

The Victory of Faith

Series: Victorious #3

Hebrews 11:25-28; Exodus 8-10

Introduction: I hope you know that the most important thing for you and me on earth is to please God. If you please God, it really doesn't matter who you displease. And if you displease God, it really doesn't matter whom you please.

And the way to please God is to believe God. No matter what else you do, if you don't believe God, you can't please God. Hebrews 11:6 says, *'And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.'*

Suppose you were to say a lot of nice things about me, and then you said, **"But there's just one thing about you, I can't believe what you say."**

If you say you can't believe what I say, then it really doesn't make much difference what else you say about me. You see if a person is not trustworthy, he has no character. We all can come to church week after week and say all sorts of nice things about God; God is good, God is great, God is love, God is kind, God is this, and God is that, but if you don't believe God, you're saying the bible isn't true and God must be a liar. **If you want to please God, then believe God; and that takes FAITH.**

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. Faith is trusting God's word to the point of obedience, whether you believe it, understand it or like it. The primary reason to trust Jesus and have faith is because of Love. Jesus said if you love me, you will obey me.

Last week we talked about the *Victory of Love*, two weeks ago, the message was, **"The Battle Belongs to the Lord."** Today we're going to talk about **The Victory of Faith.**

Turn please to the book of Hebrews, chapter 11:25-28 [These verses are talking about the faith of Moses], **25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace**

for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel." **LET'S PRAY**

Let's be clear about something, the Bible says, *'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.'*

You may be a rich sinner or you may be a poor sinner, you may be a young sinner, or you may be an old sinner, you may be a moral sinner, you may be an immoral sinner, you may be a religious sinner, you may be an atheist sinner.

But something needs to be done about your sin. I wouldn't expect anyone to stand up in Congress and say, 'the problem is sin.' I wouldn't expect a professor in a secular Ivy League school to say, 'Sirs, I have finally found the problem with mankind. It's sin.' And I wouldn't expect anybody to come running out of a laboratory with a test tube and say, 'I've found the cause of sickness and disease, It's sin.' Even the security council of the U.N. is not going to say, 'The problem in the world and the problem between nations is sin.'

We have a war on poverty. A war on inequality. Race wars. Immigration. There are wars and rumors of war. There is last days problems going on that Jesus warned us about, but we don't need a war on these issues as much as we need a war on sin.

STORY: Years ago, 80 soldiers from Fort Nix were fighting a forest fire, a fire that had gotten out of control. And they were trapped. It appears the flames had encircled them, and they could find no way out. An unknown pilot, flying a light plane, flying over, swooped back and forth several times and then he dropped three weighted notes from the cockpit in the middle of those 80 soldiers. Those notes gave direction to these men how they could escape because the pilot had seen from above a flame lined corridor through which they may go and escape.

When they read those notes, they did not question the pilot's authority, they did not argue with him, they simply dropped their tools and fled through that

corridor, and they were saved because there was a message from above. It was a message from the only one that understood their situation.

We have that kind of message today from above, from the Word of God and it would be wise for us to listen to the only one who knows the way out of our human dilemma. Faith gives us victory over sin

The first part of Hebrews 11:27 says, '***By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger;***' [NIV]

Now Egypt in the Bible is synonymous with sin. Egypt is a picture of the land of bondage...the land of Sin. The land of darkness. The land of tradition. And it is used symbolically in the Bible to picture the sinful world. And therefore, Pharaoh, who was the king of Egypt is used symbolically in the Bible to represent the devil, who tries to keep us in the land of bondage and darkness.

God said to Moses, 'Moses, I have chosen you to lead my chosen people out of the land of bondage, out of the land of darkness, out of the land of sin and into the Promised Land. Now, Moses came to Pharaoh and gave him the message; '**Let my people go.**' Pharaoh refused, and we have a picture of anybody who decides to be saved. Anybody who decides to come out of the world, the old life, the land of bondage and darkness, to claim the promises of God, and enjoy the possessions of God.

Turn with me to the book of Exodus in Old Testament and I want to show you what happened when Moses tried to forsake Egypt. Turn to Exodus chapter 8.

I'm going to show you how Pharaoh, who represents the devil, suggested FOUR COMPROMISES to try to keep the children of Israel from going all the way to the Promises Land to fulfill their destiny.

