

I. Review

Last week we defined who our adversaries are, or who are enemies are as New Testament Christians. In any warfare, if you know anything about the military or strategy behind warfare, it is very important to know your enemy. His abilities, his capabilities, that is very vital. **Our greatest enemy is the devil himself.** We find that exact same thing in Job 40 and 41, where God tells us that he will not hide his parts, his power, or his comely proportion. In those three things we have the workings of how he operates in everything that he tries to do to stop you as your main enemy.

Historically, we looked at David's enemies who were out to get him and stop him.

Doctrinally, we know that what we have seen so far in the book of Psalms, will be dealing with the nation of Israel and the anti-Christ trying to stop them.

Inspirationally, from a practical standpoint you can see that it is all about you and me.

Psalms 119:98 *Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they [are] ever with me*

This verse is an understatement! We have already seen this in the first five chapters of Psalms.

- ❖ Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- ❖ Psalms 3:2 Many [there be] which say of my soul, [There is] no help for him in God.
- ❖ Psalms 4:2 O ye sons of men, how long [will ye turn] my glory into shame?...
- ❖ Psalms 4:6 [There be] many that say, Who will shew us [any] good?.....
- ❖ Psalms 5:6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing....
- ❖ Psalms 5:9 For [there is] no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part [is] very wickedness; their throat [is] an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.

In Romans 3 and Mark 7, all this comes from inside of man. The enemy of God will be our enemy also. Whether they are saved or lost. You will find them in two categories: (1) Some that are open and there is no question about it. (2) Others are behind the scenes. They cloak themselves with Christianity or religion or some spirituality, but all the time they are against the things that the Lord is trying to do.

The key to it all is a principled life built on the sure foundation of God.

Isa 28:16 *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

- That foundation is based on the sure word of God 2 Peter 1:19,
- Which gives you a sure calling 2 Peter 1:10,
- That will bring about in time, a sure reward Proverbs 11:18.

All based on the leading of God in your life. Last week we talked about how to know when God is truly leading you. It all comes down to being based on the sure principals of the word of God.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom [is] the principal thing; [therefore] get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Understanding will always be any situation in life, seeing it from God's perspective. How does God figure into it? What is he trying to do and show you through it? That is understanding. Our ability to not just see things at face value but learning how to observe things. There is a big difference between seeing something and observing something. Every week I am going to hit on this concept.

❖ Observing the Details – Contrast Between Good Versus Evil

I have always been big into astronomy ever since I was a kid. You can get books that have pictures of the planets. Pictures of the sun, the moon, the galaxies that are out there. But when you really want to learn about the galaxies, the planets or astronomy, you need to get your first telescope. With that you start to observe them. You are not looking at a book with pictures, now you are observing it in real time.

You can actually see the phases of the moon and see the terminator, that black spot that comes down through the moon. That is a great bible principle. If you look at a full moon through a telescope you can't really see anything because it is so bright. As the moon goes through its phases you will want to follow the phases by the terminator. That will be the dark side versus the light side. What you have is exactly what the Bible has. You see more detail and more depth to the moon when it is contrasted by the darkness, the terminator. And it's not Arnold Schwarzenegger!

The darkness illuminates the light and shows you more detail. That is called contrast. It is also called observing. You learn to observe the details of the moon through the contrast of the darkness versus the light. **In life, you learn the details of everything in your life by observing the contrast between good versus evil. Light versus darkness. That is observing!** Not just looking at something at face value. But observing it on a level that really shows you the detail of what is really going on.

❖ Every Church Ought to be a Hospital

It is the same thing in dealing with people. Helping them through their issues. Sometimes we make dumb decisions but every church ought to be a hospital. Every church should be able to

fix whatever is wrong with you. If you go to a hospital and you fall down and break your leg, they are going to treat you.

But if you get despondent and try to commit suicide or try to shoot yourself and you miss or kind of miss. They will still treat you. They don't look at you and say well that is a self-inflicted wound, we are not going to deal with that. Churches have to be the same way. The greatest example of that as a pattern is found in 1 Samuel 22:2. David is in the cave of Adullam. The Bible says that all the men that had issues, all that were distressed, all that had debt, all that had issues came and David ministered unto them. That is what a church should be.

