

INHERITING THE NATIONS SERIES

OVERCOMING THE DEVIL

Lets turn to Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and that they did not love their lives to the death.* Of all the many principles that are mentioned in the word of God from Genesis to Revelation only the above three principles are highlighted in the book of Revelation. These three principles will help us to gain immunity from the enemy. In the context of this verse, the word *they* refers to the saints during the tribulation under the antiChrist. But we can apply the principles that they used in our present times when we want to overcome the enemy.

It surprises me sometimes that people who have been hearing the faith message teaching for many years still believe that if they do anything for God, the devil will counter attack. And they can quote experiences. They can quote incidences. But they cannot quote the bible. A string of incidences take place then they change their theology and conclude that because of the experiences this must be true. It surprises me that people still believe that way. If it is not scriptural, then it is not for me. We have to draw a line. As long as you can't find a scripture for it you have to stand on a scripture that you know. If God were to reveal to you a new truth, or God wants to change your theology to make it more perfect, He will give you scripture and verse for it. He won't give you an experience to change it. Why was the apostle Paul able to develop a new theology of the church and salvation which Peter and the

other apostles did not? We call it a Pauline theology. You know why? He was strong in the word. Peter had more experience with Jesus than Paul. The difference was that Paul had more word than Peter. Paul was brought up under the feet of Gamaliel. But we have to get back to the word of God. Experiences will pass away. Experiences do not last. If you want them to last let the word of God come in. And the word will tell you the purpose of that experience, the key behind the experience and protect you from the wrong experience and lead you to continue that experience for a long time.

Look at other people. Why was Apollos so mightily used the moment he was born again? It was because he was mighty in the word of God. But all he knew was John's baptism. When he came to know the greater truth of the Holy Spirit as taught to him by Aquila and Priscilla, he preached it better than any body else with the same experience. The difference is his knowledge of the word of God.

As we look at confronting demon forces I believe in immunity. There are a lot of ministers who may not believe it but I believe it. I won't try to prove it from experience but I prove it from the word of God. You can't find anytime in the word of God where the devil followed Jesus and disturbed Him after He cast him out. You can't find a place in the bible where the apostles dealt with a demon and the demon followed them and disturbed them. The only time when you find demon following is when you don't deal with them. That is in Acts 16 Paul didn't deal with it because he just minded his own business. He was not there to show off by casting of demons and exercising his authority. He was there to just preach the word. But when the demon reached a certain point where Paul said this is going too far; he cast the demon out and it never followed him again. Its important for us to understand that there is immunity in God.

Now these 3 things are very important when we confront the devil. No. 1, the power of the Blood. No. 2, the word of our testimony and No. 3 that they love not their own life. And we want to focus on these 3 things.

The Blood

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First the Blood. We know that the Blood is essential because we are not perfect. But the Blood of Jesus Christ is not applied so much against Satan as it is working in our lives. There is wonderful power in the Blood. Whenever we fail, whenever we sin, whenever we fall, not only do the circumstances result but something in our soul changes. Falling into sin is just like breaking an egg and you can't put the egg together. It's just something external that happened. It can be something in our soul. And as a result the accumulation of failures and sins become a part of our life. A person may be born into this earth as a cheerful loving little baby. Through a life of sin he becomes a hardened cruel criminal. The accumulation of small little failures and sins remain in the soul even though the sins are committed a long time ago. Every time we fail something on our inside is affected and there is no cure for that except through the Blood of Jesus.

Turn to Heb. 9:11-15 *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sacrifices for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.* Have you notice that the dead works is inside the conscience, not outside in the hands? When you speak about works we think about actions that had been done. Do you notice that these dead works are internal condition? These are inside the conscience not in your circumstances. It says that he will cleanse you; he will purge your conscience from dead works. He didn't just say that he would forgive your dead works. Why purge? The word purge is a very strong word. It's the same word that is used when the body eliminates all the wastes. What's happening here is that every time we fail, every time we fall, there is something that remains on your inside. The sin is not on your outside. It's on your inside. Imagine if your have an accumulation of those things that remain. What kind of personality will you have? What kind of person will you be? How will you be so changed?