Exodus 8:1 says, "**Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'**"

Pharaoh says no and God sends plagues of Nile River turning to blood, frogs, gnats, flies until Pharaoh has offers them the first of four compromises.

Let me just say that these compromises are samples of the temptations which Satan uses to hinder and prevent Christians from becoming true Christ-followers.

In Exodus, chapter 8:25-26, you'll find the first of these compromises.

And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron [Moses' brother], and said, *'Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land." 26 But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the Lord our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?*

Underscore that. **Sacrifice to your God here in the land.**

I. The Compromise to Serve God with UNCOMMITTED WORSHIP.

Which land is he talking about? He's talking about the land of Egypt. Remember Egypt represents sin, Pharaoh represents Satan, and Pharaoh says to Moses, it's alright if you want to be religious. It's alright if you want to go to church and worship God but do it here in Egypt.

Don't make a clean break with the world. Don't come out of Egypt just stay here in the land of darkness, superstition, slavery, in the land of bondage, and worship God right here.

This means getting saved if you want to, but don't break off your yoke with darkness; don't break off your connection with sin. Enjoy both worlds.

You can take the things of Egypt and refine them and fix them up. You can dress Egypt up, you can decorate Egypt, **just don't desert Egypt.**

Now, what does that tell us? It tells us that when God calls us to be saved the devil will come along with his first compromise and say, it's alright for you to be religious if there's no repentance, no new birth and no divine change.

Did you know that the devil doesn't mind you being religious. As a matter of fact, he's in favor of it. The devil had rather have you be religious and lost than an addict. Did you know that. The addict is a poor advertisement for the devil.

Just so you know, the first temptation in the garden of Eden was a religious temptation. Satan said to Eve, eat this forbidden fruit and then your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.

That's not a temptation to **fall down**; it was a temptation to **fall up**. To be like God. A religious temptation. The devil can send you to hell from the pew or the gutter. It makes no differences to him as long as you stay in Egypt.

So long as you have education rather than regeneration. So long as you keep turning over a new leaf, rather than getting a new life IN CHRIST.

There are millions of people who have taken religion and tacked it on to their lives, and they are still in Egypt, there has been no break with the world. There has been no redemption, there has been no deliverance, they are very religious and they are very lost.

Satan wants to make us believe that all peoples, of all faiths should come together, but remember that the Lord said to his disciples, **"you are not of this world, but I have chosen you out of the world."** [Jn 15:19]

Most people need to turn from religion to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Remember this. It was a religious crowd that crucified Jesus. Now, the devil says, "I don't mind you being religious.

This is one of the compromises that the devil would like us to make, to serve God with Uncommitted Worship. When God called up out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Pet 2:9), He expected us to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

The first compromise to is to serve God with UNCOMMITTED WORSHIP.

Notice the second compromise in Exodus 8:28 says, "Pharaoh said, ***"I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far."*** [NIV]

II. The Compromise to Serve God with an UNCOMMITTED WILL.

Pharaoh's desire was for them not to go out of his reach, and keep them close enough to Egypt, so that he might easily draw them back again. Borderline Christianity is a great tool for Satan.

A man that is neither in or out for God. He has no power at all for anything, but to make trouble. He is respected by no one, neither by the Christian or the worldly person.

Lot is a perfect example of a "borderline believer" who pitched his tent close to Sodom and Gomorrah. We all know too well how Satan ruined his life and testimony, and how things turned out for him and his family, because of their close ties and worldly influences with those unbelieving, sinful Sodomites.

Satan will try this same strategy with us. He will say: Be a Christian, but don't go too far with your Christianity. Beware of becoming narrow-minded. Avoid extremes; do not be fanatical; be sane and sensible in your religious life.

Just so you know, God doesn't want you camped out in the wilderness. He's called you to go all the way to the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey. The devil is saying, if you are going to be saved don't be a fanatic about it. And whatever you, don't be Pentecostal, don't be Spirit-filled, don't pray for miracles, just keep your Christianity to yourself.

Go ahead and be saved, but don't go very far. Just settle down in the suburbs of sin, and once you get out, you just settle down and when you want to make an excursion back into Egypt, just think how easy it will be.

And there are a lot of people who want to do this. I mean they want to be saved because they don't want to go to hell, but they're not all that interested in going to heaven either. They're like the little kid who prayed, Lord, make me good, not too good, just good enough not to get a spanking. And there are a lot of people that want a little fire insurance.

