

WORD OF GOD - 3

Sunday Morning: May 16, 2004

Text: Luke 8:5 "A [the] sower went out to sow his [the] seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it."

Luke 8:9-11 "And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this **parable** (the sower of the seed) be? 10. And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11. Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God** (mysteries of the kingdom of God)."

This message is a message that was missed on May the sixteenth and I want to share the thoughts that I had on the Word of God. We've been studying the Word of God over the past few weeks and it is very significant. And I want to emphasize the blessings and the benefits of the Word of God in a child of God's life, or a brother or sister's life. I want to read Luke chapter eight, verse five and then nine through eleven. It's actually 'the sower went out to sow the seed of him.' That's the translation of that. I read that verse to emphasize the fact that the sower is of course the Lord Jesus Christ and it's a particular seed. Now verse nine. The seed is the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. And then in verse eleven the seed is defined. The Word of God is defined and the seed is defined as the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, so therefore the Word of God pertains to the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. I'm persuaded that the Word of God is the butterfat and the milk of the Word of God; that those who desire to discern between good and evil and choose the good and refuse the evil, must churn to produce the butter that we need, which is the meat of the Word, that we might be found pleasing to the Lord. Now, I want to emphasize the fact that the Word of God is needed if faith is to be increased. In Romans chapter ten verse seventeen it says

FAITH

Romans 10:17 "So then **faith cometh** by hearing [that which is heard], and hearing by the **word of God.**"

By the way, the word 'hear' is the Greek word for speaking or in this case, preaching – the preached Word of God and faith is bolstered by the hearing of the Word of God, the preached Word of God. Now, the significance of faith is that without faith we cannot be an overcomer. In First John chapter five verse one it says

NOT BIRTH FROM ABOVE

1 John 5:1 "Whosoever **believeth** [present active participle] that Jesus is the Christ **is born** (not from above) **of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God**: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him."

Here is a passage of scripture that's talking about those that believing – present active, it's actually a participle. The ones believing that Jesus is the Christ is born not from above but out from the God. There is a distinction here. This birth here is not from above; this is not being born from above. This is not getting saved. This passage of scripture is talking about the ones that have already believed, aorist, and have begun to believe, present active. Now, verse four we see of First John five

AN OVERCOMER

1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is **born of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God overcometh** [present active indicative] the world: and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, *even our faith* (believeth, present active participle, verse 1)"

So those that are born of God or out from God, overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Faith is required for us to become overcomers. Faith provides substance for the things hoped for and evidence for the things not seen. So it's faith that helps us to continue to war that one day we might be found overcomers. And I'm emphasizing faith in this passage of scripture because faith comes from hearing the Word of God or hearing the mysteries of the Kingdom of God and being overcomers we will be blessed with special privileges in the coming Kingdom. By the way, traditions hinder the Word of God.

TRADITION

Mark 7:13 "Making the **word of God** of **none effect** through your **tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

So tradition negates or restricts the insight into the Word of God. Now, being an overcomer provides blessing. And I just listed some of these blessings in Revelation chapter two and three

THE TREE OF LIFE

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** [present active participle] will I give to **eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Notice here that He's talking to those who have ears to hear. And I think it's interesting that it's not ears, plural; but ear, singular. And I think that the significance here is this, if the eye is single, the whole body is full of light. If the ear is singular then the whole heart is full of the knowledge that comes from hearing the Word of God. So it says, He that hath an ear let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches. To him that overcometh, present active participle, will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Here a special invitation to eat of the tree of life that Adam and Eve did not eat. But if we're overcomers we will be allowed to have of that fruit. In Revelation two eleven it says

NOT HURT BY THE LAKE OF FIRE

Revelation 2:11 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** [present active participle] shall **not be hurt of the second death**."

The second death is the Lake of Fire. We will be baptized in the Lake of Fire that our works may be judged by fire. And the works of wood, hay and stubble will be burned and the gold, the silver and the precious stone that endure the fire will provide us with rewards. So he that overcometh will not be hurt of the second death but he will receive a full reward. In Revelation two seventeen it says

GIVEN HIDDEN MANNA, STONE, AND NAME

Revelation 2:17 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** [present active participle] will I give to **eat of the hidden manna**, and will give him a **white stone**, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*."

