

Faith Course

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All Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible,
New King James Version.

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ORDAINING

LESSON 1

We have ministered this Course on Faith to millions of people over the past years. Many come to thank us because these teachings have changed their form of believing.

We thank God for showing us the principles that operated in the lives of the Lord Jesus and His apostles, and were the reason for the success of their ministries we read about in the Scriptures. I believe that if we apply the same principles today, the people of God can achieve the same success.

We should never allow the Gospel – the power of God – to be placed on the same level with religions, works of man, or in some cases, even with demons. The Gospel is different; it is the power of God Himself in action, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising up those who are cast down and bestowing holiness and power on the people of God.

There shall yet rise up a group of people who are conscious of their rights and principles in Christ, and shall show the world the difference between one who serves the Lord and one who does not. I believe this is already happening, because when we begin to understand who we are and what we have in Christ,

Faith Course

it is a sign that the true army of new creatures is rising up for the glory of the Lord.

Strive to do these 12 lessons. They will assuredly make you a blessing. Allow the Lord to be glorified through the life abundant you will start to live. That is what He expects from you.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. A. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

ORDAINING

The purpose of this course is to help people understand a subject that is still a mystery to many: faith. I suggest that you forget everything you ever learned about this subject, and lay aside any knowledge you think you might have, so that with an open mind you can examine the Scriptures with us, as if you were just beginning your Christian walk. You must not mix this teaching with any other that you might have received elsewhere. Besides not being of any help, it would only complicate things. Lay aside what you know about faith, and then at the end of the course evaluate what you have learned. If you find the result satisfactory, then throw your former concepts out. If you are not satisfied with what you learned, or think it has no value, then discard the teachings you received during the course and return to your former ideas and practices.

As a matter of fact, you will learn something new: how to stop practicing faith that is actually based on luck and begin practicing real faith. We will understand what it is to truly believe in God; how to face and overcome trying situations; and finally, how to enjoy all that Christ came to give us.

SELF- RESPECT

First of all you must have self-respect. There are teachings around that say we are worthless to God;

that we are creatures of no importance to Him and it is only through His mercy that He saves us. Don't get me wrong: we all believe that Jesus paid a very high price to redeem us, which is completely true. But it is also true that if He paid such a high price, then we have proportionately the same high value to the Lord God. He would not have paid so much for something of little or no value.

LESSON 1

In our first lesson on faith, we shall learn what ordaining is. In John 14:13, Jesus gave us the following promise: *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

According to Greek scholars, the word **ask** is not the correct translation. The word **ordain** should have been used instead. This is our first lesson. We do not have to ask for a blessing, but rather ordain, demand, command, and take possession of that which according to the Word rightfully belongs to us.

We shall learn many new things about faith in the following lessons. Whenever we learn something new, we should immediately put it into practice. We should never be slow to take possession of what belongs to us. When the Lord gives us a revelation, He also gives us a blessing.

THIS CAN ALSO HAPPEN TO YOU

From now on you will not have to pray and ask for healing, prosperity or to have victory over your

temptations; you will ordain or demand that all evil leave your life. Once, in Catanduva, a town in upstate São Paulo, a farmer told me the following experience. His chickens and pigs had been dying off. Every day he had to bury some more of his livestock, and there seemed to be nothing he could do to save his livelihood.

One morning he turned on the television and heard me speaking on ordaining. Without much orientation – which is really not very necessary – he opened the kitchen door, went out into the yard and exclaimed with his hand raised, “Not one more chicken or pig will die here, in the name of Jesus”. Three months after he declared this, he met me in a meeting I was holding in Catanduva. With tears streaming down his face, he told me that since then not a single animal had died on his farm.

It is not difficult. This can and should happen to you. The Lord Himself has so declared (John 14:13).

LEARNING HOW TO ORDAIN

To ordain is to set a time, define, establish, prescribe, determine, decree and decide.

So many people suffer constantly, even though they pray to God without ceasing. They ask Him to heal them, solve their problems, save the lost, and other such petitions. They do not know that the Lord is only waiting for them to ordain so that He can do the work.

ARE WE DEMANDING GOD TO DO SOMETHING WHEN WE ORDAIN?

Of course we cannot demand anything from God; neither can we order Him to do this or that. He is the Lord, and we are His servants. When we ordain, we are not ordering God around, but rather are demanding that the devil remove his claws from us and disappear from our lives, our finances and our families. When we ordain, we are obeying the Lord. This is how we can make the enemy obey us.

When we ordain something in the Name of Jesus, the power of God begins to act and fulfill that which we have ordained.

GOD'S METHOD IS NOT COMPLICATED

It sounds so simple, but it is truly the fastest and surest way to receive blessings from the Lord. When we begin using God's method, not only will we be obeying Him, we will also learn that this strategy really works.

I believe that God did not give us something complicated to do. Men complicate everything they do, and try to complicate the things of God too. As a matter of fact, the Lord God designed spiritual things to be so simple that even children and the feeble-minded could receive His blessings. The things of God are always simple and uncomplicated.

A CHALLENGE FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE

If you ordain something in the name of Jesus, you can be sure that your command will not fail. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the words of Jesus shall never pass away. Read Matthew 24:35.

When we act based on the Word of Jesus, victory is certain.

No matter how hard or discouraging the situation may seem, let us use our faith and declare what we believe, ordaining whatever is necessary. After we have done this, we can rest, even though the symptoms remain and everything around us says we have failed.

YOU DO THE WORK OF GOD

Once you learn that you must ordain, establish limits and say what you will and what you will not allow in your life. Stop your weeping, your lamenting; stop beseeching God in His goodness to remember you.

Start rejoicing in the presence of the most High. Stop begging for blessings; begin to thank God for them. Tell God how grateful you are in knowing that He will do whatever you ordain.

God is showing you your real possibilities in Him. You belong to God, and were recreated in Christ Jesus to be an overcomer, to live an abundant life, and to ordain whatever you desire.

Confess: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13).

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO ORDAINED

We find countless examples in the Bible of people who ordained – though they probably were not very familiar with the term – and were obeyed. The case of Paul in Lystra is noteworthy: *And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked* (Acts 14:8-10).

Observe that Paul did not pray for the man to be healed. He ordained his healing. We might also mention the time when Joshua ordained the sun and moon to stand still. The sun stopped in its course and the day was extended for almost twice its usual length (Joshua 10:10-15).

Questions

1. What is the best translation for the verb ask, according to John 14:13?

- a. Ask
- b. Ordain
- c. Beseech

2. Is it necessary for a believer to pray and ask to be healed?

- a. No
- b. It depends
- c. Yes

3. What must we do whenever we learn something new?

- a. Start practicing it
- b. Wait a while
- c. Not worry about it

4. Can we demand anything from God?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. It depends

5. When we ordain something, who are we commanding?

- a. God
- b. The devil
- c. Ourselves

6. What power enters into action when we ordain?

- a. The power of God
- b. The power of faith
- c. The power of the devil

Q u e s t i o n s

7. When we practice the method of ordaining, what happens?

- a. We obey God
- b. We act on our own
- c. God obeys us

8. When we ordain, who obeys us?

- a. God
- b. Men
- c. The devil

9. How are the things of God?

- a. Hard to understand
- b. Easy for theologians
- c. Simple and uncomplicated

10. When we ordain something, we do it:

- a. In the name of God
- b. In the name of Jesus
- c. In our name

11. How should we pray to God?

- a. Begging for His blessing
- b. Asking according to His will
- c. Thanking Him

12. If we believe, we can ordain:

- a. Whatever we desire
- b. Whatever the Church promises
- c. Whatever is within our reach

Questions

13. If we ordain a healing, and the symptoms persist, what should we do?

- a. Pray and ordain several more times for the healing to happen
- b. Use medicine
- c. Ignore the symptoms

14. When Paul healed the lame man (Acts 13:8-10), how did he go about it:

- a. He beseeched God for his healing
- b. He ordained that he be healed
- c. He told him to say the Lord's Prayer 20 times

15. What did the lame man have that was decisive for his healing?

- a. Faith
- b. He was a friend of Paul's
- c. Religion

ANSWERS:
1) b 2) a 3) a 4) b 5) b 6) a 7) a 8) c 9) c 10) b 11) c 12) a 13) c 14) b 15) a

THE FIVE STEPS TO VICTORY

LESSON II

The Lord said through the prophet Hosea that His people were destroyed through lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). What we learn in Lesson 2 of our Faith Course will help us on our journey to live the abundant life that Christ came to give us.

One of the most important and controversial points of this study is the false declaration that faith can move mountains. Strange as it may sound, and no matter how it may shock you, faith never moved one single grain of sand. However, in this study we will find out the true importance of faith, and what it can do for us.

We shall learn that we must address the problem and command it to get out of our way and out of our life, and be cast into the sea. We shall see that if we doubt in our hearts, we will lose everything, and thus hinder the work of God from being fulfilled.

Jesus made one of the deepest declarations about ordaining: *whoever ... believes that those things he says will be done* (Mark 11:23). Here we have the secret that brings the miracle to pass.

Finally, we have the Master's statement that whatever we say shall be done.

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The Five Steps to Victory is exactly what you need to follow if you want to be an overcomer in all things.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. A. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned on the right side of the page.

THE FIVE STEPS TO VICTORY

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard [it]. [...] Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea', and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. " Mark 11:12-14,20-23

This passage has countless lessons for us. This chapter will study the part in bold.

FAITH NEVER REMOVED A MOUNTAIN

For centuries, thousands of people have been inspired by this passage in Mark. Based on this passage, someone, without taking the trouble to

study it thoroughly, coined the famous and beautiful sentence that is quoted the world over: “Faith that moves mountains”. Millions of believers repeat this saying, and it is used even by non-believers. But it is a false statement, and will not last a second when confronted with the Scriptures.

I remember when I first told a group of pastors that faith does not move mountains. They exchanged surprised looks and then asked me in amazement, “What are you saying?” The same thing happens whenever I preach in our churches that faith does not move mountains. This amazement is understandable and explains why many people, even though they have so much faith, never receive anything from God.

Let us study verses 22 and 23 of Mark 11, where we will find **the five steps to victory**.

THE FIRST STEP: HAVE FAITH IN GOD

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22).

Our faith must be in God alone. Many people believe in God, but also believe in many other things. Some believe in their church, others in their preacher, in the Virgin Mary, in a saint or in some special place. Some go so far as to make pilgrimages to cemeteries and put their hands on the graves of so-called martyrs who are supposed to be doing

miracles. They will never be able to have faith in God, because faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). People who do these things are not listening to the Lord God; much to the contrary, they are doing exactly the opposite of what the Bible says.

The Word of God explains what faith is: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen* (Hebrews 11:1). When we hear the Word of God, an assurance arises in our spirits that everything revealed in the Word is truly ours. This is faith, and this is the kind of faith that we need to have in God.

Our faith must be in God, in God alone. He does not share His glory with anyone else. *I [am] the LORD, that [is] My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images* (Isaiah 42:8).

THE SECOND STEP: SPEAK TO THE MOUNTAIN

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain... (Mark 11:23).

We must speak to the mountain – our problem, our affliction, our pain or our infirmity – and order it to leave our lives. **Our word is what moves mountains.**

I must confess that I myself have preached many times that faith moves mountains, because I had been taught to speak like that; I had heard the

greatest preachers in the world say that. I ask for forgiveness publicly for having taught such a deceit. Faith never moved so much as a grain of sand. What moves mountains is the word. But what word? The Word of God? No, our word.

Of course we need faith; it is the first step to victory. However, if you take the first step and do not take the second, the work will not be done. Once you have faith in God, then you must speak to the mountain.

I like to give the following example: faith is the fuel, our word is the vehicle. No vehicle can run without fuel, and no fuel can move mountains.

The Lord is a God of faith; He is full of faith, He is perfect. However, in the beginning, when He created the heavens and the earth, He did not keep saying to himself that He had the faith to create whatever He wanted and would start creating things at any moment. To the contrary, the Bible tells us that He acted according to the principles we are studying: *And God said* (Genesis 1). We know the result.

STEP NUMBER THREE: DO NOT DOUBT IN YOUR HEART

And does not doubt in his heart... (Mark 11:23).

This step is practically the key to everything. You can have faith in God, command the problem to leave your life, and hope for the best. However, if deep down in your heart you doubt that which you have

ordained, then you can forget it: the work will not be done. I have noticed that whenever I ask for something from the Lord or ordain something to happen, and it fails to come to pass, it is because in my innermost being I do not believe I will receive it.

When you doubt in your heart, you are inwardly saying that you do not really believe in what you are doing. Our minds might be well instructed, but if we doubt in our hearts, we will not receive anything.