Our ability to help people will be our ability to see and understand (from the patterns of life) what they are going through by observing human nature and understanding it. Knowing the patterns and the principles that are involved. For example, when a marriage fails, for whatever reason or a family loses its kids to the world. When a child of God falls by the wayside, or a church fails or any tragedy in life. You could look at each one and talk about the issues. You could list the many problems but there is only one pattern to how they got into the mess they are in. When dealing with people you got to get to the heart of the problem as quick as you can. They may have different reasons, but one pattern of life got them in the mess they are in. That will be the violated principles of the word of God.

❖ Repentance – Turning from one direction to another direction in life.

We talk about the word repentance. Repentance has nothing to do with getting saved. Everybody thinks that it does. **Repentance means that you turn from one direction to another direction in life.** Repentance is a change of direction of your life. Repentance in its basic form is that you followed one pattern that got you in the mess you are in. Now, you are going to follow the other pattern in life with God that is going to get you out of the mess you are in. You will never fix it without that. You can't fix problems by just putting a Band-Aid on the symptoms. You have to get to the violated principles that established the pattern that ended in disaster.

Some of you ladies know this already. When you make a dress or if you go to a tailor, or whatever you make, you follow a pattern. When you make your favorite recipe, then your recipe is your pattern. If you don't follow the pattern for a dress, it won't fit. If you don't follow the recipe for your special Super Bowl baked beans then they won't taste right. Patterns! It is the same way in the Bible. You have to follow the patterns. The patterns are established by the principles of the word of God that will show you when something starts in the Bible there is a distinct pattern that you follow. This is the difference between reading your Bible at face value or observing what you are reading.

❖ Genesis – More than Just a Book of Beginnings

An example is Genesis. Genesis is called the book of the beginnings. I guarantee you 99% of God's people think that it is the book of the beginnings because in Genesis 1:1 it says in the beginning. That is just the tip of the iceberg! You are going to find in Genesis, which is the book of beginnings, is not just the creation. It is the **beginning of every pattern** that you are going to find to go through life. The patterns will begin in Genesis and will go on through the whole Bible. That is the difference between reading Genesis and observing Genesis. For instance, did you know that in Genesis, if you observe instead of just reading there are Seven (7) Beginnings:

1. Beginning of the Heavens,
2. Beginning of the earth,
3. Beginning of the animals,
4. Beginning of man,
5. Beginning of sin,
6. Beginning of the messianic line of Christ,
7. Beginning of salvation.

In Genesis you will find that each one of these begin to form a pattern that you can trace through the rest of the Bible. These patterns will never violate any principles. But will continue to add that once you observe it to the point you understand it. When you observe the book of Genesis you will find it is built around Seven (7) Key Men that are good men

Seven (7) Key Men that are Good Men		Seven (7) Key Men that are Evil	
1	Able	1	Cain
2	Enoch	2	Nimrod
3	Noah	3	Lot
4	Abraham	4	Ishmael
5	Isaac	5	Pharaoh
6	Jacob	6	Joseph's Brethren
7	Joseph	7	Esau

When you read about their lives, study their lives, observe their lives, they will begin to set a pattern you can follow all the way through the Bible. If you think the characteristics of Cain or Nimrod died out with them? No, no! They may have died, but their lives set the pattern that when you observe them through the whole Bible you get everything that you need to understand.

Also in in Genesis once you observe it instead of just face value you will find 7 pairs in Genesis.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Adam & Eve | 4. Abraham & Lot | |
| 2. Cain & Able | 5. Isaac & Ishmael | |
| 3. Enoch & Noah | 6. Jacob & Esau | 7. Joseph & his brethren. |

They show us a pattern when you study and see them as pairs or individuals the stories vary, but the pattern is the same. **This is how you learn human nature and how to deal with people.** This is how you learn to see that no matter what people's problems are, no matter what they struggle with, they never follow and see the pattern.