So here is another blessing and a benefit for the overcomer. He'll be eating hidden manna, manna that's not for everyone. And he will receive a white stone. A white stone indicates approval rather than a black stone. And His name will be written on that white stone and so there will be acceptance and there will be the eating of the hidden manna. I just think about what the Lord will do when He returns and those that are watching for Him. He will gird Himself and have them to sit down to meat and will serve them. And so there will be hidden manna

RULE THE NATIONS

Revelation 2:26 "And he that **overcometh** [present active participle], and keepeth my works

unto the end, to him will I give **power over the nations:**"

The overcomers are those who will rule and reign over the nations. And they will be ruling with a rod of iron. So overcomers will have positions of honor and glory as kings and lords in the coming Kingdom.

WHITE RAIMENT

Revelation 3:5 "He that **overcometh** [present active participle], the same shall be **clothed in white raiment**; and I will **not blot out his name** out of the book of life, but I will **confess his name** before my Father, and before his angels."

An overcomer will be clothed in white raiment and the shame of his nakedness will not appear. And his name will not be blotted out of the Book of Life. This is not talking about salvation at all. This is talking about people that are already saved and that are pursuing the state of being an overcomer by faith. And the name being blotted out of the Book is the same as we would think about being invited to the White House. If we were on the list when we come to the door, they check the list and if our name is written there then we can go in and be a part of what's going on in the White House. But if our name's not there or if our names are blotted out of that list, we will not enter; we will not be recognized. And when we come in our names will be confessed and in this case before the Father and before the angels.

A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE

Revelation 3:12 "Him that **overcometh** [present active participle] will I **make a pillar in the temple** of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name."

So an overcomer will be established in the Temple. He will go no more out and I will write on him the name of my God. It's a privilege of being in the Temple where God the Father and the Son will be – privilege of being in a special place.

WILL SIT WITH CHRIST

Revelation 3:21 "To him that **overcometh** [present active participle] will I grant to **sit with me in my throne**, even as I also **overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

If we're an overcomer, we will rule and reign with Christ. We will be part of His administration. I don't think this means that He will scoot over on His throne and we'll sit down, I think it will be a chain of command, so to speak, one on His right and one on His left and then on down the line. So the overcomers are going to have special privileges and positions and food and acceptance and the proper clothes to be part of the administration of ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ in His coming Kingdom. Now, in First John chapter five and verse four it says

THOSE BORN OUT FROM GOD

1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is **born of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God overcometh** [present active indicative] the world: and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, *even* our **faith**"

I believe that this birth or this being born out from God is a new beginning. We are born from above – we're put into the family of God; that is a new beginning. Just like Jesus Christ when he was born into the world, He was born the only begotten Son of God – He was the ONLY begotten Son of God! And then when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and put on His own right hand as our High Priest, He said, this day have I begotten thee. This was a new beginning for Jesus Christ and His ministry as our High Priest. It's not that it was the only

beginning that Jesus Christ had and obviously He being God, he did not have a beginning, He was – “in the beginning was the word and the word was with God,” so it’s not the new birth, that’s the point I want to get across. This is being born out of God and we see that in First Peter one, verses three to five

BEGOTTEN US AGAIN NOT FROM ABOVE

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten us again** [ἀναγεννάω, begotten again, only here and verse 23, possibly John 3:5] unto a **lively hope** by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4. To** [εἰς, leading to] an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved** in heaven for you, **5. Who are kept** by the power (grace) of God **through faith** unto [leading to] **salvation** ("so great salvation" of Hebrews 2:3) ready to be revealed in the last time."

Notice here that he has begotten us again. I believe that this passage of scripture is a reference to the passage of scripture in First John five four. For God to have begotten us again, He had to have begotten us before and I believe when He begot us from above, that was our first beginning and then when he begot us again unto a living hope, this was for an inheritance, a heavenly inheritance. And it’s on the basis of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ‘If Christ be not raised from the dead, our faith is vain.’ And the Word of God would not produce the desired results of faith. So the resurrection of Jesus Christ made faith operative and the hearing of the Word of God, the mysteries of the Kingdom causes our faith to grow. And so it’s through the resurrection of Jesus Christ that we will have an inheritance in the heavenlies. Verse four it says, “To, or for an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith.” You see faith is essential. And how do we get faith? We get faith through the Word of God and how do we get faith through the Word of God? We get it because Jesus Christ is raised from the dead, First Corinthians fifteen tells us that if Christ be not raised from the dead, our faith is vain, our preaching is vain and we are still servants of sin; even though we are saved. Remember this, we’re not saved by the resurrection; we’re saved by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, because He died for all. And therefore, all can be saved. Now, continuing here, we are kept by the power of God, that is the grace of God through faith. How do we get grace? We get grace through faith. And that faith leads to the salvation ready to be revealed in the last times. That salvation that was revealed had to do with a heavenly inheritance. It’s a so great salvation of Hebrews two three. Now, again, the first time we were born, it was from above. That’s John three, three.

