

A dramatic landscape featuring a snow-covered mountain range. In the foreground, a large, smooth snowdrift dominates the lower right. In the middle ground, a series of jagged, snow-capped peaks stretch across the frame. On the right-hand peak, a simple wooden cross stands prominently against the sky. The sky is filled with heavy, layered clouds, with a bright light source breaking through in the center, creating a lens flare and illuminating the scene with a golden glow. The overall mood is one of solemnity and spiritual strength.

*Power to Tread
Upon The Enemy*

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Overview

You are given power to tread upon the enemy.

When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, while standing on the Mount of Olives holding up his hands to bless his men, says,

“All power in heaven and earth is given to me. Now you go and you preach this gospel to every creature and everyone who believes and is baptized will be saved.

And everyone who will not believe you will be condemned to hell.

And these signs shall follow them that believe.”

Mark 16:17-19

And these signs shall follow them that believe; “In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Jesus said, “In my name they shall cast out demons.”

The moment Satan destroyed the body of Jesus on the cross, in the judicial system in heaven, it says in [Gen. 6:9](#) that when any man takes an honest man’s life then his blood is required of him.

That is how our Savior defeated the devil, by dying, allowing the devil to kill him. He freely let the devil take him to the cross and kill him, thus the devil killed an innocent man and destroyed himself.

Jesus has given this overcoming power to you.

Power to tread upon the enemy

Jeremiah 33:3

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Those who expect to receive comforts from God, must call upon him.

Promises are given, not to do away, but to quicken and encourage prayer. These promises lead us to the gospel of Christ; and in that God has revealed truth to direct us, and peace to make us easy.

All who by sanctifying grace are cleansed from the filth of sin, by pardoning mercy are freed from the guilt.

When sinners are thus justified, washed, and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Holy Spirit, they are enabled to walk before God in peace and purity.

Many are led to perceive the real difference between the people of God and the world around them, and to fear the Divine wrath. It is promised that the people who were long in sorrow, shall again be filled with joy.

Where the Lord gives righteousness and peace, he will give all needful supplies for temporal wants; and all we have will be comforts, as sanctified by the word and by prayer.

All Confessed sins will be forgiven.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God has given testimony to the sinfulness of the world, by providing a sufficient, effectual Sacrifice for sin, needed in all ages; and the sinfulness of believers themselves is shown, by requiring them continually to confess their sins, and to apply by faith to the blood of that Sacrifice.

Let us plead guilty before God, be humble, and willing to know the worst of our case.

Let us honestly confess all our sins in their full extent, relying wholly on his mercy and truth through the righteousness of Christ, for a free and full forgiveness, and our deliverance from the power and practice of sin.

When God's word is within, our prayers will be answered.

John 15:7

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Christ is the true vine.

Jesus Christ is the Vine, the true Vine. The union of the human and divine natures, and the fulness of the Spirit that is in him, resemble the root of the vine made fruitful by the moisture from a rich soil.

Believers are branches of this Vine. The root is unseen, and our life is hid with Christ; the root bears the tree, diffuses sap to it, and in Christ are all supports and supplies.

The branches of the vine are many, yet, meeting in the root, are all but one vine; thus all true Christians, though in place and opinion distant from each other, meet in Christ.

Believers, like the branches of the vine, are weak, and unable to stand but as they are borne up. The Father is the Husbandman.

Never was any husbandman so wise, so watchful, about his vineyard, as God is about his church, which therefore must prosper.

We must be fruitful. From a vine we look for grapes, and from a Christian we look for a Christian temper, disposition, and life. We must honour God, and do good; this is bearing fruit.

The unfruitful are taken away. And even fruitful branches need pruning; for the best have notions, passions, and humors, that require to be taken away, which Christ has promised to forward the sanctification of believers, they will be thankful, for them.

The word of Christ is spoken to all believers; and there is a cleansing virtue in that word, as it works grace, and works out corruption.