You have heard me talk about **the law of first mention**. It is a vital key in Bible study. Basically the first time you find a word in the Bible it establishes the context as to how that word is going to be used throughout the rest of the Bible. That is a pattern!

Do you realize in Genesis, which is a book of the beginnings, you have **24 key words**. You have more key words of the law first mention in Genesis than in any other book in the Bible. Do you know why? Because it is the book of the beginnings! It is not just the book of the beginning of God creating the heavens and the earth. It is the beginning of understanding the seven (7) beginnings, the seven (7) key men, good and bad. The seven (7) pairs which all lead and open up that book when you learn to observe it, instead of just reading it.

- Chapter 2:4 the Lord God – that is a title for a specific reason throughout the Bible.
- Chapter 3:1 Serpent
- Chapter 4:7 Sin
- Chapter 9:20 Husbandman we have talked about how it relates to us in the NT.
- Chapter 10:10 Babel
- Chapter 12:10 Egypt we know what Egypt represents in the Bible –the world.
- Chapter 13:13 Sinners
- Genesis 14:18 Melchizedek
- Genesis 14:20 Tithes Study the pattern of Abraham's giving & you will find that Abraham gives tithes, offerings & in Chapter 22 he gives a sacrifice. That is the pattern I use. If you learn the patterns you don't have to make stuff up for people to follow you.
- Genesis 15:2 Steward – We are to be stewards of the mysteries of God 1 Cor 4:1
- Genesis 20:7 Pray
- Genesis 21:33 Grove
- Genesis 22:2 Love (lovest)
- Genesis 22:7 Lamb - Jesus the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.
- Genesis 25:6 Concubines – which is a part of the family of God.
- Genesis 25:17 He was gathered unto his people – A Strange phrase when somebody dies. Why does it start there? It starts a pattern, but you got to observe and not just read.
- Chapter 27:26 Kiss
- Chapter 31:19 Images
- Genesis 32:28 Israel – When the people came out of Egypt as the nation Israel.
- Chapter 35:4 Oak Tree - Crucifixion If you want to study crucifixion study the oak tree
- Genesis 36:15 Duke - The dukes that come out of Ishmael
- Genesis 50:26 Coffin Joseph was put in a coffin in Egypt - physical death through your Bible.

These will form a pattern good or bad, when you begin to observe these. Look at them as they are defined and the pattern they begin. They will help you establish principles in your life that will help you stay on course. That is how it works!

It is the difference between just reading your Bible and observing what you are reading. Going into the depths of the word of God. That is what I am trying to show you not only by the examples, every week, but by the book of Psalms as we study it. We are not looking at it just at face value. I want you to see every crack and crevice as we go underneath the surface and learn how to observe what you are reading.

❖ Imprecation Prayer

Then I showed you an imprecation prayer. This is David praying, under the Old Testament law, to kill his enemies. Remember under the Old Testament if you were righteous with God, you could ask God to kill your enemies and he would. Then I showed you in the New Testament under grace, we don't have that option. Now it is time for most of you to move up to the next level for you learning the Bible. The next learning level is seeing what something really is and not what it appears to be on the surface. Learning to observe!

II. The Victory that We Have with God

Today, I want to show you the next aspect of this. We saw last week the enemies of God defined. Now **I want to show you the victory that you have with God.** In our hymn books there is a song on page 496 that we sing quite often, Victory in Jesus. For a child of God everything in life we know now will be part of his leading. We know that from Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.*

There should never be a time, even with all the enemies and the attacks that we don't have the victory. Another great song in your hymnal page 402 Faith is the Victory that over comes the world.

Today, sorry to say. I say it with a broken heart, God's people live today (for the most part) in a state of defeat. They are battered and beaten into a state of confusion. They live in despair, they live in defeat. They probably look at life and wonder what the difference is between the world and Christianity, because nothing ever seems to change.

