I. The Power of Success.

A. The formula is simple and readily available in God's Word. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.” Psalm 1
B. This power is the transforming power that is given by the Holy Spirit. II Corinthians 3:18
C. It is the Spirit that changes us.
D. It is the Spirit that helpeth our infirmities....
E. To experience this change is to pass from death unto life.

II. The Problem of Self

A. Self-power is Satan motivated power. Solomon noted that the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or is the ear filled with hearing. Ecclesiastes 1: 8
B. Believing that everything is O.K. is to ignore the need of preparing to one day meet God face to face.
C. In our text Paul identifies the necessity of a proper self-examination.
D. This plea is directed to Christians.
E. We are not to be foolish but to redeem the time, for the days are evil. Galatians 5:16

III. The Process of Surrender

A. The presentation of an O.T. sacrifice was required to be pure, to be as blemish free as possible.
B. The believers’ presentation of himself also requires purity. We must confess our sins seek forgiveness before offering ourselves to His service.
C. Paul wrote to (6:11) Roman: Likewise reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and it there be any praise, think on these things, Philippians 4:8
untó sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
D. Paul observed” Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances.” Colossians 2:20
E. Paul noted: “Come out from among them and be ye separate.” II Corinthians 6:17

IV. The Path of Service.

A. Everyone who claims to bear the name of Jesus should depart from iniquity. II Timothy 2:19d
B. Luke wrote in Acts 20:19: Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and not temptations which befell me by the lying-in wait of the Jews.
C. With good will let us serve God and not men. Ephesians 6:7
D. As we have opportunity let us do good unto all men…. Galatians 6:10
E. David observed: He that goeth forth weeping will bear precious seeds. Psalm 126:6

IV. Conclusion:

A. Let us prove this text in our lives.
B. We should stop whining and ask God to make good His promises.
C. Only a child of God can know of the joy in absolute surrender to God.
D. Like David, let us pray: Restore unto me the joy of my salvation.
E. He said the sacrifice of God a contrite Spirit a broken heart O God thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51:17

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DON’T MESS WITH MY MIND
Philippians 2:5-8

Introduction:
Paul teaches us to have the mind of Christ in verse 5. In verses 6-8 he teaches us what the mind of Christ is. Are you allowing people to mess with your mind? It is amazing how many people will be able to change the way people think. Some people are so impressionable that just a word or implication, make something so. The Devil will try to mess with your Mind and use others to do his work. He caused doubt in Eve’s mind, just by questioning what God said. Our world can mess with your mind. I refuse to allow others to mess with my mind. If I would let doctors mess with my mind, I don’t know if I would have one right now. If I let church members mess with my mind, I would be in trouble as a pastor.

I. BIBLE STUDY PREVENTS OTHERS FROM MESSING WITH YOUR MIND.

A. The salvation
1. I have experienced redemption or salvation. I have put my trust and faith in Jesus Christ.
2. I became a new creature in Christ Jesus. II Corinthians 5:17 I am now a spiritual person.
3. I have become a child of God. I am like my heavenly Father in nature and character. Galatians 3:26

B. The Scriptures
1. God’s Word is inspired and profitable for four specific things. II Timothy 3:16,17
2. As babes in Christ I am to desire the sincere milk of the Word. I Peter 2:2
3. By reading and studying God’s Word I am to grow to the point I can teach others. Hebrews 5:12-14
C. The spiritual
   1. Paul teaches us that people can be spiritual or they can be carnal. The choice is ours. I Corinthians 3:1-3
   2. The saved are to have the mind of Christ in them according to the text.
   3. Jesus said we are to seek His kingdom and righteousness first. Matthew 6:33

II. CHURCH ATTENDANCE PREVENTS OTHERS FROM MESSING WITH YOUR MIND.

A. The Word
   1. God teaches us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is. Hebrews 10:25
   2. We are to give glory to God in a church by Christ Jesus. Ephesians 3:21
   3. The custom of the Lord was to go to the synagogue on the sabbath day. Luke 4:16

B. The worship
   1. The psalmist teaches us to enter the gates of Lord’s house with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 95:1-6
   2. We are to stand in awe of who God is and what God can do.
   3. We worship Him by giving thanks to Him for the blessings of life.