Let me explain up to today some of us still have the records of those things that are

still there. For some of us the record is still playing. Your sin is 20 years away but its still playing. Its almost like you have inside you a CD ROM. ROM stands for read only memory. And you record it once and you couldn't erase it. Imagine on your inside the moment you are born into this earth physically there is a recorder that starts ticking and you cannot erase it. What happened if you have a hard disk that you cannot rewrite? What happens if you can never ever erase your hard disk? And all the wrong things keep piling up. A day will come when you can't even run your normal program. And that's what happened in people's life. The record is going on. Some of us have never learned how to erase the hard disk.

Remember when Jesus confronted Satan in the gospel of John He says the enemy is coming and he have nothing in me. He didn't say he has nothing on me. He says he has nothing in me. He has completely nothing on his inside that he can lay claim to. That's a good position to be in. You are not ready for international warfare with Satan if you have something of him in you. And if not for the Blood of Jesus Christ he would have something in all of us. Thank God for the Blood. And the power of the Blood is not just to cleanse or forgive you. But remember what the Blood does. And if we learn what it does we can yield to it. To allow the Blood to come over on your inside and allow it to saturate your being in the same way that you allow the Holy Spirit. We need that same Blood. The Old Testament examples are the blood of bulls and goats, which only cover; they don't remove, they don't purge. But the Blood of Jesus removes the few radicals in your body. Radicals are things in your body that cause toxic to build up and cause cancer to grow. Anti-oxidants are food that removes all those things at its root.

The same way the Blood of Jesus Christ comes over on our inside. It does something on our inside and removes the little things that have been built up. A lot of people have not allowed the Blood of Jesus to come that far. They allow the Blood of Jesus to cleanse their past, which in their mind is external. Remember the past is not external; it is internal; it is in you. Each one of you exists physically because in the past your parents conceived you. You who are sitting in this room are the result and the statement from the past. Some of us may have things in our body, things in our life that resulted from the past. You are the past manifested in the present. The past does not exist as a history book. The past exists as an internal mechanism on our inside that continues its existence in the present into the future. And some of the things that occur in our life are recorded on our inside and it

continues the past much that we don't want. All our weaknesses, all our strengths, all the habitual sin that we fight constantly is the past. If you ever had a habitual sin, the past is continuing in your life until and unless you find the secret way to allow the Blood of Jesus to purge that root out of your life. And remove it once and for all.

What's the solution in that No. 1 repentance, No. 2 prayer. Remember in Acts 8 when Simon the magician came to Peter, he was already born again and baptized in water and he wanted the power to lay hands on people but his attitudes and his motives were wrong. And Peter says I perceived that you are in a root of bitterness. And Peter told Simon to repent and then Simon asked Peter to pray to God for him. So first thing to do is to repent and to say sorry to God. The second thing is to spend time praying over it. If you ever fall not only do you repent but you also have to spend time praying over it. Pray over the situation and allow God to deal with that immediately.

What about things that are too far away? Whenever those things stir up on your inside and are exposed immediately begin to turn them to God. Have that season of prayer saturation as you yield yourself to God and allow the Blood to work. I know that the Blood can work instantly. Many of us don't realize how the power of the Blood works. The Blood can also work over a period of time. I know that the Holy Spirit can work instantly. But there is also a work of the Holy Spirit that is gradual. How come we believe that about the power of the Holy Spirit? We know that Holy Spirit can work instantly by the anointing upon. We know the Holy Spirit can work gradually and work out the character of Christ in our life. The Holy Spirit can also give what I call a gradual miracle because He heals from the soul without. And He has His purpose because some sicknesses are psychosomatic. He heals the psyche first before He heals the body. So He works within slowly.

And we believe the same way about the power of the word. The word of God can work instantly and yet at the same time there is a gradual working of the word, which is a deeper work. We believe the same way about the power in the name of Jesus. There are times that you have to stand on the name of Jesus. There are other times when you just call on the name and you are saved. But other times standing on the name of Jesus you put your faith out and time passes and you are still

standing on the name of Jesus. You are still calling on the name of Jesus. There is a gradual work; there is an instant work that takes place in our life. The gradual work and the instant work are different. Of course when you are dealing with demons the use of the name of Jesus will bring result instantly. Now if there is any delay it is because of our own faith.

