

Faith is the Victory!

By Elder R. Morneau

“Only through the merits of the divine blood of Christ shed on Calvary for our salvation can a person truly escape the harassment of demonic spirits. We need to consider deeply this great sacrifice! One way is to read about the crucifixion of Christ in Matthew 27:24-54, often. Then plead with our heavenly Father for the merits of that great sacrifice to be appropriated to you, and ask that the Holy Spirit may fight your spiritual battles, overthrowing the forces of evil.

"Earnest, persevering supplications to God in faith ... can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places" The Desire of Ages, p. 431.

"I would like to suggest that you make sure that the way is wide open between you and your Creator at all times. To make this a reality, the very first thing to do in the morning when you wake up is to direct your mind to the Holy of Holies of the heavenly sanctuary. And I mean first. Don't get out of bed, talk to anyone, or check the weather report. Address the Lord Jesus silently, if it is not possible to speak to Him audibly. Thank Him for His loving care over you, and for appropriating to you the merits of His sacred divine blood that He shed on Calvary for your salvation.

"To help you strengthen your confidence in Christ's power to save, I would suggest that you memorize verses of Scripture that will fortify your faith, such as Colossians 1:14. It declares that in Him, that is Christ, 'we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.' In other words, that's where the power is.

"In addition, let me direct you to Colossians 1:16: **'By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.'**

"You see, Christ created even the fallen Lucifer and his angels, and in reality their very existence depends upon Him who will someday take away from them the element of life and they will be no more.

Read often: **"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Colossians 2:9, 10.** which tells us that our Lord Jesus is God in the fullest sense of the word, and that we are complete in Him-or in other words, that we lack nothing when it comes to our salvation since He is the head of all principalities and power. The apostle Paul wrote: **'I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels [Satan's angels), nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord' Romans 8:38, 39.**

"Let me add a few words of caution. Have nothing to do with hypnotists, fortunetellers, astrologers, palm readers, and psychics of any kind. Do not associate yourself in any way with professed Christians who converse with demonic spirits when they are 'driven out,' as is done in 'deliverance ministries.' And last, do not affiliate yourself with people who claim to talk with the spirits of the dead. Such people are channels that evil spirits use to break through God's protection around people.

"Again, let me repeat a little of what I said earlier, as it is so vital. If we want power from on high as we pray for ourselves or for others, we must go where the power is to be found. And infinite power is found in the merits of the divine blood of Christ.

"The more we become acquainted with Matthew 27:24-54, the stronger we will become with the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and Christ's power to save. Also, we need to fortify our minds with the fact that the Holy Spirit is the only means to resist and overcome sin. Only through Him can we live victorious and successful Christian lives. Our prayers will then bring that same great Power into the lives of those we are interceding for. (see *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671).

"In this day and age it is vital that we ask our heavenly Father for His Holy Spirit to fight our spiritual battles against self, sin, and the world, and above all against the power of fallen angels. If we pray in this manner for those that we would like to see in the earth made new, we will see the Spirit of God work mighty miracles of redemption in the same degree of those that we read about in Acts 19.

"I suggest that many times throughout the day you should thank our heavenly Father for appropriating to you and your prayer subjects the merits of Christ's blood. If you do this, the Holy Spirit will work in wonderful ways to answer your prayers, and will fight Satan and his spirits. I receive many letters telling how the Spirit of God has transformed lives, remedied desperate conditions, and provided victory for the hopeless.

"Before closing, I want to tell you about an experience that I had more than 45 years ago. Hopefully it will be of encouragement to you. It involves depression. After I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour in 1946, there still came days I would become extremely depressed in my Christian walk. You see, depressing thoughts would fill my mind as I recalled what a God-hater I had been at one time. The fact that I had worshiped Satan and his spirits made me feel terrible. At times it almost convinced me that life wasn't worth living, and that God had no use for me.

"But that hopeless condition always fled when I thought of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary, and silently said, 'Dear Jesus, please help!' As I see it now, the Holy Spirit would immediately bring to my mind a verse of Scripture that I had memorized, to strengthen me and give me hope. As a spiritist I had learned that demonic spirits delight in flashing thoughts and images in people's minds to activate their imagination, producing discouragement, hopelessness, despair, etc. I understood well what was happening to me.