THE FIRST TIME, FROM ABOVE

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again** [from above], he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."

Born from above, not out from God, but from above. He cannot see the Kingdom of God. If you are in the family, you will see the Kingdom of God. In First Peter chapter one verse twenty-three

THE SECOND TIME, BY THE WORD OF GOD

1 Peter 1:23 "Being **born again** [ἀναγεννάω, begotten again, here and verse 3], not of corruptible **seed**, but of **incorruptible** (seed), by **the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever [age]."

This word ‘born again’ or begotten again is only found one other place in the New Testament and it’s also in First Peter one. It’s found in First Peter one, three where it says He has begotten us again unto a living hope. So the second beginning is found in First Peter one, twenty-three.

Well what is this seed in reference to? I believe this seed is in reference to the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, the Word of God. What gives us a new beginning for an inheritance is when we through the Word of God learn that there is an inheritance that we can enjoy in the heavenlies if we will be overcomers. If we will not be counted as an overcomer, we will not receive the blessings of a heavenly inheritance and we will not be ruling the nations with a rod of iron and we will not have the power over the nations that we could have. So, being begotten again by the incorruptible seed - and it is defined in this passage of scripture as the Word of God which liveth and abideth for AGE. This word 'ever' is age and obviously the Word of God is being used in the church age, in this age to bolster our faith, to give us the faith that we need to access the grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. It's faith that provides us with the power of Christ, which is also the grace of God. It is faith that makes it possible for us to please Him. Now, in First John three, nine, we see another blessing of the Word of God

POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

1 John 3:9 "Whosoever is **born** [perfect passive] **of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God doth** not **commit** [present active indicative] sin; for [ὅτι, because that] his **seed remaineth** [present active indicative] in him: and he cannot **sin** [present active], because he is **born** of [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God."**

'Out from the God,' that's the expression and by the way that expression is a unique expression. It's found more times in First John than in any other book. And so it's a special birth out from God. It says here 'does not commit sin.' The word 'commit' has to do with practicing. It's in the present tense, present active. If you are born out from God, we who receive the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, do not practice sin. We know that if we practice sin, we will not have an inheritance in His coming Kingdom. Let's continue, why? For His seed remaineth in him. My personal feeling is this; this seed is the seed of the Word of God. As long as you're hearing the Word of God, the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, your hope is going to be made alive. And you're going to have a living hope for the inheritance, the heavenly inheritance. If this seed of the Word of God remains in you, you know that you cannot continue living and serving sin or you will be disqualified from the hope of glory. So His seed – those that do not practice sin, the mysteries of the Kingdom of God are alive and active in the heart and thoughts of those that are born out from God and it says that he CANNOT sin! Well, he cannot practice sin because he is born out from the God. So the expression 'born out from the God' is to be associated with the hope of glory, with the Word of God, with the mysteries of the Kingdom. It's the seed of the parable of the sower. Now, again, Luke eight eleven

THE SEED

Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: **The seed** is the **word of God.**"

And if the Word of God abides in us, we cannot practice sin. The mysteries of the Kingdom of God, the Word of God, is going to prohibit us from practicing sin. In John eight, thirty-four

SERVANT OF THE SIN

John 8:34 "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever **committeth** [present active participle, practice] [the] **sin** is the servant of [the] **sin.**"

If we are a servant of sin, we're not a servant of the Lord. And if we're not serving the Lord, we're not going to be found approved and accepted. And by the way, this sin here, if we're practicing sin, we're practicing THE sin. And the sin is defined in First John three, four as the sin of lawlessness.

THE SIN DEFINED

1 John 3:4 "Whosoever **committeth** [present active participle, doeth] [the] **sin** transgresseth also the law [doeth, present active, the lawlessness]: for [the] **sin** is the **transgression of the law** [ανομία, lawlessness]."