STEP NUMBER FOUR: BELIEVE THAT WHAT YOU SAY WILL COME TO PASS

But believes that those things he says will be done...
(Mark 11:23).

This is the natural consequence of step number three. If we do not doubt in our hearts, then we believe; and when we believe, we must express our belief.

Notice that the Lord Jesus did not say that you must believe to receive what you asked for, or what you prayed for; *believe that what you say will come to pass.*

Many declare that they will believe when they see some sign, or when they receive a blessing. This is not the Biblical formula for receiving blessings. If you see, you do not need to believe. If we want to receive what the Bible has promised us, we must act according to the principles established in the

Word of God. We must believe that what we **say** will come to pass.

We can say that believing is fighting against all evidences. Believing also means accepting that what we have ordained has already begun to happen.

STEP NUMBER FIVE: YOU WILL HAVE WHATEVER YOU SAY

He will have whatever he says (Mark 11:23).

This step is not ours, it is the Lord's.

Let us go over our part in the process of receiving blessings. **Number One:** we must have faith – the certainty that comes from waiting on God, on Him alone (faith comes from hearing the Word of God – Romans 10:17). **Number Two:** we must address the problems with authority and ordain them to leave our lives. **Number Three:** we must never allow doubts to enter our hearts. **Number Four:** we must believe that what we say will come to pass, and then the work will be done. How? By the power of God.

OUR POSITION AS CHILDREN OF GOD

As children of God, we have a very privileged position. We make the difference. The blessing we need does not depend only on the Lord, it depends on us too. That sounds different, doesn't it? Very well, the more we learn about the Truth, the more our responsibility increases. Now that we know how

to make the power of God act on our behalf, we no longer need to deceive ourselves and try magic formulas that somebody else made up. If we truly want to be an overcomer, then we must make our decisions based on what the Word reveals, for it is the Word that will bring us the freedom we desire: *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free* (John 8:32).

Questions

1. Does faith move mountains?

- a. Not always
- b. Yes
- c. No

2. What does it mean to have faith in God?

- a. To believe in God and in His works
- b. To be sure of what you hope for
- c. To believe in the teachings of the church

3. What really moves mountains?

- a. Faith
- b. Our word
- c. A powerful prayer

4. What is the first step to victory in a believer's life?

- a. To have faith in God
- b. To pay all your promises
- c. To fast and pray without ceasing

5. What is the second step to victory?

- a. To wait on God
- b. To pray until you receive the blessing
- c. To speak to the mountain (problem)

6. What is the third step to victory?

- a. To read the Bible
- b. To not doubt
- c. To rebuke the devil

Q u e s t i o n s

7. What is the fourth step to victory?

- a. To call on the name of the Lord
- b. To recite Psalm 91
- c. To believe that what you say will come to pass

8. What is the fifth step to victory?

- a. That whatever you say will be done
- b. That whatever you desire will come to pass
- c. To wait patiently on the Lord

9. What is our position as children?

- a. Poor lost sinners that have been forgiven
- b. Equal to the angels
- c. Highly privileged

10. What is the biggest enemy of faith?

- a. Laziness
- b. Doubting
- c. Reasoning

11. What does it mean to believe?

- a. To keep on repeating that we believe
- b. To fight against all evidences
- c. To resign ourselves to suffering

12. When will the power of God execute our commands?

- a. After we take the first four steps
- b. After we give our tithes
- c. After we confess our sins

Questions

13. How does faith enter our hearts?

- a. When we receive the laying on of hands
- b. By means of a special visitation from the Lord
- c. When we hear the Word of God

14. When a problem arises, what should we do?

- a. Fast for it to disappear
- b. Ordain it to disappear
- c. Wait for it to disappear of its own accord

15. Who does the work when we ordain something to happen?

- a. Our mind power
- b. A magic force
- c. The power of God

16. When we fail to receive healing, release, or the solution to our problems, what is happening?

- a. We do not understand how the things of the Spirit work
- b. The devil refuses to leave us
- c. The Holy Spirit is not helping us

ANSWERS:
1) c 2) b 3) b 4) a 5) c 6) b 7) c 8) a 9) c 10) b 11) b 12) a 13) c 14) b 15) c 16) a

OUR RIGHTS TO GOD'S BLESSINGS

LESSON III

There is a saying in the Brazilian legal world: the law does not succor those who are asleep. I can make the same statement concerning our spiritual life. If you do not know your rights in Christ – or you know them but do not claim them for your life – you will not be succored, even though you might be considered a model Christian by many. I believe this explains why so many suffer infirmities, financial privations or many other difficulties.

In this lesson we are going to study our rights to God's blessings and how we can exercise them. I pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and enlighten you, and help you exercise the most elementary of your rights: the abundant life that the Lord Jesus came to bring us.

When you learn to appropriate yourself of the blessings of God and take possession of your rights in Christ, you will come to the conclusion that you don't even need to pray to receive what is rightfully yours; all you need to do is ordain, according to the five steps to victory that Jesus laid out for us (see Mark 11:22-23).

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My prayer is that from this lesson on, your life will be transformed by the Lord God, and you will start exercising your rights to all of His blessings.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. A. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the main text.

OUR RIGHTS TO GOD'S BLESSINGS

If we want to live a successful Christian life, we need to learn what our rights are, what belongs to us, and what the Lord Jesus did for us when He died in our stead.

The most commonly accepted belief in the Church today is that God does the miracles. This is indeed the truth. If we go a little deeper into the matter, however, we will see that God has already done His part, but ours is yet to be done. What is our part? Exercising our rights. The Lord will not do our part for us; therefore, it is very important to know what our rights are.

If you do not know what belongs to you, you will never have the courage or faith to claim it. On the other hand, when you discover through the Word of God what belongs to you, you do not need to wait any further; just give the command, ordaining in the Name of Jesus, and the power of God will accomplish that which you have asked for.

There are many people who need a true change of heart and mind. For years they have learned to fear an angry, irate God, who is just waiting for an opportunity to throw them into Hell. They serve Him

through fear. The Scriptures teach us that our God is love (1 John 4:8), and that Jesus, our Lord, is gentle and humble of heart.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

People also need to learn that to use the famous expression “if it be your will” in prayer, is to demonstrate complete ignorance of the Word of God.

IF IT BE YOUR WILL

There is only one record in the Bible of a person who prayed without knowing for a certainty if the healing he was asking for was the will of God or not: the poor leper, who received a prompt response from the Lord, *I will, be clean* (Matthew 8:2-3).

When you tell God that the blessing you are asking for should only be granted if it is His will, you are saying that you are not sure if He is a Father who really cares for your wellbeing; it is as if you think He loves you only in word, but wants you to have cancer, tuberculosis, or live in misery. What kind of Father is your God?

The Lord Jesus gave us the following picture of the Father: *Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much*

more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:9-11).

OUR RIGHTS TO ENJOY GOD'S BLESSINGS

In order to clearly understand our rights to all of God's blessings, we must first learn the difference between a promise and the statement of a fact.

– **Promise:** something that has been promised us, a certainty. We have countless promises in the Bible that the Lord God gave us, all of which He will one day fulfill. Example: the second coming of Jesus.

– **The statement of a fact:** that which God states He has done for us. Example: salvation, divine healing, etc.

We will leave the promises of God, which are our lawful right, for another study, and consider the statement of certain facts. When I say that we have the right to health, a life free from sin, and prosperity, this is not based on any specific promise from God. There are several promises of God in the Bible concerning the healing of His people, principally the Jews, who were the people of God before the coming of Jesus. There are also promises related to being faithful with tithes, among others. But I am speaking about certain statements the Lord God made in the Holy Bible which guarantee our blessings.

Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

As His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

2 Peter 1:3

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

Here we see very clearly that all the blessings we need or ever will need have already been granted to us. Now, when someone tells you that a certain possession of his now belongs to you, you then have the right to claim it as your own. This is exactly how it works with the blessings of the Lord – whether it be healing, forgiveness, prosperity, or any other blessing – we should claim them as our own, for they have been given to us.

The Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah: *By His stripes we are healed.* From God's standpoint, we have already been healed. He considers the work of Christ a consummated fact. Since He bore our

infirmities, we no longer have to bear them. Everything has been done for us. We therefore have a legal right to be free from sickness. The same goes for prosperity and other blessings. The Word tells us that Jesus was made a curse in our stead, so that we might have access to the blessings of Abraham: *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed [is] everyone who hangs on a tree), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith* (Galatians 3:13-14).

HOW TO EXERCISE THESE RIGHTS

An unclaimed right is a non-existent right. If you read these verses and say you believe them, but neither put them into practice, nor demand that they be fulfilled, you are telling God that you do not have faith in Him.

To exercise your rights is to take an attitude. If God has declared that we have been healed by Jesus' stripes, then it is a fact and should become real in our lives.

To exercise your rights is to tell the devil that his bondage over your life has ended, and from now on you will not allow him to attack or destroy you. There can be no more suffering in your life.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS

Tell the devil that you will no longer accept his attacks, for you have known the Truth, and the Truth is setting you completely free. Tell him that you are not even going to ask God to heal you or give you any other blessing, because He has already given you everything. Address the devil and rebuke him, commanding him and any suffering he has placed in your life to leave you forever in the Name of Jesus.

Confess that you have already been healed and set free from all the curses of sin, by the death of Christ Jesus on the cross.

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO PRAY

To be healed you don't have to fast and pray, or ask everybody to pray for you all the time. Whenever the devil afflicts you with some evil, all you have to do is tell him you will not accept it and that no evil can touch your life. The Holy Spirit tells us: *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you* (James 4:7).

To exercise your rights is to take possession of what the Word of God declares Jesus did for us. The Scriptures say that He suffered our diseases and infirmities in His own body. You must therefore totally refuse to bear what Jesus has already borne in your place. The Word says He was made a curse in our place so we might be freed from the curse of

the Law. Do not allow the enemy to bring any curse over your life. You are free!

Believe what the Lord declares and in the Name of Jesus immediately order the devil and all that belongs to him to leave your life completely. Exercise your right to enjoy all the blessings the Lord bought for you, having loved you so much as to die on the cross and be made a curse in your place.

You must understand that Jesus suffered all your infirmities and your curses. You do not have to suffer them any longer. The Word of God affirms that He was bruised so that we might be healed: *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put [Him] to grief* (Isaiah 53:10).

Questions

1. Why do we need to know our rights?

- a. To become important
- b. To have other people's admiration
- c. For our faith to prosper

2. Has God already done His part concerning miracles?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Sort of

3. What should we do when we learn something belongs to us?

- a. Take possession of it in the Name of Jesus
- b. Pray to see if it is from God
- c. Wait to receive it

4. How do the Scriptures describe our God?

- a. Angry
- b. Fierce
- c. Loving

5. What happens when you come to Jesus, take His yoke upon you and learn that He is meek and lowly of heart?

- a. You get handsomer
- b. You find rest for your soul
- c. You remain the way you are

Q u e s t i o n s

6. Is it correct to use the sentence: "If it be your will", when you want to receive a blessing?

- a. Yes
- b. It depends
- c. No

7. What did Jesus answer the leper who did not know if God wanted to heal him?

- a. You do not deserve to be healed
- b. I will, be cleaned
- c. Fast for 40 days

8. Where is it written that God will give good things to those who ask Him?

- a. Matthew 8:3
- b. Matthew 10:1
- c. Matthew 7:11

9. Is our healing a promise?

- a. No
- b. Yes
- c. Maybe

10. How should we consider our healing?

- a. As our right
- b. As a promise to those who are good
- c. As a gift to the privileged

11. What does Ephesians 1:3 say?

- a. We will be blessed in Heaven
- b. God gave us some blessings
- c. We have been blessed with all blessings

Q u e s t i o n s

12. According to Peter, how did the divine power give us everything we need?

- a. Through the evangelical churches
- b. Through the knowledge of Jesus
- c. Through sacrifices

13. According to Isaiah 53:4-5, when are we healed?

- a. When it pleases God
- b. When we pray a lot
- c. We have already been healed

14. What does it mean to exercise our rights?

- a. Pray patiently
- b. Take an attitude
- c. Ignore the symptoms

15. What happens when we resist the devil?

- a. He flees from us
- b. He withstands us
- c. He couldn't care less

16. What did the Lord God do to Jesus so that we might be healed?

- a. He blessed Him
- b. He ordered Him to heal us
- c. he caused Him to be wounded and suffer

ANSWERS:
1) c 2) a 3) a 4) c 5) b 6) c 7) b 8) c 9) a 10) a 11) c 12) b 13) c 14) b 15) a 16) c

THE NAME OF JESUS

LESSON IV

Before He returned to Heaven, the Lord Jesus gave orders for us to continue in His name the work He had started.