Years ago, there was a TV series called the Wide World of Sports. It was a great series because it showed all the aspects of sports and the great things they did. But it also showed some of the disasters in sports. Their opening line was "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat!" **Most of God's people never experience the thrill of victory. But they live in the agony of defeat,** your walk with God. There is no walk with God, so you go through the agony of despair. There

is no victory. When you look up the word dysfunctional in a dictionary there will be a footnote that says, “See modern New Testament Christianity!” Because that is the problem today. I have never seen a time when God’s people are so defeated. I have never seen a time when God’s people who God saved them for a purpose never find that purpose. If they do go to church that is all they ever do. Most of them get saved and go once or twice or three months or six months and you never see them again. Most of them never find a real church. A lady said to me one time, well brother Bob I have been to your church, but I am looking for the perfect church. I said, well I understand that, but can I give you a bit of advice? She said yes, what is it? When you find one don’t join it because it won’t be perfect anymore.

People have all kinds of illusions about churches except one. One that will ground you in the word of God, give you everything that you need to stand with your shoulders back and your head up high at the judgment seat of Christ.

III. Psalms 5:11-12

Let’s look at two key verses today. We are taking Psalms one little sliver or bite at a time. Remember now, **victory in Jesus. The victory that we should have in Christ.**

11. But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

12. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as [with] a shield.

This will be one of the great verses for all of us as Christians, inspirationally. Also, historically for David and his victory over his enemies. Doctrinally, Israel who will get the victory at the second coming of Christ over the antichrist and their enemies.

A.) Verse 11 *But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice....*

How do you really trust in God? I am not talking about the mental concept of, “O Jesus help me I am your son”. Jesus will never leave me nor forsake me. You know it’s like a lot of people about salvation. Forget the term born again, saved, or washed in the blood. They know all the terms, but if you pinned them down and said let me ask you a question..... Let me ask you this. The moment you ask Christ to save you what changed in that instant, inside your body. That took you from darkness to light. That took you from lost to saved. Because there was a work described in Colossians 2:11 that took place inside your body. Most of God’s people that are saved don’t even know that work existed. It is the same way it is with trusting in the Lord.

We have the general concept, O help me, Lord. Come through for me because I am your child. You said you would never leave me nor forsake thee. Oh no! It is much more than that! Something I am talking about that you can tangibly hold on to in a time when trouble comes.

Something that will not only get you through what you are going through, but it will teach you about God. Here is the problem we all have. When we go through something we all want to get through it as quickly as we can. But we never want to learn what God is doing through it in our lives. Because if we just want to get through it as quickly as we can, not only will we never understand what God is doing through it, but you will never grow through it. **Every problem that we have in life that you go through, you should grow through.** Don't just come out of the problem as bad as you were when you went in. Learn from it! When you learn to observe, you will observe your own issues and your own problems. Not only will you observe the Bible when you read it, you will observe everything you go through in life. Because there is a reason behind what God is trying to show you. But we always get caught up... It is like Job; we look at the book of Job and you want to put the book of Job in the easiest context. God had a message for Job, and he used the devil as the delivery boy. **The problem is we get so caught up with the delivery boy, we never get the message.** That my friend is our problem! Not just yours, mine too, and everybody that is a child of God!

B.) You learn to trust God in two basic ways:

1.) You Learn from the Examples, Ensamples (patterns) & Observing:

You go to your Bible, and you look into the Bible, and you look at the men and women who faced everything that you and I will face. You observe them. You don't just read the accounts of Abraham, Moses, Job, the barren women in the Bible, (here are seven of those). You don't just look at David and read it. You look and observe them, and you see the pattern of what they were going through. And then the pattern that God used to get them through it. It is just that simple!

In each case you will find how God, through the word of God, gave them the victory over their enemies or trials. When you go to Hebrews 11, the great Hall of Fame chapter of the Bible. He lists the men and women there who struggled with things that you and I will never struggle with. But everything that we do struggle with, you will find that in there. You will find people who were true victims and then you will find people like Samson who were self-inflicted. Yet there they are in God's Hall of Fame. It shows me what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:11

*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **God gave him the victory!***

I gave you a verse last week in Isaiah 54:17 about their enemies and their weapons.