"Whosoever committeth THE sin lawlessness is" is the literal translation of that. "For THE sin is THE lawlessness," that's what First John three, four tells us. If you're practicing the sin of lawlessness, you're considered lawless. You're out of control. Jesus Christ is not in charge in your life and we are not living in the spirit of His Son whereby He cried, 'Abba Father, not my will but thine be done.' So, if we are a servant of the sin of lawlessness, we're going to earn the wages of that sin. It says, 'the wages of THE sin is to perish,' is death, is to lose one's inheritance. All those who came out of Egypt, Moses and Aaron and Miriam and the others that were over the age of twenty, or twenty and older, perished. They received the wages of THE sin. They rebelled and were disobedient and they lost their inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey. That's what that simply is. The evidences of the sins of lawlessness have to do with the sins of the flesh. We read in Galatians five, twenty-one, there are more than these that I've listed here in Galatians five, twenty-one, but you'll see what I want to emphasize out of this verse where it says

SINS OF THE FLESH

Galatians 5:21 "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which **do** [present active, practice] such things shall **not** [οὐ, emphatic] **inherit the kingdom of God.**"

That word "not" is 'οὐ', it's emphatic not, and I mean there's no messing around. You do this and you're out. You will not inherit the Kingdom of God! So, if the seed, the Word of God, the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are continually presented to us through preaching, through studying, through churning of the milk, let me tell you, we're going to have an inheritance in the coming Kingdom that we will enjoy. Now, in Mathew chapter twelve, verse fifty it tells us about the brethren and what they do. Brethren are those who are seeking to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

BRETHREN DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall **do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is **my brother**, and sister, and mother."

What is a brother seeking to do? He is seeking to do the will of the Father. In Luke eight, twenty-one

BECAUSE BRETHREN HEAR

Luke 8:21 "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and **my brethren** are these which **hear** [present active] the **word of God**, and **do** [present active, practice] **it.**"

Brethren are those who are hearing the Word of God. What's happening with brethren? Their faith is increased. Their ability to pursue the mark of the prize of the high calling of God is strengthened. Their ability to please God is bolstered because faith can grow and it should grow. So, brethren are those who are hearing the Word of God and practicing it. And I bring up Mathew seven, twenty-one so that we can appreciate the fact of what brethren are trying to do.

BRETHREN ENTER THE KINGDOM

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **enter into the kingdom of heaven**; but he that **doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven."

Do brethren do the will of the Father? Well, it's what it says in Mathew chapter twelve, verse

fifty and it is brethren that hear the Word of God, the mysteries of the Kingdom of God and practice it. They're the ones who are going to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Another thing that overcomers will enjoy or will do is found in First John five verse eighteen

OVERCOMERS WILL . . .

1 John 5:18 "We know that whosoever is **born** [perfect passive] **of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God sinneth** [present active, practices sin] not; but he that is begotten **of** [ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ] **God keepeth** [present active, guardeth] himself, and that wicked one **toucheth** [present middle, lay hold] him **not**."

He doesn't practice sin but he guards himself. He walks circumspectly. He puts on the armor. The weapons of his warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. One who is born out from God is going to guard himself from his thought life. Remember it says the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds and EVERY imagination. It's our imaginations that often do us in and our thoughts that exalt itself against the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God should control our emotions. So those who are begotten out from the God, guard themselves that the wicked one toucheth him not. This word 'touch' here is really not strong enough. It should be translated 'lay hold of.' I just think about taking them into captivity, keeping them in bondage with fear. That's another thing, God has not given us the spirit of fear unto bondage but He's given us the spirit of His Son whereby we cry 'Abba Father.' So an overcomer, a brother, who will be an overcomer, is one who will guard himself and he will not allow the wicked one to bring him into captivity. And I want to close with Revelation twenty-one, seven

HE THAT OVERCOMETH

Revelation 21:7 "He that **overcometh** [present active participle] shall **inherit** all things; and I will be his God, and he shall **be my son**."

When God pronounces to us that we are His son, we are placed in a position of honor and glory in the family where we rule and reign. It's the sons of God that rule and reign over the earth today. Many of them are fallen but one day the sons of God will rule and reign over the heavens and the earth under our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the Lord help us to appreciate the Word of God in our life and hopefully in the weeks to come we will be looking further into the significance of the Word of God in the life of the apostles and the deacons that were preaching in the Book of Acts and other places.

Father, I just pray that You'd bless this message to each of our hearts. I pray, Lord, that You would help us to see the value of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, the Word of God, to help us to grow in faith, to help us to please You; to help us, Lord, to be overcomers. So Lord, we just commit this message into Your hands and we ask You, Father, to bless it in the lives of those who listen. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, amen.