The coming of Jesus was the dawn of a new era for mankind. Man had been condemned to eternal torment and to suffer in this life all the diseases and problems the devil had created.

The Lord Jesus started His mission by teaching us what God's will for mankind was. Up to then, men had believed that suffering was God's punishment for the sins they had committed. However, the Lord Jesus came to reveal that all suffering is the work of the devil.

Everywhere He went He revealed God's will for mankind, and fulfilled this will by healing the sick and casting out demons.

When the time came for Him to leave, the Lord Jesus gathered His disciples and ordered them to continue His work. In order to do this, He empowered them to use His Name to do the same miracles He had done. Thank God for this.

You will learn in this lesson that the Name of Jesus is our supreme authority. You will become an overcomer as you learn how to use this Name, and will also see why some fail.

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He said: *As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world (John 17:18)*.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. A. Soares". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the center of the page.

THE NAME OF JESUS

Anyone who wishes to overcome the battles of life must study carefully the power and authority there is in the Name of Jesus. He will need to have the same understanding of this Name that the heroes of faith had, and what using the Name of our Lord and Savior really means today.

In John 14:13, the Lord Jesus declared: *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son* (John 14:13). In this passage, He is not referring to prayer as we know it; He is talking about ordaining, demanding, declaring (according to the scholars of Greek – the language the New Testament was written in).

For the believer, using the Name of Jesus should be a habit as common as any other. It should be constantly and continuously used. Peter and John walked with Jesus and certainly were there when the Lord said that whatever we ordained in His Name, He would do. In Acts 3:1-9, we read the following:

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth [hour]. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into

the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted [him] up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them – walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Acts 3:1-9

What happened here? Peter and John knew that Jesus Himself would do whatever they ordained in His Name. When the beggar asked for alms, they took advantage of the situation and used the Name of Jesus. It's interesting to note that they did not give him a sermon, telling him that he was suffering because it was the will of God. They said nothing beyond the command to rise up and walk in the Name of Jesus.

Once we have learned that through the Name of Jesus we can ordain whatever we want, we will begin to live the abundant life that the Lord planned for us. We will then take possession of the position that God has said is already ours.

Nothing in the spiritual world will work in our favor if we do not avail ourselves of the resources,

the power, and the authority of the Name of our Redeemer. Through the Name of Jesus we have access to God. Through the Name of Jesus we bind the forces of the devil, and are succored by power from on high. When we use this Name for our healing or any other need, we can be sure that all evil will be defeated. Sometimes, however, the symptoms will continue for a time, even though the devil has already been defeated. This is his last attempt. Sometimes he whispers in our minds, and we do not perceive that it is him. He insinuates, “Well, this infirmity is different... This is really a tough one... This is a case for the doctors to take care of... Just take a little medicine and pronto... This is not such a serious problem, I think I can live with it...” The devil is a master at influencing people and deceiving those who are not firmly based on the Word of God.

THE NAME OF JESUS IS THE SUPREME AUTHORITY

The Lord Jesus gave us the right to use His Name. He promised us that in His Name we would cast out demons and if we laid our hands on the sick, they would be healed: *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons [...] and they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover* (Mark 16:17-18).

When we use the Name of Jesus through the revelation of the Word, the power of God obeys our commands, just as it obeyed Jesus' commands. When you use the name of Jesus you are acting as His solicitor.

The power and authority behind the Name of Jesus are the power and authority of the Lord God Himself. The Lord Jesus declared that all power had been granted him:

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth".

Matthew 28:18

The Holy Spirit declares that this Name is the supreme authority in the Universe.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

All creatures in Heaven, in Hell and on the face of the Earth have to kneel before the Name. When does this happen? When we use this Name, and exercise our rights to claim everything that the Word of God tells us we should have.

JUST USE THE NAME

When the Lord Jesus gave us His Name to ordain whatever we desired, He knew what this represented. He knew that thousands of people like you and me would order the devil and all his evil to leave their lives. He also knew that one day someone with an incurable disease or an insoluble problem would rise up somewhere and claim his or her healing. He not only knew this, He also expects everyone, no matter what their problem is, to act like this. He expects you, who have in some form been attacked by the devil, to rise up and take a position this very moment. When you act according to the Scriptures, you are not acting rudely or rebelliously; you are simply obeying the Lord. When you know the Word of the Lord and do not obey it, then you are acting as a rebel.

BECOME AN OVERCOMER

Any believer can become, from night to day, from one moment to another, someone who dominates the situation instead of being dominated by it. Take a position this very moment. Use the Name of Jesus; thank the Father for your spiritual position and make the devil know that from now on you are an overcomer.

Nothing will work for you in the spiritual world until you make use of your prerogatives as a child of God. God cannot do anything for you if you do not take possession of the authority that belongs to you in the Name of Jesus.

WHY DO SOME FAIL?

Many fail simply because they allow the devil to gain the victory in their lives. Some are lazy and do not want to act the way God has established. Others start out the right way, and actually obtain some victories, but when they face a tougher test, a more difficult problem, or the devil puts up a stiffer opposition, they give up and accept failure.

They say something like this, “Well, you see, it’s not like I have forgotten Jesus or denied Him. You have to understand that this was a difficult problem and the devil really attacked me; so, I just couldn’t make it... But I believe in the Word of God... I just decided to use the human resources that the Lord left for us.” They do not realize that they have actually denied Jesus; they have doubted His power and are worse than unbelievers. In Hebrews 10:38, the Lord God reveals what happens to us when we back down or stop living by faith:

Now the just shall live by faith; But if [anyone] draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

Hebrews 10:38

HOW TO USE THE NAME OF JESUS

We will never use the Name of Jesus successfully if we do not act through the revelation of the Word of God. We must clearly understand that our only link with the Father is the Word, who is the Lord

Jesus. Our word by itself is regarded as nothing in the spiritual world. In the beginning it was not so; man had authority to reign over all creation, but lost it all when he sinned. When Jesus conquered Hell and cast out the “prince” of this world, He not only won back the authority that man had lost, but also received all power, both in heaven and on earth. He has now given us the sublime privilege of using His Name, but warns us that without Him we can do nothing. *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing* (John 15:5).

No matter what you are going through, you must first meditate on the Word of God. Once you have received His Word in your heart, He will give you faith – the certainty that whatever you need is already yours. Then use the name of Jesus without the slightest hesitation, and claim that which has been revealed to you.

After using the Name of Jesus, believe that your requests have been answered, and consider the work done, even if the symptoms attest to the contrary.

Questions

- 1. What Name gives us the victory?**
 - a. The Name of God
 - b. The Name of Jesus
 - c. The Name of the Holy Spirit
- 2. What does “asking in the name of Jesus” mean?**
 - a. Ordaining
 - b. Begging
 - c. Crying
- 3. What should we do after using the Name of Jesus?**
 - a. Wait patiently for the answer
 - b. Consider the work done
 - c. Believe that we will be blessed one day
- 4. What must we declare about the devil?**
 - a. That he is a strong adversary
 - b. That he is our biggest enemy
 - c. That he has already been defeated
- 5. Who will be an overcomer?**
 - a. He who fasts and prays
 - b. He who uses the Name of Jesus
 - c. He who is baptized in the Holy Spirit
- 6. Why did Peter and John command the lame man to get up and walk?**
 - a. Because they were holy
 - b. Because the man had faith
 - c. Because they knew Jesus would do whatever they ordained

Q u e s t i o n s

7. What must we use for things to work for us in the spiritual world?

- a. Power and authority
- b. The anointing of the pastors
- c. The prayers of our brethren

8. What is one of the devil's last attempts to prevent us from getting the victory?

- a. He appears to us as a ghost
- b. He makes the symptoms persist
- c. He bangs on the doors and windows

9. What is the devil a master at?

- a. Opening the eyes of the blind
- b. Teaching the truth
- c. Deceiving those who are not firmly based on the Word of God

10. When we use the Name of Jesus we are acting as:

- a. His solicitors
- b. Owners of the truth
- c. Really religious people

11. When are we rebellious and rude in God's sight?

- a. When we don't pray every day
- b. When we don't read the Bible
- c. When we don't act according to His commands

12. How much time do believers need to become overcomers?

- a. 40 days and 40 nights
- b. It is instantaneous
- c. As long as God wills

Q u e s t i o n s

13. What is necessary for things to work in the spiritual world?

- a. To fast and be humble
- b. To fast and pray a lot
- c. To make use of our prerogatives as children of God

14. Why do many fail?

- a. Because they are not called
- b. Because they allow the devil to get the victory in their lives
- c. Because they are not baptized

15. What can we do without Jesus?

- a. Everything
- b. A few things
- c. Nothing

16. What should we do after we have used the Name of Jesus?

- a. Make a prayer chain
- b. Supplicate until we have been answered
- c. Believe that we already have whatever we ordained in His Name.

ANSWERS:
(1) b (2) a (3) b (4) c (5) b (6) c (7) a (8) b (9) c (10) a (11) c (12) b (13) c (14) b (15) c (16) c

One day, Jesus' disciples heard him pray and were amazed. One of them immediately asked Him to teach them how to pray, like John had taught his disciples.

Praying in the correct way is what makes your prayers victorious. Prayer in itself does not get you anywhere. You must pray only when you wish to obtain the answers to your prayers.

This lesson teaches the formula for prayer – prayer that brings solutions even in seemingly hopeless situations.

There must be a reason why some people pray and receive what they prayed for, and others pray and receive no answer at all. The answer is in the Word of God.

The heroes of faith knew the principles that made their prayers productive and powerful. By putting these principles into practice, they conquered kingdoms, practiced justice, obtained promises, closed the mouths of lions, put out fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, overcame in battles and made armies flee.

May you never experiment defeat in battle after studying this lesson. May you pray and receive your

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answer. May the Lord continuously lead you in triumph.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. W. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "In Christ," text.

PRAYER

Prayer is very important in our lives. We draw near to God through prayer, as we praise Him and thank Him for His benefits. It is also our best resource in difficult times, and all human beings use it at one time or another in their lives.

In spite of all that prayer represents to the believer, there are but a few who really know how to use it. When the disciples realized that Jesus obtained answers to all His prayers, they came to Him and asked Him to teach them how to pray. Because the heroes of faith knew how to pray, they conquered kingdoms, closed the mouths of lions, quenched fires, escaped from the sword, from weakness received strength, overcame in battles and made armies flee. Yes, all this and even more did they obtain, because they knew how to practice what the Lord considers true prayer.

Do you know how to pray in such a way that you move the hand of the Lord and cause the power of Heaven to operate in your behalf? There is so much in store for you. Learn to pray the prayer of faith and begin to enjoy the best of life.

We are not going to study all the different forms of prayer in this lesson, but concentrate on the formula for prayer that will make us overcome all evil. Does such a formula exist?

Yes. In Isaiah 43:26, it is written:

*Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together;
State your [case], that you may be acquitted.*

Isaiah 43:26

This declaration in Isaiah is the formula for victorious prayer.

NUMBER ONE – PUT ME IN REMEMBRANCE

When we come into the presence of the Lord, we must tell Him that we are there because we are His children, because His Word guarantees His blessings, and because we believe that He is able to pour out His grace upon us. If we want our request to be granted, then every time we enter into His presence we must remind Him of everything His Word declares to be our rightful possession.

Is God then forgetful? Isn't He omniscient, knowing all things, with no need to be reminded of anything? Didn't Jesus teach us that even before we ask, the Father knows what we need: *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him* (Matthew 6:8b).

No, the Lord does not have any problem of forgetfulness, nor are there any contradictions in the Word of God. What the Lord means when He says **remind me** is that many times our minds are occupied with material things when we start

praying. It is almost impossible to concentrate or enter into God's presence. Our prayer is then empty and devoid of faith, power or authority, and will never be answered.

When you begin to pray and start reminding the Lord of His promises, you are actually doing it for your own good, and not really reminding Him. You are "brushing up" your spirit, "polishing" the inner man – the real you. When you remind the Lord of everything you believe and all that you have learned from His Word, you are actually giving ear once more, or perhaps for the first time, to the Word of God. We know that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. So when you do this, you are actually doing it for your own sake.

Those who use this method know that it is true, because God does not need anyone to remind Him of the blessings He has promised us.

NUMBER TWO – LET US ARGUE THE MATTER TOGETHER

Prayer is a trial, a battle, a war. When we start praying, we must remember that our purpose is to solve the situation.

God tells us to argue the case. You do not go to court to argue a case without proper preparation. If you take someone to court, or someone takes you, you must be prepared to battle. Your adversary will

definitely use all means possible to obtain victory over you. You do not have to be innocent to win; but you must prove that you are. Therefore, you need to prepare ourselves for a trial. This takes us back to the first step: bringing God to remembrance.