There are other times when you are praying, you believe in God for something. And when you are praying you are praying in Jesus' name. Tell me why does it take time? Because some times the name of Jesus has to be used over a period of time to remove the mountain. When you are standing on the word that you speak basically it is because of the name of Jesus. Some of us have prayed for 10 years before some prayers take place. But we were standing firm. Some things take time depending on what we are asking in the name of Jesus. But what do we do in the meantime before the answer comes? We are standing believing God. When it comes to prayer there are some areas where the name of Jesus works in our life through time. There are some areas where it works instantly; it is totally different area.

We believe that way about every area of power in the spirit realm. How come we don't believe that about the Blood of Jesus? In the book of Heb. 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.* Let's look at chapter 10 where he describes this further. Let me show that in chapter 9 he is talking about an instant work and in chapter 10 he talks about a gradual work. Heb. 10:14-19 *For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds, then he adds, I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more. Where there is forgiveness of these there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus.* Therefore brethren - he is talking to believers. He is talking to people who know the Lord and who have been born again. Who know what it is to instantly receive cleansing through the Blood of Jesus. We have always used the Blood when we fail. Let me tell you, you don't use the Blood only when you fail. That's the instant work. The gradual work is where you use the Blood even when you succeed.

There are 2 different works. One is the gradual work, where the Blood of Jesus is transforming you into His very being, having boldness to enter the Holiest. Many have entered into the Outer Court. Many have entered into the Holy Place. But to enter the Holiest, he is not talking about the holiest on this earth because the Blood of Jesus does not apply to any tabernacle on this earth; it is applied to the heavenly tabernacle. To enter the holiest place of all is through the Blood of Jesus. A new and living way and he is no talking about something old. He is talking about something new, which He consecrated for us through the veil that is His flesh.

In verse 20 if the veil of Jesus is His flesh and you enter into Jesus flesh and pass His flesh what do you see. The soul and the spirit of Jesus Himself. Sometimes the flesh hides our spirit and our soul. A lot of people see us in the flesh and they don't see us in the spirit. If we enter into the flesh of Jesus we see something of Jesus, which many people don't really know. The vast majority of films of Jesus are based on just looking on the flesh of Jesus. We see His physical suffering, His physical man, His physical perfection, His physical works, but we don't see what went on beyond the veil of the flesh.

There is something available for us through the Blood of Jesus, that we begin to experience the heart beat, the emotion, the affection. Lets continue reading Heb. 10:20-22 *By the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.* Pure water represents the word of God. Now it didn't say what we are sprinkled with. If we trace it back to Hebrews chapter 8 it's the Blood of Jesus Christ. Apparently there is a removal. The moment you sin there is forgiveness. But then there is a deeper process that takes place by the Blood of Jesus if you continue to yield to Him. And even if you don't sin you allow that Blood to come upon that area of your being. You learn how to yield to the greater power of the Blood of Jesus working in your life. Letting it purge you, change you, and replace all the things that are taking place that are still being dealt with.

There is also a part of cleansing that is immediate; there is another part of cleansing

that slowly takes time through several processes. It just like when you clean something. Lets say you vacuum the floor. The moment you vacuum you generally remove a lot of the dust. But you don't remove the stains. The stains are actually clinging to the carpet. You may have to put some chemicals and then you vacuum. Think about cleaning in every area. You wash your clothes. Generally your clothes are clean but sometimes your clothes are stained. Today they sell a sort of cleaning agent that you spray on those stains. That doesn't clean the stain as you still need to throw it back to the washing machine. You still need the normal cleansing but you need the extra cleansing.

Look at it this way that whenever we sin there are two things that take place. One you set about a consequent reaction. To every action there is a reaction. So you set something that starts turning. At the same time you set some thing on your inside. The moment you pray you ask God to forgive you. He stopped the circumstances. He removes and cancels the force. Why do we use the extra cleansing? It is because those things cling harder. Those things become a part of your clothes. It is the same way with the Blood of Jesus. There is a process where it needs to soak into our life. We talked about two substances, one the spray to remove the stain and the other the cleansing process. Now the constant one is the constantly yield to the power of the Blood and letting it soak into us, to cleanse us and remove those things out of our life.