C. The will and way
   1. We attend God’s house to heart he Word of God taught and preached.
   2. We learn of God’s will for our lives. Matthew 11:28-30. As new converts, we must study to learn God’s will and way.
   3. The way of God is demonstrated in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22,23

III. PRAYER PREVENTS OTHERS FROM MESSING WITH YOUR MIND.

A. The person
   1. We are human, and we can be influenced by Satan, sin, and self.
   2. The Lord teaches us how to pray in Matthew 6:9-15. This is a model prayer.
   3. God knows what we need, but He wants us to realize we need Him in daily life. We must depend upon Him for our needs. Proverbs 3:5,6

B. The power
   1. There is power in prayer. Study what Jesus said in Luke 18:1
   2. Prayer changes people who changes things. The Lord taught His disciples much about prayer.
   3. Prayer can remove mountains. Prayer can grow as a mustard seed.

C. The peace
   1. We are to let or allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts. Colossians 3:15
   2. We are to know that the peace of God guards our hearts and minds. Philippians 4:7
   3. We will have tribulation in the world, but Jesus has left us His peace. John 16:33

D. The purpose
   1. The song goes JUST A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS MAKES THINGS RIGHT.
   2. Prayer is our way of calling upon God for our needs in life.
   3. Prayer can even change us as we pray to the Father about our needs or things that we are facing.
IV. WORKING FOR THE LORD PREVENTS OTHERS FROM MESSING WITH YOUR MIND.

A. The business
1. Years ago, I heard, The idle mind is the Devil’s workshop.
2. Working for the Lord is a joy to the saved person. We are obeying the Lord.
3. So many people are messed up and mixed up because they are not busy serving the Lord and working for Him.

B. The busy
1. You are going to be busy doing something. You should be busy working for the Lord.
2. There is always plenty for church members to do around a church. You will hear of many appeals to work.
3. The Devil tries to make us think, we can’t do anything for the Lord. The Lord saved you to serve Him.

C. The beauty
1. Saul of Tarsus became the great apostle Paul. The persecutor became the preacher.
2. It is a beautiful sight to see the saved serving the Lord.
3. The beauty is a saved person is serving the Lord from the heart.

V. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PREVENTS OTHERS FROM MESSING WITH YOUR MIND.

A. The association
1. You become a whole lot like the people you associate with.
2. The Lord teaches us to live and fellowship with His people. I John 1:7
3. You must take the time to be with other saved people. Attend church. Attend socials. Assist others with other saved people.

B. The agreement
1. Associate with those who believe the same thing you believe. We are Missionary Baptists.
2. There are a lot of saved people who do not care about what the Bible says.
3. They have their barnyard beliefs. Many will disagree with a preacher and what he preaches.

C. The assistance
1. Try to assist the Savior in your life. He will be trying to accomplish things through you.
2. Try to assist the saved in your life. There are people who need your help and assistance.
3. Try to assist the Spirit in your life. He will be trying to work in you and through you.

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TOUCHING THE MASTER
Matthew 14:35,36

Introduction:
When they heard that Jesus was come into their area, they brought all the diseased to Him. Jesus did many miracles as proof of His divinity. No one could do what Jesus did. He had a special love for the sick and diseased and afflicted. The accounts of the four gospels give many examples of the healing power of the Master. He healed people physically, so they would want to be healed physically. Any body healing will not stay death. We will die, but we can die spiritually whole. We often talk about the Lord touching our lives and He does. We also can touch the Lord in our lives. There are some things that touch the Lord.
I. TORMENTS TOUCH THE MASTER

A. The persons
   1. In the text all that were diseased in this area were brought to Jesus and He healed them.
   2. In Jesus’ day disease meant a lot of pain physically and emotionally and mentally.
   3. Those with certain diseases were to cry out unclean. They were not to pass the germ of the disease to others.