Once we have brought Him to remembrance, than we should argue the case together with Him. We should not go alone; neither should we ask Him to go for us. He says we must go together. The battle is ours, not the Lord's; He will defend us and He will attack for us.

This is certain victory. Has anybody ever heard of God having lost a single battle? This is something that will simply never happen.

To argue a case together with the Lord is to find a promise or declaration He has made concerning our position in a certain situation and then boldly begin to pray, stating our need – using the Name of Jesus, of course – and launching ourselves against the enemy, commanding him to get out of our lives, our families, or our properties.

NUMBER THREE – PRESENT YOUR CASE

After we have reminded God of who we are, and what we know to be our right, after arguing the case together with Him, then we must present our reasons. This is what lawyers do when they are defending someone. We must know what our rights

according to the Word of God are, and then lift our voice before the Supreme Court of the Universe, which is the Word itself, and declare that we will accept no verdict other than that which we determine. We must remain very watchful and alert at this moment, for the enemy will try everything within his power to deceive us. At times he will come very softly, as if he were the Lord. He will insinuate that we do not deserve the blessings, as if we could receive anything through our merits. If we do not know that the blessings of God are received by grace through faith, than he will succeed in convincing us that we really do not deserve anything, and we will lose everything.

The devil wants us to live in ignorance, to be sluggish in spiritual matters, and not learn how to receive what is already ours! Only then can he deceive us with his ragged excuses. Many times he will bring to our memory a sin we committed a long time ago, one that we have already repented of and therefore does not even exist any more in God's sight. But, since we do not really understand the Word, we forget that a confessed sin is a non-existent sin, and begin confessing it all over again, accepting responsibility for something that has ceased to exist.

You see how important it is to know your rights and not become an easy prey to the deceits of the

enemy. You will not be able to present your case and will consequently lose the battle. Remember what we studied in Lesson 3: an unclaimed right is a non-existent right. You have a right to God's blessings. The Lord Jesus has overcome the devil for you. He has borne your infirmities so that you would not have to bear them. The Bible states that you are more than a conqueror. When we know what the Bible declares about our position before God, and present ourselves in court based on this, then we can be sure of victory.

When we are conscious of our rights – not what we want them to be, but solely what the Word of God states them to be – then we can be sure that we will receive what the Bible declares to be ours. God did not place these declarations in the Bible just for embellishment. They were written so that we would have life, and life abundant.

NUMBER FOUR – TO BE JUSTIFIED

God makes it very clear here that He does not want us to play around with prayer, nor does He want us to be defeated when we pray. The purpose of prayer is justification, which in Biblical language means: victory in prayer.

Only if you are unaware of your position in Christ and your rights in the presence of God, will you be defeated in your spiritual battles, whether for spiritual, physical or material blessings.

Justification is a legal term that means not only to **acquit**, but also to **declare just**, which is to say the person has never done anything wrong in his entire life. Justification includes more than pardon from sin and freedom from condemnation. When God justifies, He makes the offender just. The president of the country can grant pardons to criminals on special occasions, such as Christmas or New Year's, but he does not have the power to place that person in the position of one who has never disobeyed the law.

Without justification through faith, we will never have peace with God. If we do not have peace with Him, then we can forget ever being blessed by Him. But, thanks be to God, it is possible to achieve this. This is what He invites us to receive. *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* (Romans 5:1).

Questions

- 1. What resource can we use in our most difficult moments?**
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Fasting
 - c. Lighting candles
- 2. What text contains the formula for prayer?**
 - a. Isaiah 43:26
 - b. Isaiah 9:1-11
 - c. John 3:16
- 3. What did Jesus' disciples do when they saw His success in prayer?**
 - a. They asked to let them stay with Him
 - b. They asked Him to teach them how to pray
 - c. They asked Him to sanctify them
- 4. How did the heroes of faith obtain success?**
 - a. They were chosen by God
 - b. They walked with Jesus
 - c. They knew how to pray
- 5. What is the first step in prayer?**
 - a. To remind God of His promises
 - b. To ask for the things we need
 - c. To start praising God
- 6. When we remind God of His promises, we...**
 - a. Do not allow Him to forget them
 - b. Confirm our faith
 - c. Free ourselves from the things that surround us

Questions

- 7. What is the second step in prayer?**
 - a. To kneel
 - b. To argue our case with God
 - c. To close our eyes
- 8. What does “argue the matter together” mean?**
 - a. To demand from God that which He owes us
 - b. A battle, a war
 - c. To wait for His answer
- 9. What else does “argue the matter together” mean?**
 - a. To go to battle with God, declaring His promises
 - b. That God will judge us
 - c. The trial of our faith
- 10. What should we do to receive all the best?**
 - a. Be obedient until death
 - b. Fast and never give up
 - c. Pray the prayer of faith
- 11. What is the third step in prayer?**
 - a. Wait patiently
 - b. Wait confidently
 - c. Present our case
- 12. What is the fourth step in prayer?**
 - a. To receive the blessing
 - b. To be justified
 - c. To present our needs
- 13. Why must we remind God?**

Questions

- a. He is not omniscient
- b. He does not remember everything
- c. We are actually doing it for our own good

14. What must we do when we are taken to trial by someone?

- a. Be careful about our looks
- b. Avoid strange behavior
- c. Prepare ourselves for battle

15. Who usually wins a trial?

- a. Whoever doesn't have a guilty conscience
- b. Whoever can prove his innocence
- c. Whoever bribes the authorities

16. Has the Lord ever lost a battle?

- a. No
- b. Yes
- c. Just once

ANSWERS:
1) b 2) a 3) c 4) c 5) a 6) b 7) a 8) c 9) b 10) a 11) a 12) c 13) b 14) a 15) b 16) c

SATAN'S DEFEAT

LESSON VI

The reality of the spiritual world is a most serious subject. The spiritual world is completely different from the material world. There are two forces at work in this world: the forces of good and the forces of evil.

In this lesson we are going to learn the origin of the being that is responsible for all the suffering and calamities that happen in our world. He is the one responsible for making thousands of people live like beasts: stealing from their neighbors, lying, betraying, and raping.

We will see what happened to allow this vile and despicable creature to be on our planet, spreading hatred and turning nightmares into reality, since the very first day he set foot here.

However, we will also see that today he is defeated and cannot oppress us any longer. The Lord Jesus defeated him, and He did it for us. Not only did He defeat Satan, but He credited it to our account, as if we had defeated him ourselves. This is our privilege in Christ.

What should we do when the devil attacks us? That is one of the topics of this lesson. We will learn

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that we must not tolerate one single action of the devil's. Our redemption is a true and glorious fact.

We will study what the Bible warns about certain behaviors that allow the evil one to attack us, and how to live our redemption.

Learn through this lesson what your true position is. Become an overcomer. Claim your rights in Christ and enjoy the abundant life that the Lord Jesus came to bring.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. A. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the main text.

SATAN'S DEFEAT

Though many people do not believe in the existence of the devil, we know that he is real and active. Just pick up a newspaper and you will see what he does; visit hospitals or rehabilitation centers to observe his destructive power. If he does not exist, then who is responsible for all the evil we see everywhere we go? If he is not real, then the Bible and the Lord Jesus Himself are deceiving us when they categorically declare his existence.

To consider him a legend or a figure of speech is to do him a great favor, for he is thus free to continue doing his horrendous deeds.

HIS ORIGIN

Satan was originally an angel of God. His name: Lucifer (light-bearer). He was a glorious angel; however, he allowed pride to rise in his heart, and aspired to be as the Most High. When he fell, he became the devil.

Let us read two Biblical passages that talk about this being:

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt

my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD: You [were] the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone [was] your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You [were] the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You [were] perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, o covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. You defiled

your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and [shall be] no more forever". Ezekiel 28:12-19

HOW THE DEVIL ENTERED OUR WORLD

God created the Earth and handed it over to man. However, He warned man not to disobey Him by eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or else he would die. In spite of God's warning, man disobeyed him and ate of the fruit when he was tempted by the devil. The Bible says: *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned* (Romans 5:12).

The death God speaks of in this verse is the nature of Satan. Ever since man sinned, the devil has had free passage on Earth to do his dreadful deeds. The sin Adam committed gave him the "right" to act in our world.

THE DEFEAT OF SATAN

This situation lasted until our God became flesh and came to this world to annihilate the power of the devil.

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
1 John 3:8a

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
Colossians 2:15

These passages inform us that the Lord Jesus destroyed all the works of the devil. Therefore, the enemy has been defeated and conquered, and in no hypothesis has any power over our lives. As a matter of fact, the devil only has any power in the life of a believer if he allows him to, or if that believer is unaware of his rights in Christ.

I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.
1 John 2:13

We can confess that we have conquered the evil one, because when we accepted the Lord Jesus as our Savior, everything He did was credited to our account. We have conquered the devil. That is how God sees us. The devil was eternally vanquished and defeated when Love gave His life for us on Calvary. You must always remember this, and every time the devil tries to raise his ugly head to attack you, rebuke him, saying: "Get out, loser! You have no place in my life! I will not allow you to contradict the Word of God".

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN THE DEVIL ATTACKS US?

We should not fear the wiles of the devil. It is written: *No weapon formed against you shall prosper* (Isaiah 54:17).

We must watch and always identify the hand of the devil behind every evil that befalls us. Beware, because he will never appear and say, "I am the devil, and I am here to tempt you". Much to the contrary; he will do everything possible to prevent you from believing that what is happening to you is his doing. Some people are so fooled that they actually reach the point of saying, "Oh, come on, it can't be all his fault! After all, I shouldn't have eaten that food! The poor old devil takes the blame for everything bad that happens!" It is tragic, but it is true. You actually hear children of God say things like that.

A BIBLICAL WARNING

The Bible warns: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour* (1 Peter 5:8).

We had better take this warning from the Holy Spirit seriously. He knows that the devil is wily and has managed to drag many to defeat. We must not fear him, however, nor cower when he appears with his temptations, because Christ has completely freed us from his power.

We do not have to beg God to do something to help us against the devil. Everything He had to do has already been done. God has nothing more to do with the devil. In God's mind, the devil has been conquered and defeated. He exhorts: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free* (Galatians 5:1).

You must not subject yourself to the devil any longer. It is your duty to rise up and leave your captivity. Through the work of Jesus on the cross, you have already conquered the devil. Make him hear this from your lips. Acknowledge your liberty and begin to declare it boldly.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH OUR REDEMPTION?

God expects us to accept our redemption and begin to act as redeemed people. The devil knows he has to obey all those who discover this truth. The Bible declares: *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

We must demand all disease to leave our bodies. If we are not free from all maladies, how will we be able to glorify God in our bodies?

We must also demand that all sinfulness leave our spirit, otherwise it will be impossible to glorify God in our hearts. When God states a fact, He considers it a finished matter.

Every time the devil brings some evil against you, rebuke him in the Name of Jesus, and make him flee.

Our redemption is real. We are freed territory. The slavery over our lives is over. The rule of the devil has ended. Now we have a new Lord who bought us for our God and made us more than conquerors. Therefore He says: *When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men* (Ephesians 4:8).

OUR POSITION

We learned in the preceding chapters that we make the difference. Our attitude determines what we really are. To only say with our lips that we have been set free from the claws of the evil one, and not act according to the Word of God, will profit us nothing.

But, if we take the word of the Lord concerning us literally and begin to exercise our rights, we can be certain that our God will not leave us to fight alone. Quite to the contrary, He will fight our battles for us, and give us the victory.

