consent to enter into Covenant relation with the God of heaven** are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature.

Desire of Ages p.259

Christ overcame Satan on every point ! The wily foe could not induce Him to swerve from His allegiance to the Father. “**Get thee behind Me, Satan,**” Christ said; “**for it is written,** Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” **The Captain of our Salvation overcame for us**; Satan left the field a conquered foe. But the strain upon Christ had left Him as one dead. “And, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.” Their arms encircled Him. Upon the breast of the highest angel in heaven His head rested. Divine consolation flowed into His soul. The foe was vanquished. Humanity was placed on vantage ground. Christ had conquered. **Those who became partakers of the Divine nature would be able to resist the temptations of the enemy.**

(II Peter 1:4)

Christ lived a human life that He might be man's example in all things. He endured temptation even as every human being must endure. **He believed God as we must believe !** He learned obedience even as we are required to learn obedience. And He overcame as we must overcome. His path lay through manifold temptations; **therefore He knows how to succour those who are tempted.**

Wonderful, indeed, is God's work in behalf of man. **Let the tempted soul remember** that he is a representative of Christ. It is only by coming in contact with obstacles and difficulties and overcoming them that we become strong. Our necessity is God's opportunity. If we will hold fast to Christ, every trial will work out for our good.

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And this mighty Redeemer, Who but a few hours before stood glorified before His wondering disciples, **stoops to lift the victim of Satan from the earth where he is wallowing, and in health of mind and body restores him to his father and his home.**

It was an object lesson of redemption,--the Divine One from the Father's glory stooping to save the lost. It represented also the disciples' mission. Not alone upon the mountaintop with Jesus, in hours of spiritual illumination, is the life of Christ's servants to be spent. There is work for them down in the plain. **Souls**

whom Satan has enslaved are waiting for the Word of faith and prayer to set them free !

The nine disciples were yet pondering upon the bitter fact of their own failure; and when Jesus was once more alone with them, they questioned, "Why could not we cast him out?" Jesus answered them, "**Because of your unbelief:** for verily I say unto you, **If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove;**

. . . and nothing shall be impossible unto you !"

Desire of Ages p.428-431

The period of Christ's personal ministry among men was the time of greatest activity for the forces of the kingdom of darkness. For ages Satan with his evil angels had been seeking to control the bodies and the souls of men, to bring upon them sin and suffering.

The deception of sin had reached its height [by the time Christ began His ministry]. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation. . . . Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons. **The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men,** were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men. Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. . . .

Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. . . . **He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will.** He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and make it beautiful with His own glory.

The fact that men have been possessed with demons is clearly stated in the New Testament. The persons thus afflicted were **not merely suffering with disease from natural causes**. Christ had perfect understanding of that with which He was dealing, and He recognized the direct presence and agency of evil spirits.--4SP 332.

Satan and his angels were very busy during Christ's ministry, inspiring men with unbelief, hate, and scorn.

The Truth About Angels p.181

Let us consecrate our all to the service of humanity. We shall receive our reward in the future life. Reveal the living charm of the Saviour's love. **Represent Christ by revealing faith and hope and love.** In short, copy the Pattern. **Let your light shine forth** in good works. Christians have no need or desire for the billiard table, the theater, the dancing hall, or the many other forms of worldly diversion. A Christian does nothing which he can not do to the glory of God, upon which he can not ask the Lord's blessing.

Work as in the presence of heavenly intelligences. God calls for loyalty, for faithfulness; for **we have been bought with a price.** Stand firm for the right, and you will be **more than conquerors** through Him Who loved you and gave His life for you.

It is faith and prayer that cast out evil spirits. We may ask Christ with **full assurance of faith** for enlarged capacity for service, for increased power to help souls. But let us remember constantly that it is through the Holy Spirit that we receive power and efficiency.

He who makes advancement in the school of Christ here below will at last pass through the pearly gates of

the city of God, to enter the higher school, there to receive instruction from the divine Teacher. “**Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.**”

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Mrs. E. G. White

The Only Remedy.--For every soul struggling to rise from a life of sin to a life of purity, the great element of power abides in the only “Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12. “**If any man thirst,**” for restful hope, for deliverance from sinful propensities, Christ says, “**let him come unto Me, and drink.**” John 7:37. The only remedy for vice is the grace and power of Christ.

The good resolutions made in one's own strength avail nothing. **Not all the pledges in the world will break the power of evil habit.** Never will men practice temperance in all things until their hearts are renewed by divine grace. We cannot keep ourselves from sin for one moment. Every moment we are dependent upon God . . . !