B. The problems
   1. These people had diseases that they would have to live with for the rest of their lives.
   2. Those with diseases know of the human frailty. We know what weakness and fears and uncertainty all is about.
   3. These diseased people wanted to touch the hem of the garment of the Lord. They believed they would be healed by doing so.

C. The power
   1. The power of the Master is real, and the Bible is full of demonstrations of it.
   2. Read your Bible through and you will get a small understanding of the power of our great God.
   3. God is so great that when they touched the hem of His garment, power went out of Him and they were healed.
   4. The beauty of it is the Lord is concerned about the diseased and sick and handicap.

II. TEARS TOUCH THE MASTER.

A. The person
   1. In Isaiah 38:1-3 King Hezekiah was told something that brought tears to his eyes and a prayer on his heart.

B. The problem
   1. Hezekiah was informed by the man of God that he needed to set his house in order.
   2. The reason he was to set his house in order was that he was going to die.
   3. The prophet was not lying to Hezekiah. He was sent of the Lord to tell the king this message. We all know that we will die, but we don’t know when or how.

C. The power
   1. Hezekiah did the best thing that anyone can do. He prayed to the Lord.
   2. As he prayed to the Lord, he wept before him. Tears are a language that moves our Lord.
   3. Because of Hezekiah’s prayer and tears, he was given 15 more years to live. The Bible is very plain on this truth.

III. TRIALS TOUCH THE MASTER

A. The person
   1. In II Corinthians 12:7-10, Paul was troubled and bothered about a thorn in his flesh.
   2. Paul had been given a wonderful personal revelation of Jesus Christ. He knew as much about the personal ministry of Jesus as Peter and the others.
   3. But the thorn in the flesh was given to Paul to keep him humble so he would not be lifted up in pride.

B. The problem
   1. The Bible is not plain on what the thorn in the flesh was. He didn’t
want the thorn and prayed three times for the Lord to remove it.

2. The Bible is not plain on what the thorn in the flesh was. All we can do is speculate about it.

3. We do know that Paul wrote several things about his eyes and even described himself as unbecoming in his condition.

C. The power

1. The answer of the Lord to the three prayers of Paul was His grace was sufficient for the need of Paul.

2. When we have a problem that we have to deal with the Lord can take them out of the way or He can give us the grace to bear them.

3. He can calm the storms in your life or calm you in the storms of life. One is just as good as the other. Either way the Lord takes care of our needs.

IV. TROUBLES TOUCH THE MASTER

A. The person

1. The book of Job is very difficult to read. It deals with all the problems of Job.

2. Job is described as a mature or perfect man, upright, feared God and eschewed evil. Job 1:1

3. We talk a lot about Job when we talk about problems and hardships that we face.

B. The problem

1. There is no man that has gone through all the problems that Job went through.

2. If you are serious about serving the Lord, you can get ready for a lot of problems the devil will bring your way.

3. Job lost his possessions, children, family and friends, and his health. He went through all of this because the devil wanted to prove that he was only serving God for what he got out of it.

C. The power

1. In Job 42:7,8,10 the Lord informs the three friends of Job that they were wrong, and Job was right.

2. They were to take and offering to Job and he was to offer it for them.

3. When Job offered the offering, all was restored to him. He had twice as much possessions and God gave him 10 more children.

V. TESTIMONIES TOUCH THE MASTER

A. The person

1. Stephen was a preaching deacon. He had preached to the Jews about the Lord Jesus.

2. He had preached the truth to them. He had obeyed the Lord and brought the message of truth to these needy people.

3. Even the very best of preachers and witnesses can get into trouble teaching the Word of God in love.

B. The problem

1. What Stephen had presented caused the Jews to become angry and full of wrath.

2. They were so angry that they stoned Stephen to death. Study what He taught them in this chapter and you will find he told the truth.

3. They stoned him to death. His death was witnessed by a young man named Saul. He became Paul the apostle and a mighty witness of the Lord.

C. The power

1. Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost. Acts 7:55 This simply means that the Holy Spirit was in control of Stephen.