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the LORD.

2.) Confidence in God, the Word of God, which form the principles & patterns and then bring them into our lives

1 John 5:14 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

The key to the victory of the Christian life is not only seeing the examples in the Bible that God came through for them, but that he will come through for you too. Learning the patterns by which he delivered them. Because they are going to be the same way that he does for you. You observe them! But then you have confidence. We talk about having confidence in God and I get that. But it is more than that! There are lots of people that use the terminology “have confidence in God”, but they don’t have any confidence in anything. It is not just about confidence in God, it is about the confidence in the word of God.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Our confidence is not just in God. It is in the word of God which forms the principles, that form the patterns by which when I see the examples in the Old Testament, I bring them into my life. And my victory will always be found in those two things. And as the Bible says, I rejoice in it.

I thank God that God gave me a book that is a greater book than any book on this planet. I thank God that whatever problem I got I got a book that has the answer to it! I thank God that I got the holy spirit of God living inside me. Even when I can’t figure out the word of God, the holy spirit of God illuminates the word and shows me what I need. I thank God that God gave me the church, the body of believers and a pastor to teach the people. So, when you have problems that you can’t figure out, you have a hospital you can go to!

❖ Cataloging the Principals of the Word of God

Over in the bookstore, we have a little paperback that is called, the **Promises of God**. In that little book you will go through, and you will see that it has listed every problem that you can have and under it will be ten or twelve principles that will help you through that problem. If you are struggling through anger, you can look up anger and there will be all the verses you need. When you are struggling with sin, you have all the verses you need. When you are struggling with self-doubt or sorrow, it is right there. That is the beginning (in a very basic form) of what in time your life should be on an automatic basis. Cataloging the principles of the word of God that will establish the patterns by which when you are faced with something, you will want to follow. It is just that simple! **It is just what the Bible means when it says, “prove all things”. What does that mean? Prove all things based on what? An absolute standard that shows you what is real and what is not, based on the principles and the patterns in the word of God.**

C.) Verse 11 continued. “let them ever shout for joy...”

The source of my joy. I can't speak for you; the source of my joy is no matter what happens I have the ultimate victory. Some of God's people today are afraid of the world's scenario and situation. Some of them stock up on food, and some do everything they can to prepare themselves and are afraid of what goes on. Every day they tremble in fear looking at the world scenario as it gets worse and worse. Everything is in decline, and it looks like America is in an insane asylum run by the inmates. For me I don't care either way because God's going to take care of me no matter what happens. You know how I know that? Patterns!

❖ God will take care of me, no matter what!

Do you know who Ezekiel was? Ezekiel was a prophet of God and was sent to the nation of Israel right about the time of the captivity. He goes into captivity with the nation of Israel, which was a horrendous time, but you know what? Because he was doing what is right and he was doing the word of God. God got him through that captivity just fine. How about Daniel? He goes into captivity. Everything around him has fallen apart and what does God do? God just greases him through that thing. How about Joseph? He is thrown into prison. God has his hand in everything that he did. **Those are the patterns.** Those are things you have to see; if God did it for them, he will do them for you. **The key is being where we need to be with the word of God.** I may lose some battles in life, but praise God I am going to win the war and that is all I care about. **I rejoice in that!**

I rejoice in the fact that God is always going to take care of us. I get it! I understand all this, your enemies, my enemies. It is not about me. This is what you have got to get. This is why you have to quit taking things personal. This is why you got to quit being fearful of things. You are taking the enemy and the things that are against you and the people that are against you way too personal! I showed you a couple of weeks ago in Psalm 4:3 that it said,

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself....”

The Lord has set you apart the day he saved you for himself. The real joy in all of that is through understanding God saved us, he set us apart for his purpose. Not yours or mine, for HIS PURPOSE. Your enemy, God's enemies will try to stop you, but the victory is already yours. All you have to do is get in the book and get the principles that establish the patterns.