Christ lived a life of perfect obedience to God's law, and in this He set an example for every human being. The life that He lived in this world we are to live, through His power and under His instruction (Psalm 119:105,130).

Christ came to make us “**partakers of the divine nature,**” and His life declares that humanity, combined with Divinity, does not commit sin !

The Saviour overcame to show man how he may overcome. All the temptations of Satan, Christ met with **the Word of God**. By trusting in **God's Promises**, He received power to obey God's commandments, and the tempter could gain no advantage.

To every temptation His answer was, “**It is written.**” So God has given us His Word wherewith to resist evil. Exceeding great and precious promises are ours, **that by these we “might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption (sin and death) that is in the world through lust.”**
2 Peter 1:4.

Bid the tempted one look not to circumstances, to the weakness of self, or to the power of temptation, **but to the power of God's Word**. All its strength is ours. “**Thy Word,**” says the psalmist, “have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

“**By the Word** of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.” Psalms 119:11; 17:4.

Linked With Christ Through Prayer.--**Talk courage to the people**; lift them up to God in prayer.

Many who have been overcome by temptation are humiliated by their failures, and they feel that it is in vain for them to approach unto God; but **this thought is of the enemy's suggestion**. When they have sinned,

and feel that they cannot pray, tell them that it is then the time to pray. Ashamed they may be, and deeply humbled; but as they confess their sins, He Who is faithful and Just will forgive their sins, and cleanse them from all unrighteousness!

Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on **the merits of the Saviour**. By prayer, by the study of His Word, by faith in His abiding Presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go.-- *The Ministry of Healing*, pages 179-182.

Health and Strength to the Overcomer.--

When men who have indulged in wrong habits and sinful practices **yield to** the power of **Divine Truth**, the application of that Truth to the heart revives the moral powers, which had seemed to be paralyzed. **The receiver possesses stronger, clearer understanding** than before he riveted his soul to the Eternal Rock. Even his physical health improves by the realization of his security in Christ. The special blessing of God resting upon the receiver is of itself health and strength.

--*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, page 13.

Christ came to this world and lived the law of God, **that man might have perfect mastery over the natural inclinations which corrupt the soul**. The Physician of soul and body, He gives victory over warring lusts! He has provided every facility, that man may possess completeness of character.

When one surrenders to Christ, the mind is brought under the control of the law (The Living Word); but it is **the royal law**, which proclaims liberty (Romans 8:2) to every captive. By becoming one with Christ, man is made free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood !

Obedience to God is liberty from the thralldom (dominion and control) of sin, deliverance from human passion and impulse. **Man may stand conqueror of himself**, conqueror of his own inclinations, conqueror of principalities and powers, and of “the rulers of the darkness of this world,” and of “spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12.

--*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 130-131.

*He Can--He Must Resist Evil.--*Feeling the terrible power of temptation, the drawing of desire that leads to indulgence, many a man cries in despair, “I cannot resist evil.” **Tell him that he can, that he must resist**. He may have been overcome again and again, but it need not be always thus.

He is weak in moral power, controlled by the habits of a life of sin. His promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. The knowledge of his broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens his confidence in his own sincerity, and causes him to feel that God cannot accept him or work with his efforts. **But he need not despair !**

Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habit or tendency. Instead of being held in bondage to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion.

God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart !

--*The Ministry of Healing* p.174-176

By sin we have been severed from the Life of God. Of ourselves we are utterly incapable of living a holy life. **There are many who realize their helplessness**, and who long for that spiritual Life which will bring them into harmony with God; they are vainly striving to obtain this Life.

In despair they cry, “**O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?**” Let these desponding, despairing ones look up. The Saviour bids them arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. **Believe His Word**, and it will be fulfilled!

Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His Word **you will receive strength**. Whatever may be the evil practice, the master-passion, which through long indulgence binds you soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart Life to the soul that is “dead in trespasses.” **He will set free** the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin . . .

In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptat-ion, however strong!

But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. **Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour.** Look not to self, but to Christ.

He Who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men, is the same mighty Redeemer today. **Faith comes by the Word of God.** Then grasp His Promise, “**Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out.**” Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, “Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.”

Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. **We are to trust His Promises.** When we come to Him in faith every petition enters into the heart of God. When we have asked for His Blessing, **we should** believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have received it !

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