How do you know that it is gone? Sometimes you cry and there is clean feeling on your inside. Sometimes you laugh. Some people ask for scripture. Read Psalm chapter one. *God sits on the throne and laughs*. You can't find a scripture for hand shaking. You can only say that some react that way. There is no such thing as swimming in the Spirit. Why is laughing permitted because it's in the bible Psalm chapter one. There are other cross-references where it mentions joy unspeakable and full of glory. So whatever experience you can find in the bible that's O.K. Whatever experience you cannot find in the bible, be gracious and allow it as an individual experience. It is fine, as long as it is not idol worship. Don't run down people like that because part of the experience releases emotional healing.

So we have the Blood of Jesus working in our hearts and our minds doing a work on our inside. Sometimes the healing comes from laughing; sometimes it comes

from crying. Let me summarize what it will be like when the Blood of Jesus works on your inside. You will be touched with the feeling and the affection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is like to experience the emotion of Jesus. You say that Jesus have emotions. Read the book of Hebrews chapter one. He loves righteousness and He hates lawlessness. Don't tell me hatred is not an emotion. If we could have the same emotion of Jesus we would have the same righteousness of Jesus. Emotion is as powerful as intellectual progress. Intellectual people do things out of emotion as much as they do things on intellectual progress. Emotions affect and influence people a lot. So they are not something to belittle.

Lets look at Phil. 1:8 *For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.* This is not the only time. There are other cross-references that implied that. Isn't it true that when you began to feel what Jesus feel you may not sin again. Why is it that people sin and sin again? It is because they don't feel the hurt that Jesus felt. They don't feel the grief that Jesus felt. Isn't it amazing that the day you weep over your self, you weep over your failures is when you have really broken through? When you could not weep and cry you never broke through. Or when you found that release and you laugh with joy you have broken through. You know why this wave of God that people is moved into laughter? There is just so much hurt in the body of Christ. I think over 90% of Christians' problems are in their soul. Not just in their spirit, it's in their soul. God comes to heal our soul; God comes to touch our lives, our emotions. The affections of Jesus when you feel what Jesus feel you could do what Jesus did.

The Word of Their Testimony

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Second point by the word of their testimony. It's not just by the word. But by the word of their testimony. Testimony is something that we have experienced in God. Look at Heb. 11:5 *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God.* So he had a testimony. Today we talk about testimony as God dealing in our life on the positive side where we have a victory. Now I know that the best time to share a testimony publicly is when you have completed the story. When it's half written you may not feel like sharing it. Here it says by the word of their

testimony. The bible doesn't really require that you must keep mum until the story is finished. Now in the church and sharing in public and as a group, no doubt its better to have the story complete and then come out and share. But as an individual in our daily walk, in our daily life, you have to keep talking about what God is doing even if it is one quarter of the story. Because the more you talk about your testimony as the story continues, the more you find your place. And that's a strange thing. I agree about sharing a testimony when it's completed. But we are talking about sharing in public when we are taking the time of thousands of people. But in your daily life you are not supposed to be silent about God's feeling. Even if He gives you a dream, your testimony will help you and encourage you. Even if He did some little work in your life and brought certain conviction and feeling in your life share it, talk about it.

This fellowship and sharing of your testimony does to your inside and brings forth more revelations. Sometimes you don't see it clearly until you share it. And maybe you don't understand it yet. For example some of you have a dream. And you don't understand the dream. You could go to some one and ask for the interpretation. You should talk about it. But talk about it of course to the right people. Don't talk to the wrong persons like Joseph telling his brothers who hated him. As you talk about this dream something happens. Lets say for example you have a dream and you say, "I had this dream that I don't fully understand and I won't confess I don't fully understand I just had this dream. And in this dream this thing happened. I find the dream interesting and encouraging." You may encourage the other person too. You don't understand it yet. As you talk, you speak a seal upon it that you have received it. Sometimes as you share there is a release. You see the process is not complete until it's spoken.

Let me us a bible story for illustration. Jesus spent 3 years with His disciples. They knew He was the Son of God. They believed He was the Son of God. They acted like He was the Son of God. They obeyed Him like He was the Son of God. They did everything He told them to because they were really convinced that He was the Son of God. There were many times they could choose not to follow Him. When others left Him Jesus asked, "Do you want to go too?" And Peter said, "Master you have the word of life." They recognized He has something from God. But finally the process is complete when He asks them, "Who do you say that I am?" He put them in a crossroad. That was the day when they finally declared that He is Christ the

Son of the living God. From that moment forward the confession of their mouth released their faith. Their faith was sealed and Jesus could do something for them when they were tempted and fell. They were going to doubt again. Some of them were going to be scattered. But something had been sealed. Peter denied Jesus but his seal of confession did not allow him to completely fall away. He regretted his denial because he believed and sealed his belief by his confession.