And the more fruit we bring forth, the more we abound in what is good, the more our Lord is glorified.

In order to fruitfulness, we must abide in Christ, must have union with him by faith. It is the great concern of all Christ's disciples, constantly to keep up dependence upon Christ, and communion with him. True Christians find by experience, that any interruption in the exercise of their faith, causes holy affections to decline, their corruptions to revive, and their comforts to droop.

Those who abide not in Christ, though they may flourish for a while in outward profession, yet come to nothing.

The fire is the fittest place for withered branches; they are good for nothing else. Let us seek to live more simply on the fulness of Christ, and to grow more fruitful in every good word and work, so may our joy in Him and in his salvation be full.

The Father will give whatsoever you ask in his name.

John 16:23-24

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Encouragement to Prayer

Asking of the Father shows a sense of spiritual wants, and a desire of spiritual blessings, with conviction that they are to be had from God only.

Asking in Christ's name, is acknowledging our unworthiness to receive any favours from God, and shows full dependence upon Christ as the Lord our Righteousness.

Our Lord had hitherto spoken in short and weighty sentences, or in parables, the import of which the disciples did not fully understand, but after his resurrection he intended plainly to teach them such things as related to the Father and the way to him, through his intercession.

And the frequency with which our Lord enforces offering up petitions in his name, shows that the great end of the mediation of Christ is to impress us with a deep sense of our sinfulness, and of the merit and power of his death, whereby we have access to God.

And let us ever remember, that to address the Father in the name of Christ, or to address the Son as God dwelling in human nature, and reconciling the world to himself, are the same, as the Father and Son are one.

When those of faith agree, healing will take place.

James 5:14-16

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain. In a day of affliction nothing is more seasonable than prayer.

The spirit is then most humble, and the heart is broken and tender. It is necessary to exercise faith and hope under afflictions; and prayer is the appointed means for obtaining and increasing these graces.

Observe, that the saving of the sick is not ascribed to the anointing with oil, but to prayer.

In a time of sickness it is not cold and formal prayer that is effectual, but the prayer of faith.

The great thing we should ask of God for ourselves and others in the time of sickness is, the pardon of sin.

Unforgiveness leads to sickness. Let nothing be done to encourage any to delay, under the mistaken fancy that a confession, a prayer, a minister's absolution and exhortation, or the sacrament, will set all right at last, where the duties of a godly life have been disregarded.

To acknowledge our faults to each other, will tend greatly to peace and brotherly love.

These could be confessions of doubt and unbelief. Peter confessed to Jesus that he believed, but asked help for his unbelief. This does not mean to report past misconduct to others.

Do not confess other's sins of unbelief, but your own sins of doubt and unbelief.

And when a righteous person, a true believer, justified in Christ, and by his grace walking before God in holy obedience, presents an effectual fervent prayer, wrought in his heart by the power of the Holy Spirit, raising holy affections and believing expectations and so leading earnestly to plead the promises of God at his mercy-seat, it avails much.

The power of prayer is proved from the history of Elijah. In prayer we must not look to the merit of man, but to the grace of God. It is not enough to say a prayer,

but we must pray in prayer. Thoughts must be fixed, desires must be firm and ardent, and graces exercised.

This instance of the power of prayer, encourages every Christian to be earnest in prayer. God never says to any of the seed of Jacob, Seek my face in vain. Where there may not be so much of miracle in God's answering our prayers, yet there may be as much of grace.

Moral sins will be judged.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

God will judge all sins. The bonds of marriage must not be broken.

The design of Christ in giving himself for us, is, that he may purchase to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works; and true religion is the strongest bond of friendship.

Here are earnest exhortations to several Christian duties, especially contentment.

The sin opposed to this grace and duty is covetousness, an over-eager desire for the wealth of this world, with envy of those who have more than ourselves, and moral sins.