In Psalms 5:8 I talked about that God will form a straight way before our face. That will be the patterns and the principles.

Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

D.) Verse 11 continued.because thou defendest them...

Romans 8:31 says "What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?" **And the answer is... Nobody!**

Romans 8:35-39, what a great couple of verses. Most people just read this, and they never observe it. Let's just read it, but also observe it today.

35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Observing what I just read, **what is the first thing that I see?** In verse 35 it says, "**who shall separate us**", **not what. Who!! It won't be "what" that tries to separate you from God. It will be WHO.** Your enemy! This is what the devil through your enemy will try to do. He will try to separate you. That is why it says "who" and not "what".

In verse 37 he says that in all these things we are more than conquerors. You know why? Because we got the victory. He says in verse 38-39. Neither death, life, angels, principalities, power, things present nor things to come (there is what you are afraid of in the future) neither height or depth or any creature will ever separate me from God, his love, and my work that he has called me to do. **I understand where my defense is, the principles of the word of God!**

1 Corinthians 10:11 tells me that the Old Testament saints were for my example and ensamples on who the end of the world are come. Just as they were an example and ensample for us today, we are to be examples and ensamples to the other folks that are out there. In a combat situation when everybody is afraid and scared; if just one guy will stand up and say follow me. It breathes courage into everybody else. **That is what Christianity needs today. It needs men and women who will stand up in the masses of a defeated Christianity and simply say let's go! Lock and load! Follow me!**

Today is Super Bowl Sunday. The Kansas City Chiefs versus the San Francisco 49ers. I am looking out at a sea of red today. If I was back in the Old Testament and I was Moses preaching this, I would call it the Red Sea. It is going to be a great game today. But I want to tell you something. We can have the greatest offense in the world, but if the defense doesn't play well, we lose the game and there will be no victory. In your life and mine, I don't care how spiritual you think you are, or how well you know the Bible, or how many souls you have won. I don't care how good you work with people. All that is great. I don't care that you can quote the Bible all day long. Every day of your life if your defense is not on the field of play you are going to

wind up losing the day. Football is a delicate balance between two things, offense and defense and so is the Christian life. So many of God's people are good talking on the offense but when it comes to the defense, when they get attacked, they fold up like a broken accordion. You must have your defense on the field. **You must have your shield.** You must know that people are going to be against you, and you can't take it personal. You understand that you have been set apart for God to do a work. Not everybody is going to be happy with it. You got to have not only a good offensive game, but you must also have a very good defensive game. **It will be your confidence in the word of God to trust in what he tells you through the principles of the word of God and through the patterns.**

❖ What Kind of Soldier are You?

I was in the Army a long time ago, in 1969. There is a saying "You get the boy out of the Army, but you never get the Army out of the boy". I learned so much. There are still things in my mind. Illustrations that at the time I wasn't where I needed to be with the Lord, but boy years later God showed me everything that he needed for me to do.

We had a drill sergeant that we all hated. He had been in two tours in Vietnam. He was harder on us than anybody else and we all hated him. His name was Sergeant Webb. He would come up with the most awful things to torture us that you could think of. He would make us take buckets of sand and make us hold out those buckets for 20-30 minutes.

The day we graduated, he took everybody around to the back of the barracks and said I want you guys to understand something. I was harder on you than all the other drill sergeants. I know most of you hate me. While he is talking, he is taking off his coat and undoing his tie. He takes his shirt off, and he has a scar that runs all the way down and across his chest. He says, "I want you to see this. I had two tours in Vietnam and on my second tour we were at a firebase, and we were being overrun. We all thought it was going to be the end of the day." He says, "I was on the east side of the perimeter and four or five north Vietnamese came across the wire and he fired and killed three of them. Then my gun jammed, and the fourth one had a really big sword. He was going to slice me." He says, "instinctively I put my rifle up and caught the blade as it came down. But said I was so tired and so worn out that I couldn't hold it and as I dropped my rifle slowly that sword cut me from right down through to here. When he cut me, I reached and got my 45 and I shot him. But his sword cut me from here to here and this is the scar. Now I want you to know the reason why I told you to hold those buckets out for so long. Almost all of you are going to Vietnam. And if anybody ever does to you what they did to me I wanted your arms to be strong enough that you could hold off that sword." At that moment we all loved him.

