

Are You “Word” Focused or “Problem” Focused?

Part 1

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

1. The Lord has spoken a number of things unto us to bring us peace in a stressful world. When God has “spoken” then that means that He has given us His Word. It is that same Word that is recorded and written in Scripture.
2. In this world we are to expect problems but Jesus makes it clear that the source of our problems, which is the world, has been defeated by Him. Notice these other excellent translations of John 16:33:
 - a. *I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]* (The Amplified Bible)
 - b. *"I have spoken these things to you so that you may continuously have (hold) peace within the midst of and in union with Me. Within the system (world of culture, religion and government) you are continually having pressure (squeezing and tribulation), but nonetheless, be confident and take courage! I, Myself, have overcome and conquered the system (world) so that it stands a completed victory!"* (Jonathan Mitchell New Testament)
 - c. *I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."* (The Message)
 - d. *These things I have spoken to you, that ye have peace in me; in the world ye shall have disease [in the world ye shall have pressing, or overlaying], but trust ye, I have overcome the world.* (Wycliff Bible)
3. We live in a world where Satan is ruler. Because of his opposition to God, he intends to make life miserable for God's people:
 - a. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
 - b. Notice that Jesus makes it plain that Satan is this world's ruler. However, notice also that Jesus uses language concerning Satan's position of defeat: "he has been judged, cast out, and has NOTHING in Jesus". Jesus gave Satan a crushing defeat.

- c. The things that happen in this world are not under God's control but Satan's – 1 John 5:18-19.
 - d. To wave everything off with the common "Christian" phrase "God is in control" is a lie born of Satan to get us to accept his works as God's and live in defeat. Satan is controlling this world but the wicked one cannot touch us.
4. Jesus' "casting out" Satan has rendered him powerless and ineffective:
- a. John 12:31 – "Cast out" does not mean that Satan was cast out of the world. It means that he was cast out of the heavenly courts where he is no longer able to render a legal defeat to God's covenant children.
 - b. The Greek word for "cast out" is *Ekballo* which means "be deprived of the power and influence he exercises in the world" (studylight.org).
 - c. *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (Rev. 12:7-11).*
 - d. "Human blood defends the body by actually conquering deadly microbes when they get into the circulation. The soldiers of the blood, tiny white corpuscles, called leukocytes, stand up and fight them to the death. So the blood of the Lamb overcomes all Satan's power of sin, sickness, and death if we will but believe and use it. We are made 'priests unto God.' (Rev. 1:6.) As priests, it is our prerogative to use the blood. It will bring victory every time if we do it in faith, for faith will never let go till Satan is beaten down under our feet." (Lilian B. Yeomans, His Healing Power, p. 224)
 - e. "In Revelation 12:11 we are told that, 'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.' Sin, temptation, sickness, disease, everything that comes from Satan is included in that. The Blood overcame him. When anything is overcome it has no more power. This book says they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. Not merely by your word or their word, but by your testimony to what God has done coupled with your faith in the Blood is the overcoming accomplished. No matter in what way the enemy comes, whether in

discouragement, temptation, sickness,, or any other way, he is overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony." (C. Nuzum, *The Life of Faith*, p. 54)

- f. "...testimony is 'witnessing' or 'being a witness.' Testimony is speaking from personal experience about incidents that relate to the Word of God and confirm the truth of God's Word." (Derek Prince, *Spiritual Warfare*, p. 86)
 - g. Placing John 12:31 together with Rev. 12, we see that Satan has suffered a crushing defeat by the blood of Jesus. Even though he is on the earth, he is now powerless against those connected to Christ. He has no legal right to torment us. Though he will continue to launch attacks, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enforce his defeat. Based on the above, a better way to render John 12:31 is as follows:
 - h. *Now is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown.* (John 12:31; Good News Translation)
5. Because we are "in Christ" we share His victory:
- a. Rom. 8:31-39 (see also 1 Cor. 15:54-58)
 - b. The word "separate" in the original Greek actually means "to divorce". This is a very important aspect of this truth detailing the importance of our relationship with Christ in relation to victorious living. Many couples divorce over problems encountered in a marriage. However, God says that there is not one issue and not one devil that would motivate Him to divorce us. He loves us, longs for relationship with us and works to keep it maintained. In this world we will have opposition. Satan will bring problems in an attempt to divorce us from Christ, but if we stay in Him - in relationship with Him, then we will have victory over every possible problem and opposition that could confront us.
 - c. Biblically speaking, separation from Christ is spiritual death and places us in Satan's domain (Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1-5). God is not going to let that happen to us.
 - d. "'We are more than conquerors' is the translation of *hupernikomen*. It is formed out of a verb meaning to conquer, with the prefix *huper*, here meaning over or beyond.... It may be translated 'superconquerors'" (Herschel H. Hobbs, *Romans: A Verse by Verse Study*, p. 116).
6. Other Translations of Romans 8:31-35 gives a greater understanding of the victory we have in our covenant connection to Christ over and above all problems that can confront us:
- a. *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or*

threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”[a]) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (vv. 35-39; New Living Translation)

- b. *Can anything separate us from Christ’s love? Can trouble or problems or persecution separate us from his love? If we have no food or clothes or face danger or even death, will that separate us from his love? As the Scriptures say, “For you we are in danger of death all the time. People think we are worth no more than sheep to be killed.” But in all these troubles we have complete victory through God, who has shown his love for us. (vv. 35-37; Easy to Read Version)*
- c. *Who can keep us away from the love of Christ? Can trouble or problems? Can suffering wrong from others or having no food? Can it be because of no clothes or because of danger or war? The Holy Writings say, “Because of belonging to Jesus, we are in danger of being killed all day long. We are thought of as sheep that are ready to be killed.” But we have power over all these things through Jesus Who loves us so much. (vv. 35-37; New Life Version)*
- d. Notice Paul’s emphasis on the love of God in this passage. God loves us very much. He knew that we were in a problem infested world and made a tremendous sacrifice to ensure that we would have super-victory over them as we remain in our covenant connection to Him.
- e. Paul was convinced that nothing could separate Him from the source of victory over every demon and problem. We must be convinced as well. We can only be as convinced as Paul was when we become Word-Focused rather than problem-focused. We are to have a “victory viewpoint” and/or a “position perspective”. If we focused on our position in Christ which is a victorious position then we are better able to confront and overcome problems rather than allowing them to defeat us.

Conclusion to part 1: We now see the Biblical emphasis upon our need to focus on God’s Word concerning our victorious position over and above the problems that we face. In Part 2 we will look at some of the consequences of failing to do this.