Our position is that of complete victory. However, let us repeat one more time: if we do not accept what God says is ours, and act according to the exhortations of the Bible, everything He promised us will be useless.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

Q u e s t i o n s

- 1. How can we be sure the devil exists?**
 - a. The pope believes in his existence
 - b. The Bible says he exists
 - c. His temptations prove it
- 2. Before he became the devil, who was he?**
 - a. An angel of God
 - b. An emperor
 - c. He has always been the devil
- 3. What text in Isaiah talks about the devil's fall?**
 - a. Isaiah 8:20
 - b. Isaiah 53:4-5
 - c. Isaiah 14:12-15
- 4. What text in Ezekiel talks about the devil?**
 - a. Ezekiel 12:12-19
 - b. Ezekiel 41:12-19
 - c. Ezekiel 28:12-19
- 5. What allowed the devil to come into our world?**
 - a. The disobedience of man
 - b. The wiliness of the devil
 - c. An oversight of God
- 6. Why did Adam and Eve sin?**
 - a. Because they were naïve
 - b. Because they accepted the devil's suggestion
 - c. Because God was far from them
- 7. What happened to us when Adam and Eve sinned?**
 - a. We became slaves of Satan
 - b. God forgave us
 - c. We became more experienced

Questions

8. What did Jesus Christ come to the world for?

- a. To help us fight the devil
- b. To fight the devil
- c. To destroy the works of the devil

9. Does the devil ever come and say what he intends to do against us?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Sometimes

10. Why can we say that we defeated the devil?

- a. Because Jesus' victory was credited to our account
- b. Because we live in peace with God
- c. Because we defeated him ourselves

11. What does the Lord warn us in 1 Peter 5:8?

- a. To be sober and alert
- b. To pray two hours a day
- c. That the devil is old and harmless

12. What should we do with the liberty Christ conquered for us?

- a. Absolutely nothing
- b. Believe in it for eternity
- c. Stand firm in it

13. Why does the devil still act in the lives of believers if he is powerless?

- a. Because he is stubborn
- b. Because believers allow him to do so
- c. Because some believers aren't baptized in the Holy Spirit

Questions

14. Where does it say that no weapon brought against us will prosper?

- a. Isaiah 54:17
- b. Isaiah 14:12-15a
- c. Isaiah 8:20

15. What is our true position before God?

- a. Victorious when it is God's will
- b. Completely victorious
- c. Mere sinners saved by grace

16. Since we have been bought for a high price, what should we do?

- a. Wait for the second coming of Jesus
- b. Be faithful with our tithes and offerings
- c. Glorify God in our bodies and spirits

RESIST

LESSON VII

Even though Satan has been defeated by the Lord Jesus, and His victory credited to our account, he is still able to oppress us, even though we are believers.

It is unquestionable that when you accept the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you become a child of God and receive rights and privileges in Christ. But, as long as you are here in this world, you will be susceptible to the temptations of the evil one.

We must make it very clear however, that Satan cannot attack and oppress a child of God whenever he pleases. He can tempt a believer, and if the believer does not resist him, he will be able to continue his evil work.

We must always remember that the devil has definite limitations. There are stages he has to complete for his work to be consummated. The Bible states that an undeserved curse does not come to rest (Proverbs 26:2).

There is a commandment to resist the devil. The children of God have a duty to stop his actions, demand him to leave, and prohibit him from tempting them. This is what the Lord Jesus did to the devil in the desert.

Faith Course

There are no imperfections in the Lord's plan. If He has commanded us to resist the devil, then we can be sure that He has given us the right weapon to resist him. This weapon is the Word of God.

When should we resist? Whenever he attacks.

I pray that from this day forward you will never give the evil one the slightest chance to oppress you. Be more than a conqueror in Christ.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. H. Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

RESIST

The ministry of the Lord Jesus is divided into three distinct phases: teaching, preaching and manifesting the power of God.

If we examine what the Bible tells us about His ministry, we will see that He spent most of His time teaching. This explains the difference there is between our ministry and the Lord's... What else could explain the results He obtained? Did He not promise that whoever believed in Him would do the same and even greater works?

Whenever the Lord Jesus taught, all who heard Him marveled. He simply opened the Scriptures and showed the people the truth, and all kinds of miracles and wonders took place. Whenever the Bible is preached today, and people's eyes are opened to its truths, an avalanche of miracles is bound to happen.

RESTRICTIONS TO THE DEVIL'S ACTIONS

Though we know that the devil is busier than ever at his work of destroying humanity, we must be careful to not exaggerate, and credit him with more capacity than he actually has. There are restrictions on his operations. He cannot go around destroying

whoever he pleases. The Bible says that he cannot touch those that are born again: *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him* (1 John 5:18).

Before the Lord Jesus defeated the devil, he acted as if he owned our planet. But, with the death of Christ, the devil lost his dominion over the human race, and was cast off the face of the Earth: *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out* (John 12:31).

Even before the coming of Jesus, when the devil acted as the prince of this world, he had to obtain permission before he attacked the people of God, as seen in the following examples:

I – The story of Job: *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions*

have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD (Job 1:6-12).

II – The Lord’s temptation in the desert. *The Spirit of God led the Master out to the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1).*

III – When the time came for His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus warned Peter that the devil had asked to sift him: *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift [you] as wheat (Luke 22:31).*

All these episodes happened before the devil was stripped of his power. Today he is not allowed to oppress us under any circumstance, unless our God so permits. But he will never be able to take us from the hands of Jesus: *And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father’s hand (John 10:28-29).*

We should not despair or fear when the devil tempts us; but rather resist him, standing firm in the faith and using the Name of Jesus: *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world (1 Peter 5:9).*

We know that God only allows us to go through trials and temptations for our good. Instead of getting upset when this happens, we should be encouraged in the Lord, for He is faithful and will not permit us to be tempted beyond our strength: *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it]* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

RESIST THE DEVIL: A COMMANDMENT

No matter where and when the devil is tempting us, the Word of God orders us to resist him.

The order in James 4 is very clear: *Resist the devil and he will flee from you* (James 4:7b). This verse shows us that we are responsible for our success or our defeat. If we resist the devil, not only will he leave, he will flee.

It is important to remember that we must resist each and every attack of the enemy. It is not enough to resist big attacks. Many times it begins as a small problem, but if it is not dealt with, it will cause enormous damage. *Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines [have] tender grapes* (Song of Solomon 2:15).

Another fact that we must always keep in mind is that the devil does not stop tempting us now that

we belong to Jesus. Even though he knows we are now divine property, he continues striving to steal, kill and destroy our lives. As long as we do not take our position as overcomers in Christ, he will try to destroy us.

It is very simple to resist the devil. Whenever he attacks you, through infirmities, negative thoughts, or temptations to commit sins, boldly refuse to accept it; rebuke the evil and order the devil to get out of your life and stop tormenting you.

We have no better example of how to resist the devil than that which is given us by the Lord in the desert, when He was tempted by the devil. The full story is in Matthew 4:1-11.

I – The devil approached Jesus and said: *“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread”* (v. 3).

The Lord answered: *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (v. 4).

II – The devil took Jesus to the Holy City, placed Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said: *“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you’, and, ‘In [their] hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone’”* (v. 6).

The Lord answered: *“It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God”* (v. 7).

III - The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, and said: *“All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me”* (v. 9).

The Lord answered: *““Away with you, Satan! For it is written, `You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve’”* (v. 10).

In all three temptations of the devil, the Lord simply used the Word of God. It is our only weapon. To withstand the devil and his temptations, we do not have to use anything beyond the Word of God. Of course Jesus knew how to pray and speak in tongues. He had more knowledge than any mortal that ever walked the face of the earth. However, He used nothing but the infallible weapon. We must do no differently.

Do not believe a thing the devil tells you. He is defeated. His career is practically over. First he was cast out of heaven; during the great tribulation he will be cast from the heavenly sphere to Earth; during the millennium he will be bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and then thrown into the lake of fire.

What about us? What will our future be? *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matthew 25:34).

Questions

1. What happens to those who are born of God?

- a. They live in sin
- b. They are lucky
- c. They do not sin

2. Who preserves himself?

- a. He who is wise
- b. He who is born of God
- c. He who is religious

3. What happens to someone who is born of God and preserves himself?

- a. He speaks in tongues
- b. He prophesies
- c. The evil one does not touch him

4. After stating: *Now is the judgment of this world*, what else did the Lord Jesus say?

- a. That there would be a millennium
- b. That the prince of this world would be cast out
- c. That we should say the Lord's Prayer

5. Who presented himself before the Lord, together with the sons of God?

- a. Satan
- b. Adam and Eve
- c. Moses

6. Where was Jesus tempted, according to the passage in Matthew 4:1-11?

- a. In the desert
- b. At Caiphas' house
- c. At Gamaliel's school

Questions

7. Who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted?

- a. The Pharisees
- b. The Spirit of God
- c. Mary

8. Why did the Spirit of God lead Jesus into the desert?

- a. To fast
- b. To pray
- c. To be tempted by the devil

9. What did Satan ask permission to do to Peter?

- a. To place him on the pinnacle of the temple
- b. To give him a bad headache
- c. To sift him like wheat

10. What did Jesus do for Peter when the devil asked to sift him?

- a. He prayed for him
- b. He didn't do anything
- c. He wept and mourned

11. Why did the Lord Jesus pray for Peter?

- a. Because He loved him
- b. For his faith to not fail
- c. For him to lose weight

12. What should Peter do when he was converted?

- a. Confirm his brethren
- b. Pray without his hat on
- c. Stop using flashy clothes

Q u e s t i o n s

13. When will Jesus' sheep perish?

- a. After the millennium
- b. Never
- c. When they die

14. Who will snatch Jesus' sheep out of His hands?

- a. Nobody
- b. Satan
- c. Anybody

15. What kind of temptation befalls us?

- a. Spiritual
- b. Infernal
- c. Human

16. What happens when we resist the devil?

- a. He cries
- b. He flees
- c. He doesn't even care

17. What spoils the vines?

- a. The little foxes
- b. The fertilizer
- c. The weather

18. What weapon did Jesus use to resist the devil?

- a. Peter's sword
- b. The Word of God
- c. A secret weapon

Questions

19. Who will King Jesus welcome?

- a. The Jews
- b. The creatures
- c. Those that are on His right

20. Since when has the Kingdom of God been prepared?

- a. Since the foundation of the world
- b. Since the death of Jesus
- c. Since the flood

ANSWERS:
1) c 2) b 3) c 4) b 5) a 6) a 7) b 8) c 9) c 10) a 11) b 12) a 13) b 14) a 15) c 16) b 17) a 18) b 19) c 20) a

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

LESSON VIII

The people of God need to understand what the Lord Jesus declared about the purpose of His coming. He said: *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly* (John 10:10).

When you understand your condition in Christ, and dare to claim it, you discover that you are more than a conqueror in all things: *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us* (Romans 8:37).

Of course those that choose to live as true Christians will suffer persecution. There will always be threats and persecution, but these things must never shake those that are built on the Rock, and have made Jesus their reason for living.

As to infirmities and all physical, mental or spiritual problems, the believer can loudly state that he is free from them and declare he is more than a conqueror. Jesus is our complete and total substitute. He has already suffered so we might be set free.

Temptations – the work of demons – are present in every area of our lives. However, we can and should declare we are more than conquerors each and every time we face a temptation.

Overcoming the devil is what gives the most glory to God. Repeating words of praise and adoration is of little or no avail if you allow the evil one to enslave and destroy you.

Do not submit yourself to the enemy any longer. Tell him that in Christ you are more than a conqueror, and that you can do all things in Him who strengthens you. Start living in accordance with this decision.

We have an obligation to be more than conquerors. Jesus paid a very high price to redeem our lives completely. There is nothing more to pay.

I pray that from this lesson on you will be one more to declare: I am more than a conqueror in all things.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. A. Jones".

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Once we have accepted the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we should also take Him as our model. The Lord Jesus is the example we must always follow. During His ministry on Earth, He was a conqueror in every way; He never lost a single cause. In all His battles, He simply showed that He was Lord. Everything He did on Earth was in our favor. He came to set us an example. It was as if He were saying, "Watch closely, this is how you must proceed. Do what I do, and you will obtain the same results."

Let us now learn how the Lord conducted Himself when facing all sorts of evil attacks.

THREATS AND PERSECUTIONS

After having John the Baptist killed, Herod decided to lay his hand on Jesus. Some Pharisees brought the Master news of the villain's threats:

On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.'"

Luke 13:31-32

That is the attitude He expects from all His children, even when facing terrible threats. He also

spoke about the persecution that befalls those who follow Him:

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12

SICKNESSES AND INFIRMITIES

Whenever He was faced with any kind of sickness or infirmity, the Lord Jesus established His authority as Master. He knew the Father had entrusted Him with all power and authority over every work of the devil. One by one He destroyed them all:

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. Luke 4:40

He suffered and bore all our sicknesses and infirmities in His own body, so that we might overcome them and never have to bear them ourselves.

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5

TEMPTATIONS AND DEMONS

No one will ever be tempted by the devil to the same extent as our Lord Jesus was. The devil did everything he could to tempt the Son of God, but he was unsuccessful. Why couldn't he defeat our Savior? Because Jesus was firmly established on the Word of God, and with it resisted the devil.

The Lord allowed the enemy to tempt Him, and then overcame him, to show us that we can also triumph over all the forces of Hell. He also wanted to be able to succor us in our temptations: *For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted* (Hebrews 2:18).

The Lord Jesus suffered other strong temptations besides the ones He suffered when He fasted for forty days and forty nights in the desert. However, He overcame them all.

The Bible tells us that He was tempted in all things: *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin* (Hebrews 4:15).

In Luke 4:33-35, we have the story of an attack on Jesus that came straight from Hell. Once again He proved that He was the Victor. *Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Let [us] alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?"*

Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in [their] midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him (Luke 4:33-35).

