

## SEPTEMBER 2008 Week 3 TEACHING

### *From Victim to Victor*

There are many women and men from different walks of faith, culture, and background who come to Sundie Morning Sistas for many reasons. Some come seeking prayer. Some come because they are curious about what it is we teach. Others come because they are uplifted by our brand of encouragement, and then there are those who come because they simply feel welcomed and loved—and rest assured...we love and pray for you all. No matter the reason, we are overwhelmingly blessed by each person who visits our site, writes to us, or reads our publications and books. Recently we've noticed an increase of those who write in their emails and letters that they are being viciously attacked by the enemy in either their finances, marriages, or other relationships. Some of these individuals are extremely emotionally distraught and feel as though God has handpicked them out to be the devil's punching bag. If you take no other piece of encouragement from this site, please walk away with this one truism that is the backbone of all that we do—God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

It's a simple statement I know, and it may be the most redundant proclamation in all of Christendom, but even if you lived ten thousand years—you wouldn't even scratch the surface of just how good God is. Belief in His goodness is a deeply intimate reality that lays the foundation for every ounce of success, victory, and bliss that you will ever experience. If you are in any way struggling to overcome at this very moment, and you are wondering how to begin to see your way clear, be assured that your first step is to wrap your brain around the goodness of God.

What does that entail? Well in part, it encompasses three elements that will assist our spiritual growth and development if we keep them in the forefront of our minds. These three are usually only identified with seasoned veterans in the Word. I say that because there is an overwhelming preponderance of Christians who are struggling to latch on to these three principles; mostly because we are all so busy trying to get a million things done in twenty minutes. We don't allow ourselves time to sit down and really think about them. But the urgency of the times in which we now live isn't lost on anyone. The luxury of having years to work out jaw-dropping revelation is one we simply don't have. If you and I are ever going to manifest what we know God has promised and what we know is rightfully ours, now is the time.

The first of these elements is what we've already mentioned—the goodness of God. How we view Him will decide whether or not we are prepared for victory; how we view ourselves through His love determines

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whether or not we'll have it. You and I must have authentic assurance that there is never a time in which God is unwilling to bless our lives with a wealth of overwhelming goodness, and there is never a reason or circumstance in which He causes us to fail, falter, or regress. You can't have a great relationship with someone you don't believe has your best interest at heart. You must have authentic assurance that God has sealed your success, and that He will partner with you to create a phenomenal existence. This is the one thing to hang your hat on. It is the river from which all the other good stuff you desire will flow.

The second element is the matchless, redemptive, and transformative work of Jesus Christ. Some of our minds and hearts are probably filled to capacity with knowledge gleaned from numerous studies and teachings on his life and ministry. It's incredibly important stuff and we must never diminish that, but there is a danger in exorbitantly focusing on how many scriptures we can quote—to the point where we forget to develop our relationship with Christ. He's our savior and redeemer, and he is also a big brother who wants to see his younger sisters and brothers have the best.

### **Romans 5:2 NLT**

*2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

Jesus Christ made available a very special gift. It was indeed the promise of our Most Holy Father. That gift is the indwelling Holy Spirit and we can do infinitely more through it than we could ever do without it. Through our spirits—Christ will not only lead, guide, and direct us through life—as any big brother would—but he will also elevate us to the place of highest privilege. We don't have to look at life as though it were a playground of randomness. We can have unwavering confidence and joy that there is a way to make sense of life—that we have a friend who we are never without, and he will help us to create a beautiful existence based on the truth and power of God's love.

The third element that will assist our spiritual growth and development is one that puts victimization in check. We have all been victims of something at one time or another and there's an expiration date as to how long we can wear that label. James 4:10 NLT says *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.”* There are countless folks who still walk around with the mentality that they are the most humbled when they have been wronged. They believe that God chose them to be the devil's whipping post because He wants to show the world how pious, good, and favored they

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are. Nothing could be further from the truth. Victimization does not equate to humility, victory does.

Humility doesn't mean that we acquiesce to a lesser degree, but rather that we allow one part of ourselves to decrease as another part of us increases. It is our willingness to learn spiritual lessons well as we begin to know and understand our rights through Christ. We must have confidence that we are well positioned in this place of highest privilege. We must know that we were predestined for God's glory, and that we can lay claim to the abundance that Christ came to make available; not out of a spirit of arrogance, but one of thankfulness.

**1 Corinthians 15:57, 58**

*57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

God has given us the best that can be given, and through it we can be victorious! Pain and the circumstances that lead to it do not define who we are. It is too small a reality to nullify the greatness of who we can become in Christ. When we are committed to that which God has called us to do-He will see to it that we abound in His work. In case you have forgotten...to abound is to increase and move higher. If you'll trust that God wants the best for you; if you'll take time and care to develop your relationship with His son and allow His Word to take center stage—that is exactly what He will do... He will lift you higher.

## SEPTEMBER 2008 Week 3 Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Please forgive me for the things I have thought, felt, said, and done that were contrary to Your will, and hear me, O' God, as I make the desires of my heart known before Your throne. Lord at this very moment I yield my will for Yours, because I realize that Your desire for my good and well-being are far greater than my own. I also know that You will do exceedingly abundantly above all I could ask or think, and that even though it may not feel like it at times, You are causing all things to work together for my benefit . As I read and learn more about Jesus Christ, help me to allow the reality of all that he accomplished to really sink deep in my heart. I want to be rooted in his love because I know that it is truly the only way to love myself. Through Christ I can put on more and more of Your kind of love, and I thank you for the privilege of doing so. Help me to understand true humility as I move higher in spiritual knowledge, so that when people see me they see an earnest representation of Your son. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

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**Scriptures link to [New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)**

## SEPTEMBER 2008 WEEK3 Scriptures:

Day 1: <a href="#">Romans 8:15</a>	Day 4: <a href="#">Eph 1:11-13</a>	Day 7: <a href="#">Acts 1:4</a>
Day 2: <a href="#">1Cor 15:57,58</a>	Day 5: <a href="#">James 4:10</a>	
Day 3: <a href="#">Ephesians 1:5</a>	Day 6: <a href="#">Romans 5:2</a>	

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## Spiritual Focus for the Month of SEPTEMBER 2008:

*Honoring Relationships*

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### WEEK3Prayer FOCUS:

*To value ourselves through the love of Christ*

*(Remember to pray for those on the SMS Prayer List.)*

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