

## ***The Power of the Gospel: Walking in the Benefits of the Cross (Pt. 2)***

### **I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL**

- A. The truths of the gospel are the only means through which we can experience the power of God. The gospel or the message of the cross “*is*” or *releases* God’s power into the human experience. The gospel has qualified us to receive freely God’s love, power, favor, and many other benefits.
- <sup>16</sup>*...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation... (Rom. 1:16)*
- <sup>18</sup>*For the message of the cross...to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18)*
- B. On the cross, Jesus purchased our full salvation (spirit, soul, body) and rescued or fully delivered us from the dominion of darkness—the dominion of sin, sickness, and Satan.
- <sup>12</sup>*...the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. <sup>13</sup>For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Col. 1:12-13, NAS)*
- C. We have received an inheritance (Eph. 1:11), which includes *all spiritual blessings* in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3) and *blessed circumstances* on earth. The ultimate aspect of our inheritance is that we can participate in the abounding love and fellowship within the Godhead. We are accepted and enjoyed by God, have the authority of Jesus’ name, and the indwelling Spirit. We also receive blessed circumstances in *part* (yet substantially) in this age and in *fullness* in the age to come.
- <sup>3</sup>*...[the Father] has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...  
<sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood...<sup>11</sup>In Him we have obtained an inheritance... (Eph. 1:3-11)*
- D. David was zealous to experience *all* the benefits of the grace of God available to him (Ps. 103:1-5).
- <sup>2</sup>*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from destruction... (Ps. 103:2-4)*
- E. The way that the Lord wanted the psalmist to show his gratitude for receiving such glorious benefits was by appropriating them by responding in faith—by taking and saying “thank You.”
- <sup>12</sup>*What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? <sup>13</sup>I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD ....<sup>17</sup>I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:12–17)*
- F. We must use our authority in Christ to resist Satan’s “breaking into our house” to steal and destroy God’s blessing in our life by fears, addictions, sickness, emotional or financial oppression, or broken relationships, etc. Satan’s attack against us will continue unless we resist and refuse it. God’s people must take authority over the spirit of fear and resist it or it will increase.
- <sup>10</sup>*The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. (Jn. 10:10)*
- <sup>7</sup>*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jas. 4:7)*
- <sup>7</sup>*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power...and of a sound mind. (2 Tim. 1:7)*

## II. OVERCOMING THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY

- A. Satan accuses to convince us that we are failures who are guilty, disqualified, forgotten, and irrelevant and that the small things we do will not matter to anyone, especially not to the Lord.  
***<sup>10</sup>The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night...<sup>11</sup>And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev. 12:10-11)***
- B. John highlighted three truths that equip us to overcome the accusations of Satan. *The blood of the Lamb* speaks of Jesus' death that qualified us to receive freely all the benefits of the gospel. *They did not love their lives to death* speaks of having a deep allegiance and loyalty to Jesus. *The word of their testimony* speaks of our confession of faith, which is what we believe about who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, who we are in Him, and what we have received as our inheritance.
- C. We release Jesus' power in our life by the word of our testimony, by our confession of the Word. Our confession engages our heart with God and His truth. There is a deep connection with what we say with our mouth and what our heart believes or is moved with confidence. In Romans 10, Paul referred to what Moses said in Deuteronomy 30:14. Faith does not come by asking, but by *hearing* the Word. The way our heart *hears* the best is when the Word comes *from our own lips*.  
***<sup>8</sup>The word is near you, in your mouth...that is, the word of faith...<sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [delivered from the dominion of sin and Satan]. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [God's blessing on our spirit, soul, body, and circumstances] ... <sup>17</sup>So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:8-17)***
- D. ***The word is near you***: The word that contains God's promises and releases His power is so near. It is as close as speaking it. Moses taught that obeying God's commands were not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was not it *far off* (outside their ability to do it), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (a heavenly encounter), nor to *go overseas* (to receive it from others) to do it.  
***<sup>11</sup>This commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?" <sup>13</sup>Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?" <sup>14</sup>The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. (Deut. 30:11-14)***
- E. When condemnation, shame, fear, hopelessness, lust, etc., rise up in us to challenge what God promised in His Word about loving, forgiving, empowering, directing, or providing for us, then we must apply the promise of the Word to our heart, by *confessing the truth* and *resisting lies*.
- F. We either overcome oppression or live in it, according to our confession. Our words are powerful in causing either faith or fear to grow in us. If our words agree with God's Word, we release His power in our life. If our words agree with Satan's lies, then we allow darkness to continue. Many have "faith" in the devil's words. The war of words determines who has dominion in our heart. Whose words do you allow to take root in your heart? There are consequences to our choices. We must not confuse the commitment to trust God and to do His will with passive resignation that accepts Satan's attack against our lives.