

Romans #15
The Key to Christian Victory
Romans 6:9-23

In our last study we looked at the fact that when a person becomes saved, he is baptized into the Body of Christ, as seen in verse 3, "Know you not that, as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jew or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." **Therefore, the Word of God teaches that the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we share in all that He did for us through His *life*, His *suffering*, His *death*, His *burial* and *resurrection*.**

This week we are going to look at The Key to Christian Victory.

The Bible teaches that within the spirit of every bornagain believer, there is a divine hunger. That hunger cannot be satisfied either by the things of this world or by the theologies of religion.

It is not a desire that fades with time. On the contrary, the longer we walk with God, the stronger it grows. This truth is seen in the life of the Apostle Paul as recorded in Philippians 3:10-14, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death, if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Paul walked in more revelation knowledge than any man except Jesus Himself, yet he expressed a spiritual hunger that was so powerful it completely overshadowed everything else in his life. Paul yearned for deeper revelation of the Anointed One and His anointing ... and to know the power of His resurrection. And I am convinced that every believer hungers for it whether he or she realizes it or not.

Notice the phrase, "the power of His resurrection." **What does that statement in Philippians 3 have to do with the book of Romans? Listen again to have he says in Romans 6:34, "Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." According to those verses, Jesus was raised from the dead by the glory of God. So the *power* of His resurrection is actually the *glory*. Insert that truth into Philippians 3:10, and you will see that Paul's burning desire was to know Jesus, in the power of His resurrection ... and to know the glory of God!**

Paul is teaching concerning one of the most aweinspiring subjects in the Bible. It's so big that you have to read the Old and New Testaments front to back to begin to see the magnitude of the truth of it. Of course, we can't do that here tonight, but we can hit some highlights.

One of the first glimpses the Bible gives us of what the glory actually is can be found in Exodus 33:18-19 where Moses cried out to God, "Please, show me Your glory." In response, God said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you" Notice that God's response to Moses' request was, "I will make all My goodness pass before you." In other words, God's *glory* is His *goodness*.

Usually when we think about goodness, we don't think of it as an extremely powerful thing - but the goodness of God is goodness in its ultimate state. It is far, far better than the worst bad there ever was. It is so much greater than evil that when God's goodness is manifested, it totally annihilates evil.

The goodness of God is so powerful and so farreaching, that it is beyond our ability to comprehend it. God's goodness is so full of life that when God opened His mouth and goodness filled words came from His innermost being, it created a universe so wonderful that it is beyond the mind of man to comprehend. There wasn't any bad in that universe at all. It was totally good!

When the tangible force of God's goodness makes an appearance, it is called the glory of God. Throughout history, prophets and saints have seen the manifestation of God's glory and tried to describe it. In Zechariah 10:1 he likened the appearance of the glory to that of "bright clouds," and his description must be accurate because we see it repeated throughout the Bible.

Exodus 16:10 tells us that it was the bright, fiery cloud of God's glory that led the Israelites through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. Luke 2:9 tells us that it was the bright cloud of God's glory that shown down on the shepherds the night Jesus was born. Matthew 17:5 tells us that it was the bright cloud of the glory that overshadowed Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Acts 9 tells us that it was the bright cloud of God's glory that appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. The power of it knocked him flat on his back, and it was so brilliant that it blinded him for several days.

There is so much brightness and power in God's glory that people who spend much time at all in it literally shine. Moses' face was so radiant with the glory of God when he came down from the mountain where he had met with God to receive the Commandments; he had to put a veil over his face to keep from frightening the people away.

Matthew 17:2 tells us that when Jesus was in the glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, "...His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light." Revelation 1:14 tells us that years after Jesus' resurrection when He appeared to John on the Isle of Patmos; He was so radiant with the brightness of the glory that His head and His hair appeared "...white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire." Jesus never has been and is not now a whitehaired man. His hair is dark. But when John saw Him, He was so bright with the *glory* that He glowed with white light.

Some people assume the radiance John saw upon Jesus was due to the fact that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. But the truth is, He was just as much King of kings and Lord of lords during the first few days after His resurrection as He was years later when Revelation was written. Yet in those first days when He appeared to John and the other disciples, there wasn't anything outstanding about His appearance. The reason He now shines brighter than the noonday sun is because He has spent years in the *manifested* glory of God!

God Himself is so glorious that Ezekiel 1:27 says He looks like a fire from the loins up and a fire from the loins down. In other words, holy God is afire with the glory!

There's so much power in that glory, that Revelation 1:17 tells us that in its presence John "fell at his feet as dead." **In other words, John lost all strength in the presence of it.** He fell on his face in awe and worship.

Now, with those thoughts in mind, think about Jesus for a moment. He not only has that divine glory on Him, He has it flowing in Him. Now get this, Jesus' resurrected body has the glory of God flowing through its veins instead of blood.

