

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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PRAYER BURDENS

- The Lord's interests on the earth--Pray for the Father's name to be sanctified, His kingdom to come, and His will to be done, as in heaven, so also on earth (Matt. 6:9-10) even in the midst of the current health crisis in this city, across our nation and around the globe
- The going on of the church life--That all the saints would be strengthened and encouraged to continue to meet together virtually yet in spirit and in reality (John 4:24), that none would abandon their own assembling together (Heb. 10:25), and that all the saints would enjoy the riches in the Word of God daily (Col. 3:16)
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities--Pray for the health of all the saints and for the saints whose jobs are affected during the current health crisis
- Health care professionals--Pray for the health and safety of all the health care professionals who are putting themselves at risk to serve others; this includes a good number of saints among us in the church life in NYC, as well as in many other localities across the country, and also relatives of the saints
- FTTA--Pray for the new arrangement of the FTTA as the trainees continue their training this semester at home and online
- All the authorities on the federal, state and local levels--That they all would have the wisdom to guide the nation throughout the current health crisis and that the Lord's will might be done and His interests furthered in this country (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The local children's meeting video for the week is now available on the website churchinnyc.org/cm-videos/. The families can view it during the week again with their children.
- Family Time video on the website thebibletellsmeso.com/familytime. Beginning

Monday, March 30th, there will be a short new video posted daily from Monday through Friday for the next five weeks. The purpose of these videos is to foster a daily family time in each household.

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: *Crystallization- Study of Deuteronomy- Week 6: Life in the Land and the Issue of the Land— the Church as the Temple, the Dwelling Place of God, and as the City, the Kingdom of God*

Portion from Week 6- Day 5:

You become what you eat, and you are known by what you eat... This morning he eats a little of Christ, and this evening he eats a little of Christ. Day by day he eats Christ and drinks Christ. Christ is gradually digested by him and mingled with him so that he and Christ become one. Then when he comes together with other Christians who have done the same thing, he brings Christ and they too bring Christ. Christ is everything to them. Christ is their very constitution. Wherever they go, they cannot help but bring Christ. When they meet together, they offer Christ to God, they enjoy Christ together, and they exhibit Christ. Whenever they speak, Christ comes out. Everything is Christ. This is the habitation of God; this is the home of God.

By the authority of Christ the church is not only God's home but also His city. Not only is the presence of God there but also the kingdom of God and the authority of God. When people come in, they will sense God's presence, and they will also sense God's authority. They will say that this is not only the house of God but the kingdom of God. Then there will be the city with the temple. The city and the temple are where there is a group of people who experience and enjoy Christ to such an extent that they are mingled and blended with Him in every way. When they come together, they enjoy Christ before God and with God. Everything with them is Christ. If we are in such a situation, praise the Lord, we have the house of God and we have the city of God.

Corporate Reading:

"The Christian Life" Chapters 10 and 11

A Ministry Portion from "The Overcoming Life"

In the Bible, victory is first mentioned in 1 Samuel 15:29 (ASV margin), where it says that Victory will not lie nor repent. Indeed, victory is a person... Victory is not a thing or an experience. It is not a matter; it is a person.

Brothers and sisters, victory has to do with an exchanged life, not a changed life Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God." What does this verse mean? It means that our life is exchanged... The greatest mistake we make today is to think that victory involves progress and that defeat involves the absence of progress. This is why we think that everything will be well if we do not lose our temper or if we have an intimate fellowship with God.

Here is a glad tidings: You cannot change, but all you need is an exchange! If it were up to you, you could not make it. But if it is up to Christ, He can make it. The question is whether it is you or Christ who overcomes. If Christ overcomes, it would not matter even if you were ten times worse than you are now... The overcoming life which we speak of does not require our own effort. We can look at 1 Corinthians 15:57, which says, "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Victory is something that God has prepared and given to us.

Brothers and sisters, a great mistake is to think that salvation comes to us freely, while victory comes to us as a result of our own effort... Even though we do not try to be saved through works, we try to overcome through works. But just as one cannot be saved through good works, one cannot overcome through good works.

Being under the law means for us to do something for God. Being under grace means that God is doing something for man. If God is doing something for us, sin will not be able to lord it over us. Under the law, we work. Under grace, God works... The principle of overcoming is the principle of grace; it is not the principle of reward. Once you receive this gift, every problem will be solved.

You may remember that Paul once said, "For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the

working for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). Whatever we work out is according to God's good pleasure. Man's way is to suppress sin. But God's way is to perform a miracle by removing the old man and cleansing the heart altogether. If you realize the meaning of God's victory, you will be overjoyed.

Brothers and sisters, do you have some insurmountable barriers? Do you have some uncontrollable sins? If you do, the Lord Jesus can perform the same miracle on you. You may have been helpless in some areas for years... It does not matter whether your sins are spiritual, carnal, mental, physical, or dispositional. It does not matter whether you can or cannot obey God's will or whether or not you are consecrated, and it does not matter whether or not you have confessed your sins. The Lord can perform His miracle on you. If you cannot consecrate yourself, the Lord can cause you to consecrate yourself. If you cannot endure, the Lord can enable you to endure. He can overcome all the sins mentioned. God is able. When He performs a miracle, everything becomes possible.

Philippians 2:12 says to "work out your own salvation." In the past, we tried to hide ourselves as much as possible. Now the victory of Christ expresses itself. It is expressible. In the past, the more we suppressed, the better it was. Now the more we express, the better it is. Christ lives within us, and we live Him out before men.

Brothers and sisters, many people allow themselves to be unclean within but do not like to be unclean on the outside. The thoughts and feelings in our heart cannot be exposed to men's eyes. We think that we are victorious. Others may commend us for our humility, and we may call it humility. We may appear to have much patience, but actually everything is merely locked up inside. Brothers and sisters, I must say honestly that there is no victory when we suppress everything within us. Victory is when we go and Christ moves in. Victory is something that is expressed.

Christianity is different from all other religions. The difference does not lie merely in the cross but in the fact that we have a living Christ living within us... Victory is a matter of letting go of one's self and expression. An overcoming life is none other than Christ Himself.

- Excerpts from "The Overcoming Life" -- Chapter 3