"Then one day I came across something that excited me greatly: 'Grace is an attribute of God exercised toward undeserving human beings. We did not seek for it, but it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow His grace upon us, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our only claim to His mercy is our great need' *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 161.

"I memorized the passage immediately, and the Spirit of God has used it through the years to encourage and to bring hope into the lives of a great many people.

"Living in this land of the enemy during the closing times of earth's history is no easy task, but we have the assurance that Jesus will see us through it all, and the day will come when we will be recognized as overcomers, and will receive the rewards spoken of by our Saviour Jesus Christ.

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.' Revelation 2:7.

"It may interest you to hear that I have been getting a lot of letters telling about supernatural forces oppressing Seventh-day Adventist Christians in various ways. And as I help them to understand that they need daily to plead for the merits of the cross for their salvation, and for the Holy Spirit to fight their spiritual battles, most of them have been able to escape the harassment of evil angels.

"However, in some cases the spirits kept coming back again and again. Then the Spirit of God led me to discover something very important. As I talked with those individuals about that unique problem, I became aware that they had weak faith in our heavenly Father's perfect plan of salvation. They kept confessing their old sins again and again.

"One woman, named Victoria, said to me, 'Every time that I think about how evil I was before I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, and about all the wicked things I did, I have a hard time believing that God forgave me all those sins. To make doubly sure that they are forgiven, I confess them to God again. I feel real good after doing that.'

"The thought popped into my mind that the person was in a way actually insulting God every time she did that, adding to her problem. You see, the Bible tells us that we are saved by grace through faith. So if people have a hard time believing that God has forgiven their old sins, I am inclined to believe that their request to have them forgiven again shows a terrible lack of confidence in God, a lack of faith in His Word. First John 1:9 says: 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

"I can imagine how delighted demonic spirits must be to cause such individuals to feel unforgiven, then see them ask God to forgive their old sins again. The spirits know that the Bible describes such an individual's unstable state of mind, or lack of faith, as having no value before God in obtaining anything. The Bible says that if we ask anything of God, it has to be in faith, nothing wavering. **'For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord' (James 1:6, 7).** And I believe that this applies also to the forgiveness of sins. In fact, I believe that such a practice leaves the way open to a great extent for Satan's angels to oppress individuals as often as they wish.

"To help solve the woman's problem, so that demonic spirits would no longer be able to oppress her openly as they had done, I suggested that whenever her old sins presented themselves before her mind, she should immediately thank God in the name of our Lord Jesus for having forgiven all her sins and unrighteousness, and for appropriating to her the merits of Christ's blood.

"I suggested that she memorize Psalm 103:1-4 and 10-14 as a security measure against discouragement. **"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;" "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he**

removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” Psalm 103:1-4; 10-14

“And if any negative thoughts presented themselves before her mind, thoughts that would cause her to doubt God's love for her, she should instantly quote those verses to herself a number of times as a means for the Holy Spirit to stabilize her mind in the power and love of God. There is something infinitely comforting to hear that `he hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.’

"To cut a long story short, all I need to say is that the woman's new experience has been that many times per day she finds herself praising God for having forgiven all her sins, and for the Holy Spirit successfully fighting her spiritual battles with evil spirits. She says that her Christian walk is now one of peace, contentment, and solid comfort in Christ. And all I can add here is Glory To God In The Highest!

When the Disciples Failed:

Jesus had taken 3 disciples up into a mountain for a special experience and a night of prayer. The others had remained in the valley. Morning came and already a crowd was gathering waiting for Jesus to return. In the meantime, a father had brought his devil possessed son to the disciples and asked them to cast out the devil that so tormented the boy. Remember that Jesus had given them power in His name to do this work. They tried but failed miserably! The devil just harassed the boy all the more and ignored the disciples.

As the disciples met Jesus, He could see they were troubled. Their failure had caused them disappointment and embarrassment. The Pharisees and even many in the crowd were scorning them.

The father then pressed through the crowd and fell at Jesus feet; "Master," he said, "I have brought unto Thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: . . . and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."

Jesus said, "Bring thy son hither." The boy was brought, and as the Savior's eyes fell upon him, the evil spirit cast him to the ground in convulsions of agony. He lay wallowing and foaming, rending the air with shrieks.

