**Jesus Help Me Be an Overcomer**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Luke 24:44-49**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 6, 2020**

**Luke 24:44-49**

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things.

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

**Many of us have found ourselves repeatedly confessing the same sin to God, wondering why we can’t overcome it.**

Saints, at times like these, we feel trapped in

**Romans 7:15**

“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.”

**1 John 1:9**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**God will forgive us, but merely confessing may not bring us victory.**

**What is missing? What will help us get out of this cycle?**

**The missing link is genuine repentance!**

Saints, before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His apostles to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name to all the nations (Luke 24:47). This was not the first time the message of repentance had been announced, nor would it be the last.

**1. John the Baptist began his ministry with these words:**

**Matthew 3:2**

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”

**2. A short time later, Jesus came on the scene repeating the same message**:

**Matthew 4:17**

“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**3. After the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, Peter boldly told the people:**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**4. Later, the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians saying**:

**2 Corinthians 7:9**

“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.”

**5. In Revelation 2:5, the glorified Christ admonished the church in Ephesus saying**:

**Revelation 2:5**

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.”

**What is repentance?**

Saints, repentance is heartfelt sorrow for sin followed by the renouncing of sin and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ. It’s not merely feeling remorse or guilt but changing direction. It includes a recognition that sin is against almighty God and is utterly wrong. When we have truly repented, the result is a changed life. We forsake our former ways and thoughts and return to the Lord.

**Isaiah 55:7**

“Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”

**Repentance is essential for believers**

**Sin does not fit in our lives because God has said in:**

**Romans 8:29**

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Saints, whenever we sin, the indwelling Holy Spirit convicts us so we can confess and repent. We should never ignore, tolerate, accept, or practice what we know to be sinful. It not only offends God, but also hurts us.

**Repentance is essential for salvation**

God made the way of salvation simple, yet there is so much confusion about it. Some people say all we have to do is believe in Jesus. In their view, repentance and submitting to the lordship of Christ are not a part of salvation.

Others think joining a church, being baptized, giving money, and doing good works are all that’s necessary. Salvation is by faith and not works, but we need to clarify what “believing in Jesus” means. This Sermon expression encompasses so much more than merely believing what the Bible says about Him.

Saving faith is more than mental agreement with the truth. It includes an acknowledgement that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins, as well as the recognition of our own sinfulness. We become sorrowful under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and desire a changed life.

**Believing in Jesus includes:**

**1. Complete trust in Him for salvation:**

**2. Repentance from past sins:**

**3. Surrender of our lives fully to Jesus.**

In the New Testament, salvation and repentance are often equated. When Jesus spoke of salvation in Luke 5:32 it says:

**Luke 5:32**

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Peter also spoke of salvation when he wrote that the Lord does not wish any one to perish:

**2 Peter 3:9**

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Saints, another area of confusion is the lordship of Christ. Some people want to claim Jesus as Savior but not as Lord. They desire His forgiveness and a guarantee of heaven, but they don’t want Him telling them how to live.

The problem with this approach is not only that it is extremely selfish; it’s also contrary to the very identity of the Son of God. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, and we cannot remove the fact that He is our Lord and God. Those who are truly repentant are willing to submit to Christ and let Him lead them in a new direction.

**Repentance results in a changed life**

After salvation, we begin a brand new life. Although we don’t understand all that’s involved at that moment, the Holy Spirit works within us to convict us of sin, draw us to repentance, and guide us on a new path of obedience.

We all begin as spiritual babies, but the Lord wants us to continually grow in Him, and repentance is a large part of this process.

Saints, if we stop turning away from sin, we will stop growing and stay “infants in Christ”

**1 Corinthians 3:1-2**

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

**We are not perfect, but we are responsible for what we do.**

After our salvation, we should desire to please the Lord and do the good works He has planned for us (Eph. 2:8-10).

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Saints, if we are genuinely saved, we will never be happy or satisfied living in sin because we now have a new nature through the Holy Spirit who indwells us. When He convicts us of sin, our first response should be to ask Him for forgiveness.

**What does confession mean?**

Confession means to agree with God that what we did was wrong. But that alone will not keep us from repeating it. That’s why repentance should always be a part of confession. We are called to live a sanctified life, one that is set apart for God and His purposes.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Confession and repentance are an important part of sanctification. When we live a sanctified life, we walk in obedience to Christ. However, according to 1 John

**1 John 1:7-10**

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Saints we deceive ourselves if we think we’ll never sin. That’s why we are told to confess our sins to God. Christ not only forgives us but continually works to cleanse us, making our lives different. He helps us put away the sin and turn back to Him in obedience.

**Colossians 3:8-10**

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him…

**In Closing:**

**1. Is there a particular sin you repeatedly confess?**

**What is it?**

**2. Why do you think you keep struggling with it?**

**3. What steps can you take to truly repent and turn from it?**

**4. Do you tend to view confession and repentance as a negative experience that makes you feel guilty or worthless or as an opportunity for cleansing and a fresh start?**

**5. How could a positive perspective of this privilege encourage confession, and motivate you to live a holy life?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**