You see **sometimes you don't understand why the hard things are good for you.** At the time you go through them you don't understand it. I think about things like that when I preach hard to you, or I deal hard with you because I have been where you are at. **I know what will get you through and what will hold your arms up when the weight and the pressure come. Victory!**

The Army wants to get you to believe you are superman by the time you get out of basic training. They instill that in you. I remember every night before we went to bed, we were laying in our racks, and we had the soldier's prayer. We would have to lay there in bed holding our M14's and we would pray together. This is my rifle and there are many like it, but this one is mine. I will stay true to my rifle and my rifle will stay true to me. I will take care of my rifle and in combat my rifle will take care of me. I will shoot my enemy and aim straight with my rifle. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for I am the biggest baddest blankety blank in the valley. Lights out!!!!

I thought to myself many times. **You know why you don't have the victory? Because you are really not that kind of a soldier.** This is my Bible. There are many like it, but this one is mine. If you stay true to your Bible, the Bible will stay true to you. Help me take my Bible and aim straight to do the work of God and yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for I am the biggest baddest Christian in the valley! That is where we ought to be. **That is victory!!**

That is David going down to a giant that was five times bigger than him. Weighed six times more than he did and he just picked up a little stone and put it right between the eyeballs. You know why? Because he was the toughest guy in that valley. Do you know why we fail, why we don't have the confidence? Do you know why we don't have the victory? You don't see yourself as the biggest toughest Christian in the valley.

In this church there is no reason for every one of you not to have the victory. You got the word of God; you get principles out your ears and you get Discipleship 1, and Discipleship 2. On any level of your life we have what you need. If you are going through a bad marriage, I got people that can help you with that. If you are caught in the middle of some legal issues, I got people that can help you with that. If you are struggling with your kids, I got people that can help you with that. If you are struggling with some addiction, I got people that can help you with that. Any church ought to have on every level people who are trained and have the ability, the confidence and have the victory to help those who don't. There will always be people here that will stay with you to get you through.

E.) Verse 11 continued... Let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Here is **the real key to our victory.** It simply comes down in the **final analysis of our loving the word of God.** Revelation 19:13 tells us, "...his name was called the word of God".

Revelation 19:13 And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

The reason God's people are so defeated today in Christianity is how do you love the word of God, when you don't have it? How do you love the word of God when you do have it, but you

don't apply it, read it or follow it? This is the greatest issue in Christianity in the 21st century. The idea that you can love God without the word of God in your life.

IV. Being Out of Balance in Your Life with Blessings from God

Verse 12 *“For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as [with] a shield.”*

I know in Proverbs 11:1 that a false balance is an abomination in the sight of God, and I talk about that all the time. I have preached to you for years that in a Christian's life you have to have a good balance. That is true. But today, I am going to show you where every child of God **should be out of balance in one aspect**. If you are saved and in the word of God and doing what is right. It is simply this, God will put more blessings in your life than all the tough times your enemy tries to throw at you. **You will be out of balance in the blessings of God versus the people who are trying to stop you. Observe your life.**

Every child of God should have a personal book that you keep. Paul tells you to do that in a couple of places and the title of that book should be, “where are they now?” A list of your enemies who tried to stop you and after 20-30 years you look back and see where they are at and where God has you. The blessings of God in your life and the disasters in their life. As I always say when nothing else will tell; time will tell. You will see the reality of verse 12. You will look in your life and look back and see some people that were against you, that wanted to stop you and hated you. They have lost their ministries, they have no church, no Bible, and no ministry. Some will have lost all their kids to the world. Some will have lost their marriage. Some will have lost their health. Some will go from church to church always winding up where they started, with nothing. Always blaming their problems on somebody else. Some will have lost their Bible; some will have lost their mind. Some will have lost their lives. There is a great verse and principle of life in Proverbs.