“Again the Prince of life and the prince of the powers of darkness had met on the field of battle,—Christ in fulfillment of His mission to "preach deliverance to the captives, . . . to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18), Satan seeking to hold his victim under his control. Angels of light and the hosts of evil angels, unseen, were pressing near to behold the conflict. For a moment, Jesus permitted the evil spirit to display his power, that the beholders might comprehend the deliverance about to be wrought.” Desire of Ages 428.

Jesus asked, "How long is it ago since this came unto him?" The father told the story of long years of suffering, and then, as if he could endure no more, exclaimed, "If Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." "If Thou canst!" Even now the father

questioned the power of Christ.

"Jesus answers, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." There is no lack of power on the part of Christ; the healing of the son depends upon the father's faith. With a burst of tears, realizing his own weakness, the father casts himself upon Christ's mercy, with the cry, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief."

"Jesus turns to the suffering one, and says, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him." There is a cry, an agonized struggle. The demon, in passing, seems about to rend the life from his victim. Then the boy lies motionless, and apparently lifeless. The multitude whisper, "He is dead." But Jesus takes him by the hand, and lifting him up, presents him, in perfect soundness of mind and body, to his father. Father and son praise the name of their Deliverer. The multitude are "amazed at the mighty power of God," while the scribes, defeated and crestfallen, turn sullenly away." Desire of Ages 428.

"If Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." How many a sin-burdened soul has echoed that prayer. And to all, the pitying Saviour's answer is, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." It is faith that connects us with heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthiness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." You can never perish while you do this--never." Desire of Ages 429.

Souls whom Satan has enslaved are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free. Why had the disciples failed?

Their unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ, and the carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness. When Jesus had taken just three disciples with him the others were jealous and had been grumbling and complaining, instead of praying and thinking on the words of Christ. They needed a different attitude if they were to have victory over evil spirits.

"They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith--faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work--can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places." Desire of Ages 431.

If we are struggling with any kind of sin or habit in our lives and failing to get the victory, we need to search our hearts and ask the Lord in prayer to show us any wrong attitudes, lack of forgiveness of others, or bitterness in our hearts. The battle against sin and Satan is a serious one, and often we need to cry out, 'Lord, I believe! Help Thou mine unbelief!'"

"Why did not God destroy the Devil as soon as he sinned?" This is a question many Bible

students ask.

When we remember that Lucifer held one of the highest positions in heaven (this is revealed in Ezekiel 28), we realize he would be honored and respected by millions of the angelic host. When he started sin, he made the charge that God was a tyrant: he accused God of being a dictator and that He would immediately destroy any angel who went contrary to His instructions. Many of the angels believed Satan and even sided with him in rebellion against God. The angels knew not the awful consequences of sin, nor to the awful depths that disobedience leads.

If God had immediately destroyed Satan, all the angels would have been convinced that Satan's charges were true. Satan was very anxious to prove his accusation that God was a tyrant. This was his aim and desire in leading man into sin, fully expecting that God would immediately destroy man as soon as he had sinned. That awful lie that God is a tyrant, started by Satan, still echoes down the ages, and all too often human beings repeat the same charge against God.

But, friends, is God really a tyrant? Does He delight in atrocities? I want you to know what God did when our first parents sinned. He did not kill them. He made a plan whereby they might have another chance, whereby they might be forgiven. But remember it was all at infinite cost. In John 3:16 I read: **"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

The sinless angels of heaven never fully understood the seriousness of sin until they saw Christ upon the Cross. They realized Satan was wrong and that God was right, when they saw their beloved Master as He hung upon the cruel cross of Calvary, with a nail piercing either hand, and a crown of thorns embedded in the flesh upon His head; writhing in agony caused by the terrible suffering of the crucifixion, of which Satan and his evil angels were the instigators.

Oh, my friends, Calvary once and for all convinced the universe that God is love, and that sin causes unhappiness and death. We read this wonderful statement:

"Having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Colossians 1:20.

So the death of Christ has paid for all the sins and transgressions of mankind, and has proved not only to the angels, but to all the world that God is love. God does not delight in atrocities, sickness, wars or death. He longs for the day when sin and death will be no more.

Some ask, "Why does He not blot out sin, and bring in the new earth of righteousness?" Here is the reason:

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9:

God longs to see all people saved, and He is holding off the great day of the return of Jesus as long as possible to give you each one, every chance of salvation. He knows that if Jesus had come even today, some would not be ready to meet Him. Why not, today, determine that you will forsake the service of Satan, and live henceforth for Jesus, who loved you and gave Himself for you?