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Trusting In Difficult Times  
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As believers we sometimes need to be reminded of our authority and the position that God has given each of us, the power to be able to overcome the enemy and the attacks that he places in our way, and because of what Jesus accomplished with the shedding of His blood, we are seated in heavenly places with Him. As we read and meditate the word, we begin to see what Gods plans are and that He wants the very best for us. We may not be there in our minds because of being weighed down with challenges in our lives, but that doesn't change God's will. We must learn how to take our position, knowing we have the power to accomplish what the Lord has intended for our life, the authority to overcome the enemy and the demonic forces that try to steal from us.

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." KJV

Eph 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" KJV

Paul is in prison and it doesn't look to good for him, but he is teaching the Philippians that he knows that the Lord will complete what has been started in him. His best days are ahead just as ours are. The bible teaches in Mark, Matthew and Luke using the illustration of the sower that as the word begins to come to us, the enemy comes immediately to steal that word, but then as we meditate and get understanding, we begin to bear fruit of the word. Our best days are ahead, God is not done blessing us.

Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" KJV

A special word was given - "The power of the word will be health to your body, your marrow, your nerves and your sinews and your muscles, all your enter parts, and refreshment and physical well being to your bones." Jesus is our healer.

For several weeks we have been learning how to trust God in the midst of difficult times. Paul was teaching in Second Corinthians that he was totally surrounded, there was no way out, but he wasn't cast down, he didn't give up, that was when the resurrection life of God begin to work in him. There isn't any problem, situation or bondage that the enemy can bring our way that our faith cannot cause them to be removed, when we have knowledge of the word of God and begin to understand His ways, becoming progressively more acquainted with Him and His character and as we grow and mature, there isn't anything that is impossible to a believer, but the enemy wants us to believe that there is. The enemy doesn't care if we hear it, but he sure doesn't want us to believe it.

The word of God never changes, words are powerful, there is death and life in words that are spoken.

In Second Chronicles, we learn that King Hezekiah was concerned regarding the words that King Sennacherib was speaking to the people, causing them to fear, knowing that if he could get them in fear, his army could defeat them, but King Hezekiah began to speak words of faith to his people, telling them that God was on their side and they wouldn't be defeated. King Hezekiah's people stayed in faith and God sent one angel and wiped out over 185,000 of King Sennacheribs troops.

When we get in fear we get out of the arena of faith, if we stay in faith everything becomes possible, getting into fear allows the thing we fear the most to come on us.

The following scriptures are the foundation for today's teaching. One of the outward manifestations of believing God is that we will have a grateful and thankful and joyful heart.

Pro 15:15 "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. " KJV

There are two contrasts here; the days are evil but with a merry heart or a good attitude there can be a feast

\*Pro 15:15 "All the days of the desponding and afflicted are made evil [by anxious thoughts and forebodings], but he who has a glad heart has a continual feast [regardless of circumstances]. AMP

\*Paraphrase this; to all discouraged or depressed and oppressed or the worriers and complainers, always finding something wrong, will be evil days, but a glad heart will bring a continual feast regardless of what we are going through.

Pro 15:15 "A miserable heart means a miserable life; a cheerful heart fills the day with song." MESSAGE

Dismayed or despondent is defined as we begin to think about all the bad that is going to happen before it does and we lose our joy not having a grateful heart. The way the enemy works in our being despondent is that we first take on discouragement, it is progressive and if not dealt with, it will turn into a withdrawn attitude or depression that will then will turn into oppression. It is important to deal with despondency immediately, it will cause us to lose our joy, if we have a merry heart we will have a continual feast regardless of circumstances. Does Jesus change because of adverse circumstances coming our way? If we can keep our attitudes right, have a merry heart and keep our emotions in check we will have a continual feast.

We learned in Deuteronomy 28, how God was disappointed with the people forgetting all that He had done for them. The walls to the temple had been broken down for a long period of time and when Nehemiah was given permission to go back to Jerusalem and look at the situation, he did his inspection at night, he didn't want the people to know how almost impossible the job would be. Once they started the repairs, they were completed in a short period of time, the temple was still not repaired but Nehemiah told them that the joy of the Lord is the strength of their lives, don't mourn because the temple is not completed, they began to rejoice and to read the scriptures and as they did the Lord gave them understanding showing them that there would be a favorable outcome then they really began to rejoice, becoming doers of the word.

Begin to count our blessings; thanking the Lord for all that He has done for us. When adversity comes our way this is the principle that we must learn to develop and cultivate in our lives, because it is part of driving back the enemy with the bad word that he has called to our attention, to destroy us and put us in a box. When the devil brings words to us, the tendency is to start thinking on them, we are either the one in charge or the one who has been wronged and if we don't correct the words, we will start talking what has been said, a curse comes to us, we start talking to it and reinforce the curse. What God has blessed cannot be cursed.

1 Thess 5:16-18 "Be happy [in your faith] and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually (always); 17 Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]; 18 Thank [God] \*in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will]." AMP

1 Thess 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 \*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." KJV

\*Does it say to give thanks for everything or in everything?

When adversity knocks on our door, we cannot allow it rob us of our joy. We can't lose our joy, this is the message that the angels brought to the shepherds, they were bringing joy to them. Don't let the spirit of business get ahold of you in the midst of the business in the world today, wanting to keep us from setting at the feet of Jesus. The Psalmist tells us that, it is in His presence that there is fullness of joy and at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

Words from an old song were shared: "Sometimes we are discouraged nothing seems to work out right, another opportunity to quit, but rest in the Lord, wait patiently He will see you through, trust in Him and unto His word submit, He could turn it around for your good, just like He said He would, cast not away your confidence, trust Him like you should and He will turn it around for your good."

Powerful, we have another opportunity to quit, what will we do? Trust God!

Paul is aboard a ship headed to Rome and a storm comes up, he gets a word from God and starts sharing with those on board, encouraging them and talking to them about being of good cheer. The situation appeared to be hopeless, all hope was gone. This was the circumstance that Paul was in, he had tried to get the captain of the ship not to sail, but they wouldn't listen to him until he received the word from God that no life would be lost only the ship and not to have fear, but be of good cheer.

Acts 27:20-25 "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. 21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." KJV

This sometimes happens with believers, the feeling that there is no hope, it has gone on for such a long time, they are worn out emotionally and physically, there seems to be no break in the storm that the enemy has placed before them. The Psalmist tells us that the Lord inhabits the praises of His people, it doesn't matter how dark the night is, how bad the circumstances have become, God doesn't change and if we can keep the joy in the midst of the most challenging times of our lives, we will see the outward manifestation of Gods deliverance on our behalf, He does not inhabit the murmuring or complaining of His people. That was one thing that kept the children of Israel from entering into the promised land.

Stay in the arena of faith, stay out of the arena of fear, that is where the enemy works. Many believers have a received a word from God, but the enemy has come wanting to erase what has been told to them with adverse circumstances or challenging times, Gods plan has never changed, greatness is on the inside of us, rise and shine for the glory is upon us, arise from the depression that has tried to keep us down. When things get tough, that's when the tough get going, greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world that always causes us to triumph in every situation. We are world overcomers.