

BETHLEHEM HOUSE OF WORSHIP
ONE DAY RETREAT
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Theme : “WALKING IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE” Rom 6:4

Messenger: Bro. THEODORE REGINALD

INTRODUCTION:

Lord Jesus Christ has provided everything for His children to walk victoriously “in the newness of life” by His grace. Instead of appropriating this provision by faith, many believers struggle between Egypt and Canaan, Good Friday and Easter and defeat and victory. The study of this important theme helps us to know our resources and enjoy them experientially, by faith.

Background: The theme is taken from the epistle to the Romans. This epistle explains the elementary principles and practice of Christian life. This can conveniently be divided into four major parts:

Chapters 1-5	Salvation
Chapters 6-8	Sanctification
Chapters 9-15	Submission
Chapter 16	Salutation

A life of sanctification is a life of victory. A life of victory is a life, “walking in the newness of life”. In ch 6 the word “sin” occurs seventeen times, chapter 7 “law” eighteen times and chapter 8 “Spirit” etc nineteen times. Being crucified to the glamour of sin and the claims of law, we walk victoriously in the newness of life claiming by faith, the enablement of the Holy Spirit. Seven such enablements are seen in Romans 8.

SESSION 1

1. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER SIN (Rom 8:1&2):

In verse 1 we find victory over **the punishment of sin**. Lord Jesus Christ paid fully the penalty of our sins on the Cross (Is.53:5). In Adam, we all are condemned. But “in Christ Jesus” – for those who have accepted Him as Lord and Saviour, there is no condemnation. The expression ‘who walk not after the flesh’, but ‘after the spirit’ is not found in many manuscripts. At the time of rebirth, our guilty conscience was purified by the blood of Christ (Heb 9:14).

In verse 2, victory over **the power of sin** is presented. In the outer space, one is free from the earth’s gravitational force. A believer is no longer governed by the principle of “sin and death” but by the “spirit of life in Christ Jesus”. “Hath made me free” – our freedom from the power of sin is already over. We have to appropriate it by faith every time we are tempted. For example,

the experience of a young man.

2. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER FLESH (Rom 8:3-10):

We must know the Biblical meaning of the word “flesh” as used here. The flesh is the old Adamic nature we all have inherited from him. The flesh is not removed but rendered inoperative by the power of the Cross (Gal 5:24). Two important words we find in this passage which brings out the practical application of this walk of victory. The first word is “walk” (v4) and the second, “mind” (v 5, 6).

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(I) It is a fivefold walk in victory.

1) First it is a walk “not after the flesh but after the spirit” (v4). The word “after” should have been translated as “according to the dictations of”. For the dictations of the flesh, the believer should say “no” and to the dictations of the spirit “yes”. To explain – the story of a newly converted African having two dogs.

2) “Walk” in the original Hebrew is the word “prepateho” “walking all over.” Not only in deed but also in word and thought, walking in public and secret, in dress, demeanor and dignity.

3) Walk of separation. We cannot walk with one hand with the world and the other with the Lord Jesus Christ (Amos 3:3), (James 4:4).

4) Walk carefully – as on slippery ground. Avoid doubtful habits (I Thes 5:23). When it is doubtful, it is dirty, (Prov 4:15) “Look carefully then how you walk” (Eph 5:16) (Amplified Bible).

5) It is walking and not running. Patience is required. God does everything in His time (Luke 1:20), Eccl 3:11, Job 42:2). The story of a college student from U.S.A.

(II) To enjoy victory over the flesh by the Holy Spirit through faith,

we should “mind the things of the spirit” (v5). The word “mind” in the original is “froneho” which means “set affection on.” We must set our affection on things above (Col 3:2). The hearts of the redeemed Israelites were still in Egypt though their feet were towards Canaan (Num11:5). Hence they could not enter Canaan. To be spiritually minded is important (v6-8). Every child of God has the Holy Spirit (v9). The question is Acts 19:8 was asked to unbelievers and they have to believe first (v4). Refer also Rom 8:16 & 1 Cor 6:19.

3. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER INABILITIES (Rom 8:11-18):

There are eight enablements of the Holy Spirit available to overcome our inabilities.

1) Quickenings: In our physical infirmities and handicaps, the Holy Spirit helps us. (v11). When weak then strong (2 Cor 12:10). We can do great things not in spite of our infirmities but because of them. We need not 'endure' them but 'enjoy' them. Paul could accomplish great things because of this power of resurrection. Joni's testimony.