God doesn't want us to do that. God wants us to be separate. The Bible says in Exodus chapter 11, verse 7, '**...the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.**' The Bible says, '**come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.**' [II Cor. Chapter 6:14].

The problem with many people is that once they get saved, they stay so close to Egypt, they're so worldly, that you can't tell whether they're an Israelite or an Egyptian. We call them worldly Christians. Billy Sunday said to speak of a worldly Christian is strange. You might as well talk about a heavenly devil.

You talk about someone who's miserable, it's a person who's come out of Egypt and camped right there in the wilderness. He's got just enough religion to keep him from being happy in the world and too much of the world to keep him from being happy in Christ. And he/she is miserable.

Jesus word to the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:15, is, ***'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.'*** [NIV]

God says, You're not for me. You're not against Me. You're straddling the fence. You've come out of Egypt but you are lukewarm and God says you make me sick. Lukewarm Christians are the alibi of the lost. They're a disgrace to God.

We're a disgrace to grace when we're lukewarm toward Christ.

If the devil cannot get you to serve God with uncommitted worship, or an uncommitted will, he doesn't give up easily. He's got another compromise up his sleeve.

In Exodus 10, verse 8; ***'Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the Lord your God," he said. "But tell me who will be going." 9Moses answered, "We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord.'***

10Pharaoh said, "The Lord be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil. 11No! Have only the men go, and worship the Lord, since that's what you have been asking for.'

III. The Compromise to Serve God with UNCOMMITTED WITNESS.

Pharaoh was saying well, it's alright for the men to go, but don't take everyone. I'm afraid for them. He's trying to keep them from taking their entire family. You see the devil hates family religion. If the devil can't keep you from being saved, if the devil can't keep you from leaving Egypt and going all the way to the Promised Land, he'll try to get you to leave someone behind.

We need to learn the lesson this morning from the Word of God that when Moses by faith forsook Egypt, he took his loved ones with him. Are you taking your loved ones with you? Is your father saved? Your mother saved? Your son saved? Your daughter saved? Your brother saved? Your sister saved?

The Bible puts such an emphasis upon household religion. Do you remember in Acts, the 16th chapter, when Paul and Silas were there in prison and God sent a mighty earthquake to shake that prison and the prison guard got under conviction. He came in with a light and said, ***Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***

We quote that answer in Acts 16:31 but many times we don't quote it all. It says, 'They replied, ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"***

But that's not all it says, ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."*** They did believe and they were saved.

Let me give you another verse. Genesis 7, and verse 1—When the ark was ready, God said to Noah— ***"Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation."*** Noah, it's not enough for you to get into the ark, I want you to bring your family with you.

We read in the book of Joshua, chapter 24:15; Joshua is standing before the Children of Israel declaring his faith and he says, ***'But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'*** [NIV]

When Cornelius was under conviction, God spoke to that Roman centurion, and we read in Acts 11, verse 14-- ***where God tells him to send for Peter, who shall tell the words whereby you and all your house may be saved.'***

The devil doesn't want you to get your children saved, your husband saved, your wife saved, your parents saved. I tell you we'd have a revival if just those that are seated in this congregation were to see their lost loved ones saved.

If you raised your children in the Lord, then keep praying and trusting God's promise that they will come to the Lord. Maybe the reason that some of our loved ones aren't saved, is because we're camped just outside Egypt. We're so worldly that we talk the Christian talk, but don't walk the Christ-like walk.

Catherine Booth was the wife of William Booth who founded the Salvation Army. When William Booth was on trial because of some of his ways and methods that upset the religious leaders, she was up there in the balcony. When they said, William Booth, will you do what we tell you to do? Catherine Booth stood up and waved her handkerchief and said, William, say no!

Do you know what Catherine Booth, this little saint of God, prayed? She said, **God, I will not stand before you without all my children.** No wonder everyone of Catherine Booth's children were saved and became preachers of the Gospel. She had a stubborn and godly determination.

The devil, if he can't keep you from going and if he can't keep you from going all the way, he'll try to get you to leave some loved ones behind.

But Moses wasn't buying that. He wouldn't take the Salvation Compromise, he wouldn't take the Separation Compromise, and he wouldn't take the Soul-winning Compromise either.

He said, we're going...we're going all the way. And all of us are going.