The Bible says that it was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and that he exclaimed in a loud voice, saying, "Let [us] alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?" (Luke 4:34).

Notice that the demon spoke in the first person plural; he was no doubt the spokesman for all the evil legions of Hell, and was trying to confuse Jesus. In the first place, he said that he had the right to be there, and Jesus had no right to expel him. Jesus gave him no answer. Then he tried to convince Jesus that his time of destruction had not arrived yet. Once again, the Lord refused to exchange any words with him. The demon boldly started his last attack. He declared Jesus to be the Holy One of God. Why did he say that? Because he knew that as God, the Lord Jesus had no legal right to act freely here on Earth. The right to rule the Earth had been given to man, but with Adam's disobedience and sin, he lost this right to Satan (which is why the devil was the prince of this world until the victory of Christ on the Cross of Calvary).

The demon was insinuating that there had been no incarnation, and that the Lord Jesus was acting

on an unlawful basis here on Earth. However, this accusation was false, because the Lord Jesus had entered in through the “door” (not through a window like a thief) of human birth. He abandoned His glory, and *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant ... coming in the likeness of men* (Philippians 2:7).

After hearing all the lies of that spokesman of Hell, the Lord gave us a lesson in how to deal with the enemy: He ordered him to be quiet and leave the man. The legion was forced to leave, without doing the man any harm.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

As we read in Romans 8:37, the Word of God assures us that we are more than conquerors in all things. However, for this to happen, it is important for the believer to know his position before God, the devil, and before everyone else, as well as his rights and privileges.

After the Lord God created the heavens and Earth, and made man from the dust of the earth, He blessed Him and said: *“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth”* (Genesis 1:28).

We understand from this passage that man was originally designed to be a conqueror over all

circumstances. That is how God made him. He sinned, however, and betrayed the Lord. The consequence was that he could no longer enjoy the presence of God.

Satan acquired the “right” to be in the world, and to be its “god”. He “reigned” in the world until the last Adam (the Lord Jesus) dethroned him. Thank God for this!

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive [...] the first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:22,45

The Word of God declares that everything has been done, and we do not have to submit ourselves to the devil any longer, nor accept any suffering he tries to cause us. We are considered worthy to partake of the Father’s blessings.

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed [us] into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Colossians 1:12-13

The Lord God expects us to accept our condition as more than conquerors, and begin to act as such. The devil knows that this is our real situation. He also knows that he must obey all those who discover this truth.

BEING MORE THAN CONQUERORS GLORIFIES GOD

The Bible says: *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

We must order all sickness to leave our bodies. How can we be considered more than conquerors if our bodies are consumed with maladies that, according to the Word, Jesus has already borne? We should likewise order all sin to leave our spirits, otherwise we will never be more than conquerors.

Our redemption is real. We are free territory. All bondage over our lives has ended. The power of Satan has been abolished. Now we have a new Lord that bought us for God and made us more than conquerors.

OUR POSITION

We learned in earlier lessons that we make the difference. Our attitude determines what we really are. It will profit us nothing to say we are more than conquerors and not act according to the Word of God. Much to the contrary, we will be considered liars.

Take the Word of God literally and declare that you are more than conquerors in all things. Use your rights. You have been considered worthy by the Father. It is now up to you. Do not let the devil deceive you. Now is the time. Be more than conquerors for the glory of God. Take hold of your position in the spiritual world.

Questions

- 1. What must we do after accepting Jesus as our Savior?**
 - a. Make Him our idol
 - b. Make Him our model
 - c. Not do anything
- 2. How did the Lord Jesus act in all His battles?**
 - a. As a warrior
 - b. Normally
 - c. As Lord
- 3. After killing John the Baptist, who did Herod intend to lay his hands on?**
 - a. Moses
 - b. Tobias
 - c. Jesus
- 4. What advice did the Pharisees give Jesus when they gave Him the news that Herod wanted to kill Him?**
 - a. To flee
 - b. To pray more
 - c. To give Himself up
- 5. What animal did Jesus compare Herod to?**
 - a. A bear
 - b. A fox
 - c. A lion
- 6. How should we feel when facing persecutions?**
 - a. Unhappy
 - b. Wronged
 - c. Blessed

Questions

7. What did Jesus teach us to do when being persecuted?

- a. Fast and pray
- b. Bribe the persecutors
- c. Exult and be glad

8. What did Jesus do to the sick that were brought to Him?

- a. He healed them
- b. He gave them extreme unction
- c. He prescribed medication

9. Where did Jesus suffer our diseases?

- a. In His own body
- b. At Martha's and Mary's home
- c. In Capharnaum

10. Why didn't the devil succeed at tempting Jesus?

- a. Because Jesus was God
- b. Because he was unable to
- c. Because Jesus based Himself on the Word of God

11. Why can Jesus succor those that are tempted?

- a. Because He is God
- b. Because He also was tempted
- c. Because He is strong

12. Jesus was tempted in...

- a. All things
- b. Almost all things
- c. In a few things

Q u e s t i o n s

13. What did Jesus say to the demon that attacked him in the synagogue?

- a. I owe you no satisfaction
- b. My time has not yet come
- c. Be quiet and come out of the man

14. According to the Word of God, we are more than conquerors...

- a. In all things
- b. In spiritual things
- c. In the temptations of the flesh

15. What did Jesus Christ, the second Adam, come to do for us?

- a. He came to teach us the way of light
- b. He came to be a Light in the darkness
- c. He came to purchase us back for our God

16. What will we be called if we do not truly become more than conquerors?

- a. Liars and deceivers
- b. Ignorant
- c. Poor sufferers

Those who discover how important words are will definitely become overcomers in all areas of their lives.

The words we speak create the environment in which we will live in the near future. They govern our lives. We are today what we consciously or subconsciously declared ourselves to be at some time in the past.

If what we say can make us or break us, we should change our conversation, and so live happier lives.

If you do not correct yourself, and start using positive language, you will soon learn that nothing else you try will change your life. An ill-spoken word is a word that is not aligned with the Word of God; it will always annul even the sincerest of intentions.

The worst time to make a decision is when you are going through a crisis, whether it be sickness, a financial problem, marital problems, etc. When you find yourself in this situation, you usually let your emotions speak and almost always say things that are quite the opposite of what the Bible says.

We must confess what the Lord teaches us in any situation. If we do not have something inspiring to say, then we must seal our lips and seek orientation

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in the Scriptures. Words that lack the Lord's anointing are null, and will very likely create an adverse situation.

Jesus is our example and pattern. He never said anything in disagreement with the Father. When quoting the Holy Word, He united Himself with the Father, becoming one with Him. The same thing will happen to you if you act the same way.

Our confession determines what we are in the eyes of the Lord and the eyes of the world. It is our word that makes us strong or weak, healthy or sick, overcomers or losers.

I pray that you learn to speak words that edify.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. A. Jones".

THE WORD

The strongest forces in this world are not atomic weapons or any other kind of armament. They are the invisible and inaudible spiritual forces of God.

The Lord, who is Spirit, created all things, both visible and invisible, by His power through His Word. That is how He created the mountains, the minerals, and all the different types of living creatures: *And God said...* (Genesis 1)

When you discover that the words you speak are more powerful than anything you know, your life will be completely transformed. You will learn that when you are united with Christ, your words become an army at your disposal, ready to go into action, awaiting only your determinations.

OUR WORDS

Nothing is more important in our walk of faith than the words that we speak. They are a faithful translation of what we believe; they are a perfect portrait of our spirit. That is why it is so important to learn their value and the influence they exercise in our lives.

The Lord Jesus declared that if we believe, we will receive exactly what we say: *“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain,*

'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says (Mark 11:22-23).

Pay close attention to the last statement of the Lord Jesus in this text: *Everything you say will happen.* It is clear here that our words can edify or destroy; heal or make sick; bring success or defeat; what we say will happen.

The faster and better we learn the role that words play in our lives, and what the Bible reveals about them, the better we will live. We will learn that the blessing we have long sought for only depends on our words to become a reality.

We will also discover that today we are exactly what we consciously or subconsciously declared about ourselves at some time in the past.

The truth is that from now on we can be what we want to be. We make the difference; we write our futures. Our words rule our lives; they give us health, peace, prosperity and happiness. They can also defeat us, making us wretched and sick.

OBSERVE THE WAY JESUS SPOKE

The Lord Jesus spoke as if He and the Father were truly one, and they were: *I and [My] Father are one (John 10:30).* What made the Lord one with the Father? His unity with the Word. That is why He lacked for nothing. He knew that when He spoke the words His Father told Him to, He could order the demons to leave

their victims and they would submit and obey Him. He knew He could speak to the forces of nature as God (even though He was a man), and they would obey His commands. All nature acknowledged Him as Lord, for the Word of God in His mouth gave Him this prerogative. The wind and sea obeyed Him. He walked on water, transformed water into wine, and multiplied bread and fish. He healed people with all manner of diseases and infirmities.

If you observe how Jesus went about doing the work of God, you will see how important words were to him. It's as if He, who came to give us the example of how to be more than conquerors in all things, were saying that we will only get what we declare, ordain, or take possession of. That was exactly what He wanted to tell us. What was His secret? He took for Himself all the Father had declared about Him, and confessed it openly. Maybe we are failing because we do not do the same.

COMPARING OURSELVES TO JESUS

Let us observe what Jesus' position before God was, and what the Lord declares about us:

1. Jesus: *I and [My] Father are one* (John 10:30).

About us: *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit [with Him]* (1 Corinthians 6:17).

2. Jesus: *Nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me* (John 8:42b).

About us: *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you (John 15:16).*

3. Jesus: *The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to [the] poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to [the] captives And recovery of sight to [the] blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” (Luke 4:18-19).*

About us: *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).*

4. Jesus: When Jesus used the power of God to do miracles and said He was the Son of God, the Jews were filled with envy and anger. They said that the Master, being a man, was making Himself equal to God. They did not understand that when someone is used to give forth the Word, he acts in the place of God Himself. *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God (John 5:18).*

About us: *He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken) (John 10:35).*

5. Jesus: When Jesus was arrested by the Romans, He declared that if He wanted to, He could ask the

Father to send legions of angels in His rescue: *Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?* (Matthew 26:53).

About us: *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son* (John 14:13).

OUR CONFESSION

It is now very clear that it doesn't depend on a direct action of God for healings to happen today. This might confuse people who have always been told that they should pray, fast, and ask God to heal them. But we are learning that we have to do our part. This is the fastest and safest way for His divine power to flow in our lives. This is what is lacking for us to live lives filled with peace, health, prosperity and many other blessings.

When we speak words of authority, the power of God enters into action.

Questions

- 1. What are the strongest forces in this world?**
 - a. Atomic weapons
 - b. The spiritual forces of God
 - c. The power of the mind
- 2. What does the person who joins himself to Christ have at his disposal?**
 - a. A real army
 - b. Jobs to do
 - c. Unending punishment
- 3. How did the Lord create all things?**
 - a. By chance
 - b. By Science
 - c. By His Word
- 4. What did Jesus say we would have?**
 - a. Whatever we said and believed would happen
 - b. Whatever we wanted
 - c. Whatever we dreamed of
- 5. What power do our words have?**
 - a. The power to make us cultured
 - b. The power to edify or destroy us
 - c. No power at all
- 6. What does it take for blessings to be poured out on our lives?**
 - a. Lots of prayer
 - b. Our words
 - c. God's will

Q u e s t i o n s

7. What are we today?

- a. That which we declared in the past
- b. What God wanted us to be
- c. There is no plausible explanation

8. Why didn't Jesus lack for anything?

- a. Because He was God
- b. Because of His unity with God
- c. Because He was privileged

9. What was Jesus' secret?

- a. The Virgin Mary interceded for Him
- b. The angels were His friends
- c. He took for Himself all that the Father had declared about Him

10. What happens when you join yourself to the Lord?

- a. You become one with God
- b. You become famous
- c. You become superior to other people

11. Who chose us to belong to God?

- a. The pastor
- b. It was pure luck
- c. The Lord Jesus

12. What evil can befall us if we use the power of God?

- a. It depends on the circumstances
- b. Nothing can harm us in any way
- c. We will only know after it happens

Questions

13. What happens when you are used in the Word of God?

- a. You act as God Himself
- b. You are elevated to the status of a saint
- c. You should be revered as divine

14. What do the words we speak represent?

- a. Nothing
- b. Means of communication
- c. A faithful translation of that which we believe

15. What does it take for the blessings we are fervently seeking to materialize?

- a. Willpower
- b. Our words
- c. The Word of God

16. What was Jesus' relationship with the Father?

- a. They were one
- b. He was privileged
- c. The Father was testing Him

17. What would Jesus need to do for the angels to come and rescue Him?

- a. Fast
- b. Pray to the Father
- c. Get lucky

18. Who will do what we ask?

- a. The Lord Jesus
- b. The angels
- c. the prophets of old

Q u e s t i o n s

19. What makes the power of God move into action?

- a. When we do charity
- b. The Lord God
- c. Our words of authority

20. Who has to do our part?

- a. We
- b. The pastor
- c. The Lord God

ANSWERS:
1) b 2) a 3) c 4) a 5) b 6) b 7) a 8) b 9) c 10) a 11) c 12) b 13) a 14) c 15) b 16) a 17) b 18) a 19) c 20) a

CONFESSION

LESSON X

The confession of what we believe can be positive or negative. Both are necessary and useful. A negative confession is what opens the door for the Lord to enter someone's life. A person confesses he or she is a sinner, and accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

A negative confession should only be used when you begin your Christian walk, when you are saved, or when you fall into sin. Then you open your heart to God and tell Him all the wrong things you have committed. A negative confession allows God to forgive the repentant sinner and raise him to his feet.

