

There Is Victory in Jesus A Teaching on John 1

Who was Jesus? Why is there victory in Jesus? *There was a man sent from God whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and then world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:6-11, 14).*

Jesus came to His own people, the Jews, but they did not know that it was He that was the promised Messiah. The week before His crucifixion, he rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. His people took off their coats and laid them with palm branches on the street for Him to ride on. He was the Word made FLESH, and they beheld His glory, and did not realize it. After teaching the temple, one of his own disciples exclaimed about the stones in the buildings of Jerusalem. Jesus answered, *“Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”* He made the world, he was in the world, but the world did not know who he was. He came to His own people, and still comes to the Church today. And his own people did not receive Him. The chosen of God, which were supposed to know God, did not receive him for who he was. . *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become sons of God, to those who believe in His name: Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12-13).* So those who do receive Him, he gives POWER to become a son of God. Man cannot do it; someone cannot will it to be done. There is only power that comes from Him that makes a child of God.

What is the difference between Jesus and an ordinary man? Mary, his mother was human, but His father was God. So Jesus was born of flesh and blood, and of the Spirit. Born of the Spirit, he was the firstborn of many brethren, so that we can be born of the Spirit also. Some will say, “But He was God, so we can’t compare ourselves to Him.” But He says He will share his inheritance with us. How can he do that when He is Deity? He can, because he was also man. He left that glory in heaven and became a man. He humbled himself and became a man. *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14a).*

We know our flesh has problems and weaknesses. We sin. But Jesus never sinned. When He gave up his life for us, he chose willingly to die. We can never perceive ourselves to be like Jesus even though the Word commands us to be Christ-like. We can’t really get that to sink in, because our reasoning kicks in and says we can’t be Christ-like. After all, we think we cannot be like Jesus because we are not God, like He was. Here is where we need to understand that in order for us to walk in the power and victory he has for us; we have to understand where it comes from. Why can you walk where Jesus walked? Why can you do the things He did. Why can you pray for people and something happens? Is it just an accident? Good luck? No there is a reason. The Word tells us, but we don’t believe it. We don’t receive what he has to say. No more than those around him received him when he walked amongst them, raised the dead, healed the sick, and worked mighty miracles.

But Jesus was the first-born, and as He is, so are you. Like Jesus, you were born of the flesh, but now your father also is God, if you have been born again. Once born again, you have a spiritual heritage, and you are a God-man or God/woman. This is not something you do, it is what God did. Now you have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to walk as Christ walked. It is difficult to picture us in that position. But, fortunately, it’s not up to us. It is not our will, not the will of the flesh, not the will of man. It is the will of God.

Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, (Romans 1:3). Mary’s lineage was from David, and so was Joseph’s. He was man, but also, “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:3-4). He was born of the seed of David, but also the Son of God with power – BOTH human and God in one. The Spirit of God was in Him. And, there’s that word again: POWER. He didn’t come as the Son of God and just sit around on a chair. He came with power. He wants us to walk in power. The difference between you and someone sitting on a fence is power: the power of God in your life. Without the power of God, you are no different than anyone else. Power for what? The power to change, the power to help people, the power to move in Him, to flow in the Spirit. Jesus had power!

When he spoke to the storm, it stopped. You have power, too. But most of the time, we don't know it or use it. I am not talking about some faith trip! If you are a son or daughter of God, then the power is with you somewhere too. Realize it. Walk in it! Don't let the Devil lie to you and tell you that you have no power. This power is not to rule and reign – it is to help others. It is power to build the kingdom of God. It is power to be a witness as to what Jesus has done.

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so, we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law (Galatians 4:1-4). This scripture wants to make sure that you understand that Jesus was a man. This is the victory! When Paul began to write, the first thing he tells us is that Jesus is the seed of David. He was made of a woman. It is important to know who Jesus was. Why? Because this is where the power lays. It is now a matter of what people think. It a matter of what God did. We must grasp what He did.

...to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (Galatians 4:5-7). Here Paul takes us a step farther. If the Spirit of God is in us, then we are not only a son or daughter of God, but an heir. We will inherit the kingdom of God as his children. We are heirs!

But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? (Galatians 4:8-9). I am afraid for you lest I have labored for you in vain (v. 11). He's saying, "What's wrong with you?" Don't you know who you are? Why do you want to go back and live in religion again? Why go back under the law? Why do you love the tradition, the holidays and holy days more than the freedom in the Spirit? Here you are, a child of God, and you want to go back under the law, into bondage – even after Jesus paid such an awful price for you to do free.

When we can see that it is not us, but God who willed us to be born, then we can take our eyes off ourselves, imperfections and problems, and look to Jesus and the power He gives us. If God caused us to be born again, then evidently he has a plan for our life, and He is big enough to carry it out. Evidently I can follow that plan just by letting Him be God.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure, (Philippians 2:12-13). Who's working in you? It is God. He does the work not you. God is responsible. He is your father, you are the child. He is causing you to grow in Power. It is His good pleasure.

Holding forth the word of life (v16a). How can I do that? Church has not taught me. Tradition has not taught me, nor has religion. But I am born again. And when I was, something happened so that I was no longer the same person. Not only that, but now there is a Power working in me to do God's good pleasure in me. He is bringing me forth. And there is power to overcome. Power to go on. Power for Him to increase in me. Power for my self to decrease, because I now am a child of God, and an heir, a joint-heir with Jesus. Amen.