When two people are in love, they could get engaged. But even engagement can be broken sometimes. They could be going steady and announce their engagement to everybody. But until they walk down the aisles and make a commitment and confess their consent publicly, they are not sealed. But once it is sealed, come what may, troubles may come, hardship may come, they would stand by each other. Trials may come they will stand by each other. Temptations may come they will stand by each other. Because their mutual love was sealed by their public confession.

Take the testimony of the confession or the word of our testimony as a sealing of something of a process. All things have process and at the end of it you seal it. When you write a letter, at the end of it you sign it. You could write halfway and if you don't sign it, it is not acknowledged as yours. Somebody could put his or her signature there. I am not just talking about confessing the word. I am talking about the dealings of God in your life. You see God loves to hear it. Just like Jesus likes to see His disciples seal the fact that He was the Son of God. He knew of course He knew that they believe. But they still needed to confess it in order to seal it. God loves to hear us speak about His dealing in our lives. The more we speak about it the more solid it becomes on your inside. Find people you can share with to talk about the things of God. The more you talk about the things of God the more solid it becomes. That's where when people fellowship with the wrong people and they talk nonsense, you don't get to share your testimony. You don't get to share about God and talk about God's dealing. God is dealing with our life all the time.

For example some of you may have a call. But as you talk about God's call and how God deals with you it gets stronger. Then as you fellowship with people who have a calling and who are doing God's work, and you talk about God's dealing with you, it strengthens you further. It seals the process of God working in your life.

Why do you have to seal? Because once it is sealed the devil may come after you and you won't lose it. The moment Peter confesses that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God he has come under the umbrella of Jesus. So that Jesus said, "*Simon, Simon, Satan desires to shelve you as wheat. For before the cock crows twice you shall deny me thrice times. But I prayed for you.*" Why was Jesus so confident? It is because He knew it was already sealed. He knew victory was already assured. Because what we speak releases a force like a wind. We are a result of our confession today. What you confess out of the dealings of God would be the result that you would have in 5 years' time. Speak about that don't keep silent.

Lets say God is dealing with your life. But your mouth won't tell anybody. He is getting you to talk about it. But you are not talking about it so it is not sealed. So the devil puts pressure on you and you are not talking about it. He keeps putting more pressure on you until you say the wrong thing. He has taken off something from you. You have just aborted a little baby. God being merciful will deal with your life again. So He will start the process all over again. And He builds the process. Remember the word of testimony is the end of the process. What happened to the first one? The devil stole it. Then you reached steps 40 of this process. He has to build it on your inside. It is time for you to share the word of testimony. But you are shy, you hold back. You are tongue tight. The devil will try to get you to say the wrong thing. But the moment the process is finished, and you say it in writing he lost one round. And the battle is a different battle now. There will still be battles. But it's a different battle. Because the moment you say it you have put on a different armor. And the warfare is different. It is guerilla warfare for him. Nobody likes guerilla warfare because you go without food. You fight in the jungle without all the necessities of life. Remember this guerilla warfare cannot succeed when it is very, very long. When it is short it is O.K. because the person who lead the guerilla warfare may have the mental motivation to last long enough. Some never last long beyond one generation.

The moment you confess by the word of your testimony something is sealed that can never be lost. The enemy will only be fighting to make life difficult for you. But he can never really get it off. It's yours forever. But its better than it not being yours you may lose the whole thing. It's important to understand why the word of testimony is important. Share about the dealings of God in your life.