We should make positive confessions constantly. At all times we must confess who we are in Christ and what belongs to us in Him. When we do this, the power of God has the authority to work His will in us.

To despise the Word of God is the greatest mistake one could make. As the Lord Jesus declared: *For without Me you can do nothing* (John 15:5). The Lord Jesus is the Word of God.

If we declare what we are in the Word of God, we will see the Word working in our favor as efficiently as it worked in the ministry of the Son of God. When we act like Jesus acted, we will obtain the same results.

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God's will is for us to be His representatives in this world, like Jesus was. We must act as His representatives, like Jesus did. This is our mission.

I pray that from this lesson on your confession will bring true praise to God.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. A. Soares". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the main text.

CONFESSION

If you observe how most so-called Christians live, you will come to the conclusion that few have learned the importance of confession. As a matter of fact, it is hard to find anyone who truly lives the abundant life Jesus came to bring us. The reason is that the people of God have not yet abandoned the negative way they face their problems and the attacks of the enemy.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFESSION

When you say that you will not be able to overcome a certain problem, you have already sealed your defeat. This kind of confession allows the enemy to continue oppressing you and to consummate his destruction in your life. *You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth* (Proverbs 6:2).

You will invariably become or receive that which you confess.

When you speak negative or pessimistic words, you are using the devil's own language. This creates an evil atmosphere around you, and it will be extremely difficult for you to see what wonderful opportunities are actually in store for you. *A man shall eat well by the fruit of [his] mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence* (Proverbs 13:2).

WHAT WE MUST CONFESS

The Holy Spirit calls our Christian life our **confession**.

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus (Hebrews 3:1).

The word in the Greek original for confession is *homologein*, which means **repetition of words, concepts and figures; to speak the same thing**. In other words, it means to say exactly what the Lord says in His Word.

Every time a trial befalls us, we should confess what the Lord says our position over all things is. By so doing, we release the power of God to work in our favor. He said: *For I am ready to perform My word (Jeremiah 1:12).*

When we confess the Word of the Lord God, we are taking our true position in the spiritual world. If we do not make the right confession, we will never take our position in Christ, and will never receive any blessings from God. Furthermore, when we stand on the Word of God and confess it, we receive an understanding of the Lord God we would never receive otherwise.

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

Suppose symptoms of some disease appeared in your body. You then use the resources of modern

medicine, and wait patiently to regain your health. You happen to meet someone who asks politely, “How are you feeling?” You answer, with a trace of satisfaction, that you haven’t been feeling very well; you feel a pain here and a pain there, and so on. You are confessing what is apparently the truth.

This attitude gives the enemy authority to continue attacking you. You have just accepted that problem, even though subconsciously.

We must emphasize that temptation through sickness – symptoms – does not mean you are already sick, just as temptation to commit adultery does not make you an adulterer; it is when you accept the temptation (consummation) that you become truly sick.

You might ask, “If I have the symptoms of a disease, should I lie and say I don’t have them?” No. The fact is that just by acknowledging the symptoms you are already lying. The Lord God states in His Word that by Jesus’ wounds we have already been healed. How can anyone be sick if God has declared that we are healed?

Our problem is that we believe in things, in symptoms, in people, more than we believe in God.

Someone suffers an accident. He lies in the hospital, covered with bruises and with several broken bones. The doctor comes in the room, and the person asks, “Doctor, how am I?” The doctor answers, “Oh,

you are fine, really fine. You will be out of that cast in no time and back to your normal life”.

Then his friend comes into the room and asks the famous question, “So, how are you feeling?” The patient answers without hesitation, “Oh, I am doing just fine”.

That person spoke according to the doctor, but most believers refuse to speak according to the Word of God.

When you plant yourself firmly on the Word of God and confess it (no matter what you feel), you are uniting yourself with the Lord. No one who unites himself with the Lord will ever fail. *But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit [with Him]* (1 Corinthians 6:17).

FAITH AND CONFESSION

We have already learned that faith is the evidence of things hoped for, and that we receive faith when we hear the Word of God.

Faith – the certainty that a blessing is ours – will profit us nothing if we do not act in accordance with the Word, confessing the position the Lord gave us over all things.

Faith is like a permit God gives us. When you feel faith rise in your heart, don't sit around waiting for the right moment; act.

THE TRUE CONFESSION

The children of God must speak the language of faith. Just as the incredulous and the fearful (neither one will enter the Kingdom of God) speak of their doubts and fears, we should also confess our possibilities in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The confession of our position in the Word of God is a weapon that will make us invincible. With it we can put out all the fiery darts of the enemy. We must be bold in what we believe. The confession of who we are in Christ will cause the entire army of Hell to flee. This is what the Lord God says about our confession: *Who confirms the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messengers* (Isaiah 44:26).

People who live in defeat consider our way of speaking arrogant and reckless. They do not understand that this is the language of those who truly belong to the family of God.

To declare the Word of God at all times and in every challenging situation is to bring the God who worked wonders in the past onto the scene today. He will do the same wonders. This will heal the defeated Church we see today. Jesus bought the Church and sanctified her with His blood, imbuing her with the power of the Holy Ghost; nonetheless she is full of problems, struggles, divisions, sins and failures.

The true confession will cause the true Church to appear.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Now that you are full of faith, knowing who you are in Christ and what belongs to you by the Word of God, it is time to take a stand against the forces of evil that have risen against you to destroy you.

Look around to see in what areas the devil has tried to destroy you. Look at all the obstacles you think you will never be able to overcome, face them boldly with the Word of God and defeat them in the Name of Jesus.

Instead of trying to defend yourself against the next attack of Satan, attack him. Strike out at him right now, demanding that he and all that belongs to him leave your life.

Never again fear the enemy. Take hold immediately of what Jesus purchased for you.

Questions

- 1. How can we conclude that few people have learned the importance of confession?**
 - a. By the way they live
 - b. Because they don't get baptized
 - c. Because they don't belong to Grace Church
- 2. Why don't believers have abundant life?**
 - a. Because they haven't been baptized in the Holy Spirit
 - b. Because they don't give up their negative way of handling problems
 - c. Because they don't pray three times a day
- 3. When does a person seal his defeat?**
 - a. When he says he won't make it
 - b. When he stops praying
 - c. When he stops going to church
- 4. What happens when you confess something?**
 - a. Nothing
 - b. Something of a dubious value
 - c. It becomes a reality
- 5. What will each one of us eat?**
 - a. Whatever God desires to give us
 - b. Whatever luck brings our way
 - c. The fruit of our lips
- 6. What does the Holy Spirit call the Christian walk?**
 - a. The true church
 - b. Confession
 - c. Eternal hope

Questions

7. The Greek word *homologein* translated as confession means:

- a. To say the same thing
- b. An anointed sermon
- c. Paradise

8. What will happen if we do not make the right confession?

- a. We will never be promoted in church
- b. We will not take possession of our position in Christ
- c. We will be like Judas Iscariot

9. The confession of something that is apparently true gives the enemy:

- a. An opportunity to be saved
- b. Authority to continue attacking us
- c. An opportunity to evolve

10. Temptation in the form of sicknesses, adultery or another sin, is consummated when:

- a. We accept it
- b. The devil brings it on us
- c. Jesus doesn't answer our prayers

11. If you acknowledge the symptoms, are you lying?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Yes and No

Q u e s t i o n s

12. What happens when you claim the Word and confess it?

- a. You become a distinguished believer
- b. You become a member of the church
- c. You unite yourself with the Lord

13. Our faith will be of no avail if we don't...

- a. Fast and pray
- b. Act in accordance with the Word
- c. Go to church twice a week

14. What can we compare faith to?

- a. Salvation
- b. Paradise
- c. A permit from the Lord

15. What language should the children of God use?

- a. The language of faith
- b. The language of fear
- c. The language of the angels

16. What weapon will make us invincible?

- a. The confession that God exists
- b. The confession of Paradise
- c. The confession of our position in the Word

17. Speaking the Word of God at all moments and in all challenging situations will make:

- a. The devil weaker
- b. God come on the scene
- c. The angels build better mansions

Questions

18. What Church will appear when the true confession is made?

- a. The primitive Church
- b. The true Church
- c. The modern Church

19. Instead of taking a defensive attitude, what should the believer do?

- a. Attack the devil
- b. Remain humble
- c. Pray, because the situation looks terrible

20. When should you fear the enemy?

- a. When you haven't fasted
- b. Never
- c. When you are in a foreign country

ANSWERS:
1) a 2) b 3) a 4) c 5) c 6) b 7) a 8) b 9) b 10) a 11) a 12) c 13) b 14) c 15) a
16) c 17) b 18) b 19) a 20) b

VAIN REPETITIONS

LESSON XI

The Lord Jesus warns us in His Word: *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen [do]. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him* (Matthew 6:7-8). However, most Christians totally ignore this advice from the Lord, and therefore are not blessed.

Now, if avoiding vain repetitions were not something serious and crucial, the Lord would never have given us this warning. It shows us that besides being totally useless, it annoys the Father because He knows what we need even before we ask Him.

If there are vain repetitions, that is, repetitions that are false, annoying and unproductive, then there are also true and productive repetitions.

Repeating our position in Christ – demanding all evil to be bound based on what we believe – is not something vain, false or unproductive. We are stating our position to stand and not yield one inch of territory; we are reaffirming our determination to not give in to any argument; we are demanding our full rights.

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Being heard does not depend on the amount of words you speak. It is useless to stay at the feet of the Lord, complaining and bothering Him with your whining. This only prevents Him from reaching out and helping you.

You need to stand on what the Word affirms to be your rights, and boldly come into the Father's presence in prayer. Ordain in the Name of Jesus what you want to see happen in any situation, according to the Word of God.

I pray that you learn how to avoid vain repetitions and become a blessing.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. A. Jones".

VAIN REPETITIONS

Since prayer is our means of communication with the Father, we should learn how to pray efficiently and productively. There are certain principles to be observed if we want this to happen.

We will state some of them:

I – Faith: *But without faith [it is] impossible to please [Him], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and [that] He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).*

II – The Name of Jesus: *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do (John 14:13a).*

III – The purpose: *That the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13b).*

IV – Believe: *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive [them], and you will have [them] (Mark 11:24).*

V – Without doubting: *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind (James 1:6).*

Besides these basic principles, there are others that are no less important, such as not using vain repetitions: *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen [do]. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be*

like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him (Matthew 6:7-8).

If these principles are not observed, our prayers will be useless and we are wasting our time when we pray. We must learn what the Father considers to be prayer. Prayer has to work; if it does not bring any results, then we should not pray at all. On the other hand, if it does work, then we should use it more assiduously.

We know that Jesus did not act as God when He was on Earth. When He came to our world, He stripped Himself of His glory and became as one of us, although without sin:

But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7

In order to fulfill His mission, He was in constant fellowship with the Father, and never left His presence:

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Matthew 14:23

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Mark 1:35

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 6:12

Besides this, the Lord always acted according to the rules His Father had established.

For I have not spoken on My own [authority]; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. John 12:49

If you have fellowship with the Father, and have a prayer life based on what we call **principles for an effective prayer life**, you will invariably be successful.

THE CASE OF VAIN REPETITIONS

Gentiles – anyone who was not a Jew in the days of the Bible; those who are not born again in our days – try by all possible ways to obtain something from God. They aren't really interested in who will answer their requests, nor do they care what price they will have to pay if the source is not the Lord. They repeat prayers over and over, accompanying them with promises, trying to receive what the Lord grants freely to all those who do His will.