Jesus is filled with and surrounded by the glory of God and all that it is. All life, all goodness and all power. He is untouchable by death ever again. He walks in all authority both in heaven and in earth with all spiritual and Physical authority.

Everything that man has and everything that God has is all rolled up into one Being with the glory of God flowing in His veins, and that one Being is Jesus. And the Bible tells us in Romans 8:29 that we have been predestined "to be conformed to the image of (God's) Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Glory to God, as children of God, we are headed toward the same fullness of glory! That is why Jesus died for us. And Hebrews 2:10 tells that He was raised again so He could *bring many sons unto glory!*

In the very beginning, God created man to be glorious. Psalm 8:5 says that when God made man, He "...crowned him with glory and honor."

Adam and Eve were crowned with the glory of God when God created them. In other words, God endowed Adam and Eve with all the fullness of His glory. Likewise, they experienced His power and presence in their everyday living.

From Adam's first conscious day as a living soul until the moment that he sinned never laid eyes on his physical body. He was clothed from the inside out by the glory of God. His body was protected by it. He could walk through the Garden of Eden without anything harming him.

But when he bowed his knee to Satan, the light within Adam went out. The source of the *glory* was quenched. All the rest of his spiritual qualities were still there. **He was still a spirit.** He had a soul and lived in a body. But the *glory of God* had departed from him.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is what spiritual death is. It is being separated from the life and glory of God.

If Jesus had not come to redeem us, all mankind would still be hopelessly trapped in that spiritually dead, glorydeprived condition. Romans 3:23 tells us why, "For all have sinned, and come short of the *glory* of God." But, praise God, Jesus took our sin on Himself and bore the penalty of it, which was spiritual death.

I have had some strange looks from people when I make the statement that Jesus died spiritually, but the fact is, that is exactly what the Bible teaches. Jesus became our substitute. If he had not died spiritually, then we could never have been made alive spiritually. **But He did!**

On the cross, Jesus was separated from the glory of God. He allowed Himself to be made sin for us, and He became obedient to death. He went into the pit of Hades and suffered there as though He was the One Who had committed the sin.

But He didn't stay there. After three days, He was made alive in the spirit by the glory of God!

On that day, God's absolute, utmost goodness invaded the pit of absolute, utmost badness, sheol itself, and surged into Jesus' emaciated, sinfilled spirit. The glory of God recreated Him and made Him the firstborn from the dead. All the sin, sickness and demons of hell had to bow their knee and turn Him loose, because they couldn't stand the presence of the *glory*!

Now listen, and let it sink in, it is that same glory with which Jesus is leading us into right now. As a child of the living God, we are headed for glory, as seen in 2 Corinthians 3:18. The Bible says as we behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we "are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." The Greek reads something like this, "We are changed into his very image, as the glory streams upon us from the Lord."

Notice that verse says we are changed as we behold the glory. That is why the Apostle Paul talked about "the power of his resurrection." He put it this way in Colossians 1:23, 25-27, "...continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister... according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Listen, child of God, you have an *anointing* in you and that is the Anointing of Jesus, and it is crying out for the *glory* of God to be manifested in your everyday living.

There was a time when we were sinners who fell short of the glory. But when we invited Jesus Christ to come into our lives, forgive us of our sins, and make us a Christian, God planted "the hope of glory" within us. The word translated "hope" here does not mean, "wish." It means "absolute expectancy." That is why Paul could write in Romans 5:12, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope (absolute expectancy) of the glory of God."

1 Chronicles 16:27 says, "Glory and honor are in (God's) presence," and since God Himself is present in us through the indwelling Holy Spirit, the glory is already inside us! Ever so often you will hear people say something like, "Praying down the glory," or "Calling down the glory." But that, my friend, is not what the Bible teaches. Listen to what we have been told in 2 Corinthians 4:67, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." I am not looking for that glory to come floating down out of heaven; I am expecting God to raise Him up from the inside of me.

You see, our problem is not a lack of glory. It is our lack of understanding. Because of erroneous teaching, we have not known how to

cooperate with the power and glory we already have within us. **But God has not left us in the dark.** He has commanded the light to shine and give us a working knowledge, an ability to comprehend and understand how to use the glory of God that dwells within us. **Philippians 2:5 and I Corinthians 2:16 remind us that He has given us the "mind of Christ."** In other words, when you were saved, you were given the same anointing that is on the mind of Jesus.

Child of God, there is no need for you to stay tied up in knots over some problem the devil has pushed on you. There is no need for you to be stopped by some mountain of sin, sickness, or poverty the devil has put in your path. **You have the glory of God on the inside of you.** And that, my friend is no match for the ways of Satan.