Love Not Our Lives Unto Death

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Point three and they love not their own lives unto death. Jesus said something about Satan in the gospel of Matt. 16 when he was rebuking Peter for allowing Satan to use him. Jesus said, "*Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*" (Matthew 16: 23). I believe the key work of the enemy so that he can gain a foothold is in selfishness. He can creep in even when you are a Christian, born again, baptized in water, baptized in the Holy Spirit, tongue speaking, holy laughter, tears crying, groaning in the Spirit, dancing in the Spirit, hand lifting and all those things that make you a Christian. Isn't it interesting to be a Christian today you got so many qualification. If you got anything less they consider you half a Christian. Interesting how the world has changed. Imagine long ago in Martin Luther's time when you come to know Jesus just by faith, you join the Reformation. By John Wesley's time, it was not a matter of being justified by faith, but a matter of not enough sanctification. When it came to Azusa Street, you are born again, fine but that doesn't make you a real Christian. Baptized, yes; there are thousands of Christians baptized, so what? Speaking in tongues, no; and then you are only a two third Christian. Nowadays we add so many things we wonder what else we are going to add.

Selfishness can come in many ways. Among ministers it can come to them by being selfish about their church. Insecurity is the reverse form of selfishness. Insecurity is the reverse form of self-centeredness. Because you want to have self-preservation therefore you react by being insecure. Selfishness is the form of seeking your own open doors in the ministry and not helping another one. Selfishness can creep into any area. Selfishness is where when you are blessed and you don't share your blessings with others. Selfishness in the business world is that you succeed and you see people who are still needy, yet you afford yourself all the luxuries and give only a small portion to help others enjoy some luxuries. You buy all the best cars. You buy four, five cars when you only need two. And what are the others for? For display. Selfishness is when you buy more than one home. You use the other home for holidays while others go without even having their own home. And you do nothing to help. It can come in many ways and we are still Christians while being selfish because we have a ticket to heaven. Selfishness can come even as a normal

Christian when we are only thinking about ourselves, our food, clothing and shelter, because that is all we can have. And we are so absorbed in our own life that we are not interested in anybody else's life. Selfishness is what builds Satan's kingdom.

Selfishness is something that we have to deal with all our life. As long as we are in God we have free will. As long as you have free will you always have a choice. Lets turn to Phil. 2:5 *Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus.* I have studied the mind of Jesus so much in my daily life. Because I really want to have the mind that Jesus have. But the more I study it the more I realize that there is something more in it. It looks like there is a never ending thing you could draw but the mind of Jesus. As we look at the mind of Jesus have you ever conceived what kind of mind that Jesus had. I am not just talking about intellectual progress or His ability or skill. I am talking about what's on His mind all the time when He was on this earth. The more I meditate on that I realize one thing. I don't think that Jesus had a single selfish thought in His life. He may have been offered some situations, tempted like us, but Jesus never had a selfish thought. He never thinks about Himself, His life, His finances, His food, His clothing, His shelter, and I could find many situations. When He was very hungry and when He was very tired and when He was sitting on the well, tired, thirsty, hungry and His disciples had gone to buy lunch. When He saw the woman His heart reached out to that woman. And the disciples came back and wondered why He was talking to the woman. He said He had enough food to eat. And His disciples asked Him who went to buy food for Him. Jesus was not talking about physical food. Jesus was talking about His food in doing the will of God. And do you realize that in that story He never really go to eat His lunch nor to drink the water. Remember how the conversation started. He asked the woman to give Him a drink. And this woman started talking all kinds of things and didn't give him a drink. And Jesus had to minister to her. And when she was blessed He still didn't get a drink. In the whole story there was no record that He ever got a drink. His tongue hung out with thirst witnessing to the woman, prophesying to her, or operating the word of knowledge and blessing her. She was so blessed but He was never fed nor quenched in His physical hunger or thirst. And she ran off to witness to the whole town and forgot to give Him a drink. Jesus never thought about Himself. If it were any other pastor they would be fuming mad. "Come and give me a drink first. Don't you know I am a servant of God? It says in the Bible, "He that labor among you is worthy of double honor" Therefore give me two cups." Jesus never did that.