Many times they are led into this error by their teachers. Penitents seek out a priest to know the reason for their suffering, and why they cannot receive peace and forgiveness. The priests induce them to error without the slightest scruple, telling them to pray so many "Our Fathers" or so many "Hail Maries", or some other prayer, which have absolutely no value at all. The Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught is

not to be repeated, but rather studied and understood. It is a model to be followed when we pray.

Many people in Evangelical circles make use of vain repetitions. People who seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost in prayer meetings are often told to praise the Lord. They will start to praise the Lord in the following manner, “Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, glory, glory, glory”, in a constant crescendo. Of course it is a beautiful thing to praise the Lord, and we must do this as often as possible, but our words must not be void of meaning, as is usually the case.

When we pray, we must concentrate on what we are doing. Our words must be measured. We must avoid vain repetitions that do not bring us any closer to the Lord; much to the contrary, they separate us from Him. We should not keep “reminding” the Lord how we are suffering, or going through deprivation, etc. This does not mean we shouldn’t tell the Lord about our indignation at all the misery, disease, or other misfortunes that surround us. When Jesus oriented us to not use vain repetitions, He said that the Father knows what we need before we even ask Him.

Those who do not know the Word of God might ask, “If God, our almighty Father who is love, knows what we need even before we ask, then why does He allow us to suffer?”

If you think this way, then you know nothing of the Word, for the Scriptures assure us that He has already provided everything we need:

As His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

2 Peter 1:3

USEFUL REPETITIONS

If there are vain repetitions, then there are also useful repetitions. Should they be made use of? Of course. When? Principally in our fight against the evil one:

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7b

What does it mean to resist? Does it mean suffering in silence to show that we are able to accept the “will of God”? By no means. Besides being totally stupid, it shows ignorance of what our part and position in Christ is. Furthermore, the Lord’s will for our life is always the best.

To resist means to offer resistance, to oppose. In the case of an invasion, the army of the invaded country will resist the invader with weapons. In our case, which is spiritual, we must use our words to withstand the attacks of the enemy. We should use useful repetitions (with good sense), until we get the victory.

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Jesus Himself used useful repetitions when He freed the naked, demon-possessed man in the land of the Gerasenes:

And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

Mark 5:7-8

Questions

1. What is our means of communication with the Father?

- a. Penitence
- b. Prayer
- c. Offerings

2. Where does the Bible say that without faith it is impossible to please God?

- a. Mark 1:30
- b. John 17:17
- c. Hebrews 11:6

3. Where does it say that Jesus promised to do everything we ask the Father in His name?

- a. Romans 13:8
- b. John 14:13
- c. John 3:16

4. Why does Jesus do whatever we ask in His name?

- a. For our healing
- b. So the Church will receive more offerings
- c. For the Father to be glorified

5. Who should the Father be glorified in?

- a. In His Son
- b. In the Virgin Mary
- c. In the Church of Grace

6. What is the fifth principal we studied in this lesson?

- a. Loving your neighbor
- b. Believing
- c. Praying the Lord's Prayer

Q u e s t i o n s

7. How should we ask?

- a. With faith
- b. Insistently
- c. Desperately

8. What shouldn't we do when we ask?

- a. Weep
- b. Believe
- c. Doubt

9. What is the doubter like?

- a. The wind
- b. The waves of the sea
- c. A mountain

10. What must we not use in prayer?

- a. Vain repetitions
- b. Slacks for women
- c. Hats on our heads

11. Who uses vain repetitions?

- a. The Jews
- b. Everybody
- c. Those who have not been born-again

12. For the non-believers, speaking a lot means:

- a. Being heard
- b. Merit
- c. Being foolish

Q u e s t i o n s

- 13. When does the Father know what we ask for:**
- a. When we pray
 - b. Three days after our prayer
 - c. Before we even ask
- 14. What did Jesus do to Himself when He took on our form?**
- a. He promoted Himself
 - b. He annihilated Himself
 - c. He didn't do anything
- 15. Who did Jesus become like?**
- a. A man
 - b. An angel
 - c. An animal
- 16. After sending the multitude away, what did Jesus do on the mountain?**
- a. He meditated
 - b. He slept
 - c. He prayed
- 17. Where did Jesus go, while it was still dark?**
- a. To the temple
 - b. To a deserted place
 - c. To Peter's house
- 18. How does Luke 6:12 say Jesus spent the night?**
- a. Working as a carpenter
 - b. In prayer to God
 - c. Sleeping

Q u e s t i o n s

19. Who told Jesus what to do or say?

- a. The Father
- b. Nobody
- c. The angels

20. What has the Father given us, that pertains to life?

- a. Nothing
- b. Everything
- c. A few things

ANSWERS: 1)b 2)c 3)b 4)c 5)a 6)b 7)a 8)c 9)b 10)a 11)c 12)a 13)c 14)b 15)a 16)c 17)b 18)b 19)a 20)b

DOING THE WORK OF GOD

LESSON XII

Thousands of people all over the world leave their jobs, homes, and families to dedicate themselves to the “work of God”. Are they right? Are they really doing the work of God?

In Catholicism, many abandon all contact with society, to “serve” God cloistered away in a convent or monastery. The same thing happens in Buddhism.

Many young men and women deny their own nature and take a vow of celibacy. They think that in so doing they are pleasing God.

It is similar in Evangelical circles: women are forbidden to cut their hair, people fast for long periods of time, and so on.

The mission of our Lord Jesus was to do the work of God. He consecrated His life to it, and everywhere He went He devoted Himself to using all the potential His father had given Him.

We know that we have to do the work of God, but we must also know how to go about it. This is what we will study in this lesson.

When we observe the example of Christ, we see that doing the work of God begins by submitting ourselves to the Father, and then putting His Word

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into action. We can be sure of one thing: if we do not do the work of God, it will not be done.

The Lord Jesus set us the example and taught us how to do the work of God. He also showed what it means to do His work, which is the answer to the question people all over the world ask: how we can do the work of God?

My prayer is that from this day on you begin to do the work of God.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. A. Soares". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "In Christ," text.

DOING THE WORK OF GOD

Many who call themselves Christians do not live good lives. They are very bad examples for the Gospel. How will anyone believe the promise of abundant life in Christ if those who say they live in His grace do not demonstrate this life? Is this life real or not? According to the Scriptures, such life does exist; according to the lives of many, it does not exist.

Whose fault is it? Sometimes it is the person's own fault. He lives carelessly, and refuses to learn what the Word teaches about his position in Christ, or to take hold of his rights as a member of the family of God.

Sometimes the preachers are to blame, because they do not teach the Truth (many only teach theology). The translators of the Holy Scriptures are also partly to blame – although we must admit they did their best they could, and in general, did a good job.

Many times, however, crucial points are a little twisted in their translations, and thus many blessings have been lost. This is the case in John 14:13, which we have studied in our Faith Course. Here we have the following translation: *Whatever you ask in my name, I will do.* According to this translation, anyone can be convinced that all he has to do is ask for a blessing and it will be granted

him. But it is not like that at all: there are many people asking and not receiving anything. This is because Jesus did not use the verb “ask” the way we are used to, but rather with the meaning of ordaining, demanding, commanding.

The story of the blind man Jesus healed in John, chapter nine, was also mistranslated. Verses three and four were translated like this:

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”

If this translation were correct, then we would have to believe that there are people who are born blind, or crippled, and suffer their whole life to manifest the works of God. If we follow this line of reasoning, we will come to the conclusion that God is not love. How could He allow people to be born with defects, without their sight, hearing, speaking, or other vital functions, just to be healed one day and give glory to Him? Doesn't that sound strange? It's awful! This is not the character of our God.

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

When Jesus was here on Earth, He healed everyone. He never approved of suffering, and never said that God wanted anyone to suffer. When He

healed the man who was born blind in the text we just read, He did not say that the man was born that way for God to be glorified by his healing.

As we know, the New Testament was written in Greek, which did not have the punctuation marks that we have today. John wrote his gospel in the form of a letter; he did not divide it into chapters and verses. The division of the Bible into chapters is believed to have been made either by Cardinal Hugo, who died in 1263, or by Stephen Langton, who died in 1228. The division into verses was made by Robert Steves in 1551. This is a better translation of this passage: *Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. But that the works of God be fulfilled, we must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."*

Notice that the best manuscripts have "we do", instead of "I do". The Lord Jesus included us in the responsibility of doing the work of God. The night He spoke of was the period of His death (three days).

There is a translation of the Bible based on the French version written by the Benedictine Monks from Maredsous (Belgium), that has a very similar interpretation of this passage.

Millions of people have suffered unnecessarily for years, because they thought their suffering was destined to manifest the works of God some day, and He would be glorified.

The disciples asked the Master: *“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”* (v. 2) That question didn’t make any sense. How could the man have sinned before he was born? The Lord Jesus answered: *“Neither this man nor his parents sinned”* (v. 3a). He never said anything about the real cause of his affliction, perhaps because the Scriptures very clearly stated that the reason for all evil was Adam’s sin. Jesus did take advantage of the situation, though, to give us a great revelation: for the work of God to be manifested, we must do the work of Him who sent us.

Jesus, the man, had to do the work of God. If He did not do it, it simply would not be done. For years the blind man had suffered, as had countless others, because no one had done the work of God. The same thing is happening today: millions of people are suffering because no one is doing the work of God. You can be a member of the best church and still suffer for years on end. Do the work of God in your life. Rebuke all evil, and order all sickness and suffering to leave.

We must do the work of Him who sent us while it is still daytime. That is why Jesus gave us the following mission.

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not

believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Mark 16:15-18

This is what happened when the first brethren set out to do the work of God: *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen* (Mark 16:20).

Wake up, brothers and sisters! We have already been sent. We have a mission. Let us begin doing it, from this moment on.

WHAT DOING THE WORK OF GOD MEANS

We are the ones that do the work of God. But what does it really mean to do the work of God?

When people asked Him what doing the work of God was, Jesus was very clear:

And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which

perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:25-29

They came to Jesus because they did not want to have the trouble of working to earn their living. They had seen Jesus transform five barley loaves and two fishes – a little boy’s snack – into food for almost five thousand men, without counting women and children. This was going to be easy, they thought. Every time they had a necessity, Jesus would promptly do a miracle.

Jesus told them they should toil for the food that remained unto eternal life, which He could give them. They understood that there was something they had to do. They went straight to the point, and asked Him what they had to do to work the works of God. Jesus told them that there were no works of God to be done, only the **work** of God, which is to believe in the one He sent.

TODAY, SAME QUESTION – SAME ANSWER

The question they asked Jesus can be heard everywhere you go today, and the answer is the same:

Believe in the one He sent. What does it mean to believe in the one He sent? Many people assure you that they believe in the one He sent, and if you ask them who God sent, they will promptly answer, “Jesus”.

They are right, to a certain extent. But the fact is, God did not send Jesus; He sent His Word. His Word became flesh, and brought Jesus into the world. There is no question that Jesus and the Word of God are the same person. But we must understand the difference. Many say they believe in Jesus, but do not live according to the Word. They are deceived. If you truly believe in Jesus, then you will practice the Word of God.

What are you going to do from now on? If you do not do the work of God, it will not be done. What do you say? Will you do the work of God?

If you are sick or have some problem, stop asking everyone to pray and help you get something from God. Make up your mind to do His work right now. Become an obedient child, one who practices the Word.

Q u e s t i o n s

- 1. Is the abundant life promised by Jesus real or not?**
- 2. Why can the failure of many people be blanded on the translations of the Scriptures?**
- 3. What is a better translation for “ask” in John 14:13?**
- 4. Was the man in John 9 born blind so that one day he could be healed for God to receive the glory?**
- 5. What is the explanation for mistakes in translation, such as the one found in John 9?**
- 6. What version of the Bible is the closest to our interpretation of John 9?**
- 7. Did it make any sense when the disciples asked Jesus if the man or his parents had sinned for him to be born blind?**
- 8. When He answered their question, did Jesus mention the cause of his suffering?**
- 9. What is the cause of all suffering?**
- 10. In that episode, who had to do the work of God?**

Questions

11. Why have blind people and so many others suffered for so many years?
12. Why should we do the work of God?
13. Where is this mission recorded?
14. What did Jesus answer the people who asked Him how to do the work of God?
15. What does it mean to believe in the one God sent?

ANSWERS:
1) Yes. 2) Because some parts have not been translated correctly 3) Ordain, demand, command, command.
4) No. 5) The New Testament was written in Greek, and they did not have the punctuation marks we have today. 6) The French translation of the Benedictine monks of Maredsous (Belgium). 7) No. 8) No. 9) The sin of Adam. 10) Jesus II. Because few people have done the work of God 12) Because we have been given this mission 13) Mark 16:15-18. 14) *This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He (God) sent* (John 6:29b). 15) Believe in the Word of God.



Faith Course

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