2. In this condition he saw Jesus standing at the Father’s right hand.
3. He ask the Lord not to lay what they were doing to their charge. His death was used of the Lord to convict Saul of his sins and need of salvation.

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BENEFIT FROM YOUR PROBLEMS
Romans 5:3-5

Introduction:
One of the most difficult things to understand in the Christian experience is why we must suffer and have problems. The world reasons that if God is a God of love, why does He not prevent the problems. There is good reason for these problems...

I. GOD’S MAJOR CONCERN FOR US
A. God wants only the best for us. Why problems?
B. Our concern: quick solutions. But God desires character development thru His disciplines before He removes the problems.
C. God’s primary concern: that we follow right procedures in problem-solving, rather than that the problem is solved.
D. We try to get out of pressure of our problems: God uses that pressure to motivate us to greater spiritual maturity.
E. Present problems result from past disobedience to promptings of Holy Spirit. God uses these problems to apply pressure for complete obedience. If we fail to get these benefits from our present problems, God will only raise up new ones.

II. GRACE MULTIPLIED.
A. Success in life is entirely related to how much Grace God gives.
B. Grace defined: the desire and power to do God’s will, Phil 2:13.
C. The only way to get “more grace” is by being humbled, James 4:6
D. Humbling to experience conflicts we cannot resolve. But this is God’s tool to break Pride in our life and give more grace

III. FOUR BENEFITS OF GRACE.
A. Self-examination, I Cor. 11:31,32: Heb. 12:2...
   1. This is one of God’s requirements of us
   2. When all is well there is little motivation for this. But when conflict comes, and our spirit is in grief, there is motivation.
      Prov. 20:27; 6:23; 12:1
B. New Insights into Scriptures...
   1. Many areas of Scripture may not be meaningful, unless we go thru the experiences for which they give insight. Prov. 1:23; Psalm 119:71
   2. Psalms, Proverbs, Scripture biographies of godly characters, I Cor. 10:13 Heb 12:1 Chapter 11 “Heroes of Faith”
C. Unifying the Family...
   1. Problems of one family member, designed as motivation, to bring entire family together in seeking the solution.
   2. Purpose: to clear life of whatever hinders prayer in the family.
   3. Primarily the responsibility of Father.
D. Unifying the families of a Church...
   1. When a problem is too big for one family, it is God’s design that others help in finding solution.
IV. THE PRIMARY THRUST: CHRIST-LIKENESS. GAL. 4:19

A. Christ in each – in salvation
B. Christ ruling in each – in acknowledging Him, as Lord of life.
C. The drawing power this brings to the lost.

Bro. G. F. Crumley
At Home with The Lord

THE OVERCOMING CHRISTIAN
Romans 8:37

Introduction:
No one wants to live a defeated life. We all seek to overcome life’s problems, but the sad fact is that many do live the life of the Overcomer.

I. VICTORY IS POSSIBLE.

A. The promise of “all things,” Phil. 4:13
B. We are created to live the victorious life.
C. Blessings come only after conquest.

II. FOES TO OVERCOME

A. The condemnation and guilt of sin
B. Temptation to sin and disobey God.
C. Fear, anxiety. May manifest itself in...
   1. Pride, arrogance.

2. Feeling of inadequacy, inferiority
3. Sickness, to retreat from reality
4. Self-destructive tendencies.

D. Death, hell, the grave. All humanity fears death and what lies beyond it.

III. OVERCOMING THE FOES.

A. Sin’s guilt,
   I John 1:7-9; Heb. 8:12; 10:17
B. Temptation,
   James 4:7; I John 4:4; I Cor. 10:13
C. Fear, anxiety,
   Psalm 27:1-5; Rom. 8:28
D. Death, hell, the grave,
   Rev. 1:18; I Cor. 15:51-56

IV. WHENCE VICTORY.

A. The strength to overcome is not our own, text – it is of the Lord and His armor, Eph. 6
B. Faith is the victory,
   I John 5:4
   1. Faith for salvation.
   2. Faith for service.

WILL YOU LET GOD GIVE YOU VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE?

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