In the ministry we learn to die to self. Have compassion on those new in the ministry. They come in with great zeal but with a lot of self as well. They have plenty to die. Let me share some examples. I was in the Baptist church as a Baptist pastor. Most of the time I am really very nice. But just one day I had a late night, tired, having worked very hard through the week. And there is a girl who used to go for the early Morning Prayer and she locked the door. Of all the days it was the one day she didn't bring the key. She woke me up early in the morning. I think it was about 4 or 5 a.m. "Pastor, are you awake?" I know that sometimes God wakes you up at 4 in the morning. I got up and I was irritated and I practically told her off. Please arrange it with somebody else and I went back to sleep. When I got up later I felt sorry that I was irritated with her. What kind of pastor is this that when a church member comes at 4 am to pray, she was told off. If it would be any other time that she woke me up, it would be encouraging. And I learned that in whatever circumstances you must learn to put your own feeling down. If there is anything that is for God even at your own sacrifice, your own pain, even if there is a nail piercing on your right toe and it's painful, someone in the ministry needs ministering you still got to minister to them first, pray for them, and see that they get a taxi to go home. Then you can go and pull out that nail. It is so true in the ministry. And we all got so much to die to in our own self. You could go to God and plead to God and say God you know this situation. Jesus will just look down and say, "Let it be so." You know why He could say that. Because He has done it. There were many times I am sure when He was woken up in the morning, woken up in the night and asked, "Have you got a word for me." "Yes, thus says the Lord, read the bible." Some of you who are new in the ministry haven't got your share yet. God doesn't just want the ministers to experience dying to self; He wants every Christians to deal in that area.

After so many years in the ministry my prayer is different. My greatest desire is when I look at people I could feel the experience the love for Jesus has for people. Many times when after a prayer meeting, you go out and look at the people in the bus stop, you really feel that compassion for them. You really feel that they were souls dying without Jesus. I found that the more unselfish you are the more your life touches people, whether you are called to the ministry or not. You could be just a little housewife. But you are known for your Christ likeness in your little way. In the way you bake a little cake and send it to a home and touch the lives there. And in the way you do things for the poor and needy, you would touch people's life like

Dorcas' life touched people. The more unselfish your life whether you are a minister or a mere Christian you would touch people. That's why I know that, that's the goal that we need to have. We become more compassionate until we always consider people; we always consider others. And some people are afraid of that. You know why they are afraid. They are afraid that they will sacrifice everything and lose everything. There is no such thing in the bible. Peter came to Jesus in Mk. 10 and said Lord we have left all and followed you. Jesus says He will add to you in this life a hundred fold of houses and land and family, brothers and sisters in this life and in the life to come. But many people still cannot get rid of the idea that if they don't fend for themselves they cannot survive. Yet Jesus said seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added onto you. It didn't say it would work instantly. Otherwise Paul wouldn't write Gal. 6: 9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

I found this sometimes it takes time for that to work. There have been times when sacrifice has been made and we are really in a situation where we are desperate not because we could have kept ourselves from that situation. But because we have sacrificed so others could have. And sometimes it is so painful until the tears come to your eyes and the need is so great that you got to really pray and get the wisdom of God to negotiate the situation. And when you are negotiating the situation, you know what it is to negotiate a tight financial situation. And all along the way the devil says look what you get for helping others. If you have not done this you would still have all this and that. And there many people who give up. But one thing if you don't give up you will find the pot of gold beyond the muddy road. That pot of gold is not at the end of the rainbow. That pot of gold is along that long and narrow road. I am talking about the blessings of God. It surely will be there if you will hold on.

To me life is only meaningful when you make someone happy and bring joy to others. At first you do it because its God's command and you feel the pain. Some people say give until it hurts. But you give until the hurts becomes a pleasure. You really feel the pleasure. I remember when we were in a needy situation. And we found that one of the technicians who was doing the renovation lost his drill. Now we were in a situation where we were counting the dollars. And yet in that situation I heard God said he is in need, help. That night I went to get him a brand

new drill and bought it for him. Then when I called him I felt something on my inside. I felt like heaven is pleased. You don't experience that kind of joy until you give when you are in need. You don't experience II Cor. 8:1-2 until you give when you are in need. Remember the Macedonian Christians and their joy. It's something that you only experience when you give while you are in need. And it costs you something. It costs you because now physically it looks worse. But you know spiritually it is so much better. And that joy is something money cannot buy. The pleasure that comes with the joy when you give until it hurts is something money cannot buy. You end up living your life for others. You find joy. Some people are very unselfish and they don't find joy doing that. Some people are really selfless and sacrificial but they have no joy. And that's something that comes in your later stage when you are giving. And that's when you feel the pleasure, the heart beat of God in that mind frame that comes into you.