Having treasures in heaven, we may be content with mean things here. Those who cannot be so, would not be content though God raised their condition.

Adam was in paradise, yet not contented; some angels in heaven were not contented; but the apostle Paul, though abased and empty, had learned in every state, in any state, to be content.

Christians have reason to be contented with their present lot. This promise contains the sum and substance of all the promises; "I will never, no, never leave thee, no, never forsake thee."

In the original there are no less than five negatives put together, to confirm the promise: the true believer shall have the gracious presence of God with him, in life,

at death, and forever. Men can do nothing against God, and God can make all that men do against his people, to turn to their good.

The Great Commissions says that he sick shall recover.

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

His Commission to the Apostles

The evidences of the truth of the gospel are so full, that those who receive it not, may justly be upbraided with their unbelief.

Our blessed Lord renewed his choice of the eleven as his apostles, and commissioned them to go into all the world, to preach his gospel to every creature.

Only he that is a true Christian shall be saved through Christ. Doubtless this is a solemn declaration of that true faith which receives Christ in all his characters and offices, and for all the purposes of salvation, and which produces its right effect on the heart and life; not a mere assent, which is a dead faith, and cannot profit.

The commission of Christ's ministers extends to every creature throughout the world, and the declarations of the gospel contain not only truths, encouragements, and precepts, but also most awful warnings.

Observe what power the apostles should be endued with, for confirming the doctrine they were to preach.

These were miracles to confirm the truth of the gospel, and means of spreading the gospel among nations that had not heard it, and to bring healing and deliverance to all.

God blesses the disciples with power over Satan

Luke 10:19-20-21

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

All our victories over Satan, are obtained by power derived from Jesus Christ, and he must have all the praise.

But let us beware of spiritual pride, which has been the destruction of many. Our Lord rejoiced at the prospect of the salvation of many souls.

It was fit that particular notice should be taken of that hour of joy; there were few such, for He was a man of sorrows: in that hour in which he saw Satan fall, and heard of the good success of his ministers, in that hour he rejoiced.

He has ever resisted the proud, and given grace to the humble. The more simply dependent we are on the teaching, help, and blessing of the Son of God, the more we shall know both of the Father and of the Son; the more blessed we shall be in seeing the glory, and hearing the words of the Divine Saviour; and the more useful we shall be made in promoting his cause.

Ask with unwavering faith.

James 1:6-11

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falls, and the grace of the fashion of it perishes: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

How to apply to God under troubles, and how to behave in prosperous and in adverse circumstances

Christianity teaches men to be joyful under troubles: such exercises are sent from God's love; and trials in the way of duty will brighten our graces now, and our crown at last.

Let us take care, in times of trial, that patience, and not passion, is set to work in us: whatever is said or done, let patience have the saying and doing of it.

When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare.

We should not pray so much for the removal of affliction, as for wisdom to make a right use of it. And who does not want wisdom to guide him under trials, both in regulating his own spirit, and in managing his affairs?

Here is something in answer to every discouraging turn of the mind, when we go to God under a sense of our own weakness and folly.

If, after all, any should say, this may be the case with some, but I fear I shall not succeed, the promise is, to any that asketh, it shall be given.

A mind that has single and prevailing regard to its spiritual and eternal interest, and that keeps steady in its purposes for God, will grow wise by afflictions, will continue fervent in devotion, and rise above trials and oppositions.

When our faith and spirits rise and fall with second causes, there will be unsteadiness in our words and actions.

This may not always expose men to contempt in the world, but such ways cannot please God. No condition of life is such as to hinder rejoicing in God.

Those of low degree may rejoice, if they are exalted to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of God; and the rich may rejoice in humbling providences that lead to a humble and lowly disposition of mind.

Worldly wealth is a withering thing. Then, let him that is rich rejoice in the grace of God, which makes and keeps him humble; and in the trials and exercises which teach him to seek happiness in and from God, not from perishing enjoyments.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.