2) Mortifying (v 12, 3): "Mortify" means "put to death". Crucifying cannot be self inflicted. The help of the Holy Spirit is needed continuously. (eg) "no hands to play cards" etc

3) Guiding (v 14): As spirit of truth (Jn 16:13), He leads us making us "sons" to make mature and wise decisions.

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4) Interceding (v15): The Spirit as comforter (parakletos' – helper) (Rom 8:26, Jn 14:16) helps us in our inability to pray. "Abba" (Hebrew-"Daddy") speaks of intimacy and "Pater" (Greek – "Father") speaks of maturity. At the time of salvation, the Holy Spirit gives 'adult status' to the believer as we see in adaption ceremony in Roman noble's family whereby his son kept so far with his slaves would be raised to adult status enjoying the rights and all the privileges of the nobility.

5) Witnessing (v16): There are two kinds of witness. One is the inner witness (Rom 8:16) and the other public proclamation (Acts 1:8, 11:24). In both the Holy Spirit Himself (not itself) in sevenfold function as there were seven witnesses in the Roman adoption ceremony - "wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord and judgment" (Isa 11: 2,3; Rev 4:5, 5:6).

6) Inheriting (v17): As joint-heirs with Christ we have all His riches at our disposal.

7) Enduring (v 17, 18): Sufferings when endured joyfully and thankfully become tools to build us up. (eg) Oak trees and Kites.

8) Glorifying (v 17,18): As Spirit of glory(I Pet 4:14) He glorifies us in our sufferings for Him, both now and in eternity (2 Tim 2:12, 2 Cor 4:17)

4. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER LIMITATIONS (Rom 8:19-25):

Man's sin brought curse (i) upon the creation (Gen 3: 17) and (ii) himself (Gen 3:19). This curse will be removed when Lord Jesus comes again . For that day

(i) The creation groans (v 19-22): Waiting for the 'manifestation of the sons of God' (1 Jn 3:2).

This is the birth pain in anticipation of the new creation.

- (ii) The children of God groan (v23-25): The children of God have received the Holy Spirit as earnest (2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:14) or down payment. They hopefully wait with assurance, the redemption of the body when He comes (Phil 3:21, I Cor 15:51-53, Titus 2:13)

5. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER WEAKNESSES OR FRAILITIES (Rom 8:26, 27):

The Spirit “helpeth” (“sunantilambanomai”) - takes hold of the crippling side of our personality and helps us to overcome. He helps us in three areas of our prayer life.

- (i) We are unable to pray “as we ought” (v 26)
- (ii) We do not know what to pray for (v 26)
- (iii) We do not know to pray effectively according to Gods perfect will (v 27) (I Jn 5:14).

The Holy Spirit’s help should be claimed in all these areas.

SESSION 3

6. Walk of Victory - Over circumstances (v 28-34): Many blame circumstances and lose heart. For a child of God, Victory through the Holy Spirit is assured in every circumstance. We want to consider seven important facts.

- (i) God is in control in the life of him who trusts Him (V 28) “love God” - “acknowledge the love of God”- never doubt God's love (eg) Bro. Bakht Singh in bed.
- (ii) God is at work in the life of him who obeys Him (V 28) “called according to His purpose” responds to His call and surrenders to His purpose.
- (iii) Final outcome should be considered – “work together” (v 28) Not as single event but all together like colourful threads in weaving. Eccl 3:11. Jn 13:7
- (iv) Not few or some but all work together for good (v 28)
Jacob's misunderstanding in Gen 42:36
- (v) All circumstances transform us into the image of Lord Jesus (v 29) by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:18)
- (vi) No circumstance can change the purpose of God (V 30) Five links from eternity past to future – “foreknown”, “predestinated” “called”, “justified” and “glorified” all in past tense. On God's side, all is over. What is started in grace, will end in glory (Ps 84:11)
- (vii) He is sufficient in every circumstance (v 31-34)
There are four questions and four works of Lord Jesus Christ. The answers for the four questions are (1) no oppositions (v 31). (2) all provision (v 2). (3) no accusation (v 33). (4) no condemnation (v 34). Lord Jesus has made us more than conquerors in Christ Jesus by His death, resurrection, ascension (Eph 1: 23) and intercession (Heb 7: 25)

7. WALK OF VICTORY – OVER TRIALS (Rom 8:35-39):

Love of Lord Jesus Christ has conquered us and made us conquerors (Song of Solomon 2:4). When we go through v35 we claim v28. There are seven kinds of trials mentioned. The

assurance of His love makes us overwhelmingly victorious. (V37). The seven kinds of adversities in v38, 39 cannot separate us from the agape love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. When He is the Lord of our lives, all trials only draw us closer to Him and never drive us away.