And the word mind of Christ is used twice in the New Testament using two different Greek words. One is found in I Cor. 2: 16 *For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.* Here the word mind of Christ refers to the *nous*, Greek word, of Christ. The other is found in Phil. 2: 5 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.* And what kind of mind was it? It was *phroneo*, which in Rom. 8: 6 it comes out again: *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* But in Phil. 2 it says *let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus.* Now I Cor. 2 tells you what that mind can do. It can understand a lot of things, hear a lot of things that human ear haven't heard. Understand a lot of things that haven't entered human hearts. See there is a lot of things the human eyes have not seen. That is what the mind of Christ can do on the *nous* side. But now there is a *phroneo* of the mind of Christ found in Phil. 2, which talks about how to have it. What it does is found in I Cor. 2. How to have it is found in Phil. 2. And that is to let your mind be unselfish. Banish all selfish thoughts from your life. All the thoughts of this world are selfish.

Sometimes when you look at the things of this world you ask why did someone do all this things? Because it is like king Nebuchadnezzar - they do it to have their glory. But when we began to seek the glory of God in our hearts. Something you cannot lie in God. We can lie to people. But God knows your heart. And really from the depth of your heart you are thinking only of Jesus unselfishly. When you build God a house, God will build you a house. If you are someone who is only

constantly thinking of your food, clothing, shelter, you are selfish. Although it is right to be responsible, yet it is wrong to be selfish. And you find life is a struggle. But when you give up the selfish thoughts even though they are realistic thoughts and your entire mind is thinking about O God how can I be a blessing to people, that's the state of mind that has no unselfish thought. Anytime when a thought comes about your own need you banish it. Let me take care of others first and that will take care of itself. And as you practice this higher principle of Christian life, you can in the end become the most unselfish person in the world. When you become like that you become like Jesus. God will take care of everything for you.

We have some good examples in society in the life of Mother Teresa in India. She doesn't think of herself at all. Imagine because of what she has done, the whole world today recognize her for her simple work. She was not even known as a great preacher, but is known for the simple work of giving her life to orphans and the unwanted and unloved. In the end her unselfishness becomes to the world a heroic effort and a symbol of what charity can truly be. You are only touched by unselfishness. You are only touched by people's life where they show unselfishness. Think about any natural story, any non-Christian story or any Christian example. The only thing that touches your life is selflessness in other people. Isn't it interesting? Think about every person who have touched your life, every story that have touched your life, in the natural and in the spiritual, in the kingdom of God and in the society of the world. The true life-stories you read in the Readers Digest touches you. Why? It is the selflessness of the people. The trials they go through to sacrificially give their life to others. If they are selfish their lives would never touch others.

And then of course there are many heroes in the kingdom of God, in the bible and in church history. So make a decision tonight. As long as your life is selfish, that is the part of your life that will never touch any one. If you are 90% selfish only 10% really have meaning and really affects the world. The 90% of your life is gone. Only the unselfish part of your life touches other people. The selfish part of your life manipulates people, accuses people, condemns people, judges people, and it never touch people. You know what it does. It hurts people. And that means if you are selfless 10% and 90% selfish, 90% of your life is hurting people. Now you know why you become an instrument of the devil. And why when your life becomes 100% selfless they overcame him by the power of the Blood of the Lamb, by the

word of the testimony and that they don't love their own lives onto death. It is because Satan cannot use a selfless life. He has no ground at all. And that gives you great authority over the devil. When a selfless person prays in Jesus' name the demons tremble. When a selfish person prays in Jesus' name demons are not affected that much. Sometimes some of us have our moment of selflessness. When God touches you or when you are in a prayer meeting, you feel 100% selflessness; you could die for the whole world. Your prayers were very powerful at that time. When you lost that selflessness you lost your power. The goal is to make selflessness a daily pattern in your life. Then your life will always be touching people. If you want to touch this world for Jesus give up selfishness. Even the gift of God can be used in a selfish way. And the gift can function but it doesn't touch anyone. Even a talent could be used selfishly. And it all has to do with a change of heart. Your motivation makes a lot of difference. Let us die to self, forget about ourselves and let our lives mean something for God. There are three things that overcome the devil: the power of the Blood which releases the emotions of Jesus into your life; the word of your testimony sealing the work of God in your life; and loving not your own lives onto death by having the mind of Jesus, the selfless mind.