Proverbs 13:13 *Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.*

In my fifty plus years in the ministry I have seen pastors, Christians, people who I have no doubt in my mind that they are saved. People who became the biggest enemies of the word of God that you could ever meet. They became in that sense God's enemies even though they were saved and in God's family. You can look back on their lives and see the disasters that happened. He says, *“...but he that feareth the commandments shall be rewarded.”* How will you be rewarded? Look at the last part of verse 12, *“...with favour will thou compass him as with a shield.”*

When it comes to the Christian life and our having the victory. We should be out of balance. In the sense that the blessings of God are in our lives much more than all the things that people try

to do to hurt us. The favor and the blessings of God outweigh whatever the world through God's enemies can throw at you.

❖ Joseph & His Brethren

The greatest example of this (again here is the pattern, you observe this) is back in Genesis 37-50 where you find Joseph and his brothers. What a beautiful picture that is of what you find in Christianity today. The Bible says Joseph was Jacob's favorite and the other brothers knew that and didn't like it. The Bible says that Jacob gave him a coat of many colors. Let's analyze that for a moment. I know it was just a coat with vibrant colors on it. But what it represents is the blessings of God in your life that God clothes you with because you are doing what is right. His brothers didn't like it and the brethren won't like it today! When God blesses your life and uses you when he doesn't use them. You know what happened! They conspired. They did everything that we have talked about so far. They hated him and wanted to kill him. They wanted to get rid of him, so they dug a big hole and put him in that hole. About that time a caravan of the enemies of God comes by and they say let's get him out of that hole and sell him to them. So, they sold Joseph to them. Then they said what are we going to say to our father? So, they killed an animal and dipped it in blood and took it to their father (Jacob) and said an animal tore him up bad.

Here is the pattern. They did the same thing that Jacob did when he deceived Esau. That is a pattern. You know where your kids learn to deceive? You know where your kids learn to lie? By watching what you do. That is a pattern. So, what happens to Joseph? They took him down to Egypt and in Egypt the devil knows he is God's favorite, so he is going to try to stop him. So, Joseph has all kinds of problems down in Egypt. But God delivers him through every issue that he had. In the end of the book Joseph winds up being second in the kingdom.

I don't care what the devil throws at you, the blessings of God will outweigh and be everything that you need. The favor and the blessings of God will be found in the coat of many colors that God will give you inspirationally in this life through the principles and the promises of the word of God. The question is, will you put the coat of many colors on or not? You all have your favorite coats. It is the one that you think about. I am going to wear this because I really look good in this one. You wear it all the time because it is warm and comfortable. You know what? Spiritually speaking your favorite coat ought to be the one of many blessings that God has for you. But you won't put it on. You will wear your favorite jacket, but you won't wear the one that God has given you that has all the blessings. **The one that has all the blessings of the many colors, the vibrancy of your relationship with God. There is the victory!** It is just that simple! It goes back to loving the word of God, by understanding the promises, patterns, and principles. They are not just the ones that you pick and choose to follow. You follow them all and you apply them to every aspect of your Christian life.

A.) Verse 12 continued ... as with a shield

The shield in Psalms 5:12 is found in Ephesians 6:1-16 where he says

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

The shield of faith will be defense of God in your life. Know this, the fiery darts will come, and the fiery darts will be aimed right at your heart to love the things of God. They will come from the world, sometimes from your own family. They will come from other Christians and pastors. They will come when your family gets dysfunctional and falls apart. They will come from your kids or your wife or your husband. All to stop you dead in your tracks. But the shield of God will stop those fiery darts from ever reaching your heart.

V. Summary

The blessings of God will overwhelm your life with the things that he has done for you if you learn to observe them. The opposition, the enemy will make you stronger not weaker. God will give us all things for our good. **Having the victory simply means that the fiery darts don't go away.** The enemy doesn't go away, the problems don't go away. **But now you have the ability through the victory of God, to not only learn from it, but to grow through it. That is the ultimate key to victory!**