

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

Part 2

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. We have already seen that Satan is the prince of this world. Our joint –victory with Jesus over the world also means a joint victory over its prince, Satan. This victory is appropriated by faith:
 - a. 1 John 5:5-5
 - b. *Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory. No one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus as the Son of God.* (1 John 5:4-5; Contemporary English Version)
 - c. Jesus has overcome the world. We share in that victory, first by getting born again, thus coming into covenant union with Christ, and then second, through an ongoing faith connection.
2. There is a lot being taught on “spiritual warfare”. However, the Bible is clear as to the type of spiritual warfare we are required to engage in:
 - a. 1 Tim. 6:12
 - b. “The reason why the victory is only by faith, and why the fight of faith is the good fight, is this—it is the Lord Jesus who purchased the victory, and who alone gives power and dominion over the enemy. If we abide in Him, surrender ourselves to live in Him, and by faith appropriate what he is, then the victory is in itself our own.” (Andrew Murray, Living the New Life, p. 134)
 - c. Some of our current spiritual warfare teaching makes it appear, not only that we must fight against evil forces in order to obtain victory, but that we have as much of a chance at losing as we do winning.
 - d. This is not some physical fight that we are in which we rely on our own resources to win a victory. Jesus has provided us with everything we need that gives us a GUARANTEED victory:
 - e. Eph. 6:10-18

- f. We are not wrestling against flesh and blood. We have been given weapons that are more than sufficient for dealing with the enemy. These weapons are utilized by faith (2 Cor. 10:3-5).
 - g. When we “fight the good fight of FAITH” we are declaring by faith that Jesus has already overcome the satanic forces arrayed against us. Our part now is to enforce that victory against the constant lies and attacks of Satan.
 - h. 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - i. Notice who the Bible states is the source of our suffering—our problems!! Satan is the suffering bringer. The fight that we are engaged in is to resist the devil by our FAITH.
 - j. *Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You’re not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It’s the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does. (vv. 8-11; The Message Bible)*
3. Faith is based on the Word of God:
- a. Rom. 10:17
 - b. Faith is based on God’s Word. When the devil attacks us and brings problems then we are not to give him an unnecessary victory by focusing on the problems he brings us, but by keeping a steadfast focus on God’s Word.
 - c. The fact that God’s Word is the basis for faith, and it is this faith by which we are victors over the enemy, Satan attempts to steadfastly attack this very source of our faith:
 - d. Luke 8:12-13
 - e. Satan is after your faith. The devil takes peoples’ focus from God’s Word and causes them to focus on the problems and trials themselves. This causes them to lose faith and give up.
 - f. Satan attempts to steal the Word from us in order to hinder our faith and our deliverance from his attacks. The word "saved" in this passage is not limited to a free ticket to Heaven. The same Greek word translated here has been used in relation to PHYSICAL HEALING in other parts of the Bible. According to one Greek dictionary it

means, "to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction; one (from injury or peril); to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health; to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue." (studylight.org)

- g. *Some people are like the seed that fell beside the path. They hear God's teaching, but then the devil comes and causes them to stop thinking about it. This keeps them from believing it and being saved. Others are like the seed that fell on rock. That is like the people who hear God's teaching and gladly accept it. But they don't have deep roots. They believe for a while. But when trouble comes, they turn away from God. (Easy to Read Version)*
- h. *Some seeds fell on the road. They are like the people who hear the word of God. Then the devil comes and takes the word out of their hearts. He does not want them to believe and be saved. Some seeds fell on the stones. They are like people who are glad when they hear the word. But it does not go down deep into their hearts. They believe for a short time. But when they have trouble they stop believing. (Worldwide English)*
- i. *and the seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message. But the devil comes and snatches the message out of their hearts, so that they will not believe and be saved. The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it. But they don't have deep roots, and they believe only for a little while. As soon as life gets hard, they give up. (CEV)*
- j. This explains why Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail in the time of testing. If his faith failed then Satan would have been able to totally destroy Peter (Luke 22:31). Every defeat that we suffer at Satan's hands is due to a failure of faith. Every failure of faith is due to a lack of focus on God's Word.
- k. When God's people fully grasp the "salvation" of Christ, see that it is His victory-provision for us in every area, then through faith in God's Word they will be able to recover themselves from every snare of the devil (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
- l. Gen. 3:1-7
- m. Satan defeated Eve by getting her focus away from God's Word and on to a different object. If Satan can get your focus away from God's Word and on your problem, he has defeated you. ON the flip side, if you will stand firm in your faith by standing firm on the Word, you will see the victory that Jesus has already given you manifested in your problem.

Conclusion to part 2: Faith and God's Word goes together. There is no victory over Satan without faith and there is no faith when there is ignorance of what God has said concerning every area of our lives in which we can have victory over the devil. If we are to live a VICTORIOUS life, we must be focused on God's WORD. It is the source of faith which makes it the source of victory.