But old Pharaoh, the devil, was not finished. Turn to Exodus 10:24 for the final compromise. ***'Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the Lord. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."***

If you're going to take the children, just go ahead and take them, but leave your flocks and your herds behind.

“And Moses said. 25But Moses said, “You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the Lord our God. 26Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind.”

IV. The Compromise to Serve God with UNCOMMITTED WEALTH.

What Pharaoh said was: if you're going, and if you're going all the way, and if all of you are going, well, at least leave your material wealth in Egypt. When the devil can't hinder you from leaving the kingdom of darkness, he tries to sabotage your influence for good.

Leave your substance...that's what he's talking about; their flocks, their herds, that represents their material wealth. It takes substance to serve God. The Israelites, nor we, can serve God acceptably without personal sacrifice.

What a fast one the devil has pulled on so many people. They've gotten saved and they're committed Christians except for one thing. God has never really gotten hold of their wealth.

There are many Christians who not only believe in separation of Church and state, but they also believe also in separation of Church and business. They don't want their wealth committed unto the Lord. And the devil is very clever.

The devil knows that if God doesn't have your treasure, he really doesn't have your heart, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

You know sometimes when you talk about money, and I probably don't do it enough. But most of the time, if preachers talk about money, someone will say, *‘I wish he would quit talking about money and just preach the Bible.’*

Just so you know, if I preached as much in the Bible as there is about money, you would probably think I preached on it every Sunday. One out of very six verses in the four gospels deal with the right and wrong relationships of man to material possessions...16 of the 38 parables that Jesus gave dealt with man's relationship with material things and his right and wrong use of his money.

Moses knew that he could not separate his wealth from his God. For God owns it all. Psalm 50: 10-12 tells us why Moses said we're taking our flocks with us.

“...for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. 12If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.”
[NIV]

You say, well I earned it. You did. With whose strength? Whose raw material? Whose brain? Whose breathe? Whose water? Whose Air? The earth is the Lord's. It all belongs to God. **If we would only learn that tithing is not something that we do for God, it is something God does for us.**

The Bible says in Malachi 3:10 says, ***“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”***

Somebody says, do you think the widow living on social security ought to tithe? God doesn't need that money, but she needs to give to see God move in her life. She needs to learn she can do more with 9/10ths and God as a partner than she can do with 10/10ths by herself.

It's just a matter of faith. The tithe is only symbolic of the Lord. Don't get the idea you can give God a tenth and spend the other 9/10ths any way you want. Oh, no, it all belongs to God. The tithe-the tenth-is only your indication that you're obeying God and desire His blessing on everything that you have.

You're never going to know victory in your spiritual life and you're never going to know the blessings God wants you to give you until you get honest with God about your finances. Don't leave your wealth back in Egypt. Take it with you.

One other thing, the animals speak of 'blood sacrifice.' **The devil know that pleasing God is impossible if it is not consecrated by blood. Any service to God without the shed blood of Christ applied to the worshipper is unacceptable.**

I like what Moses says. Look Exodus 10:26. ***“Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind.”***

We're going. We're all going. We're going all the way and everything we've got is going with us. Every cow, every hair, every horn, every hoof, we're going!

Now what would happen if we had a generation of Christians to say all that in this day and this age? I say it would be REVIVAL!

CONCLUSION:

Go back to Hebrews where we started. Now, look again at verse 27. How did Moses do this? How did he stand in front of the mightiest king on the face of the earth, Pharaoh, and have the audacity to confront him in such a way? The writer of Hebrews tells us.

'By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible.'

He saw another king. He had his eyes on the invisible king, the only wise God, immortal, invisible. He saw God by faith. How can a man see the invisible? By faith. **And when you see the invisible, you'll know the unknowable and when you know the unknowable, you'll do the impossible.**

And that's exactly what Moses did because he had his eyes upon God. Do you know the reason that you're afraid of anything? You're not afraid of God.

Pharaoh disputed every inch of Israel's way out of the land of Egypt! He first sought to keep them in the land, then to keep them near the land, next, to keep part of them in the land, and finally, when he could not succeed in any of these three, he sought to send them forth without any substance to serve God.

The devil still uses those same temptations today to make us compromise our walk with God.

When you fear the Lord you don't have to fear anybody else. The man who can kneel before God can stand before anybody or anything. And by faith he endured, by seeing Him that's invisible. You see, faith is the organ of the soul. Faith is to the spirit what eyes and ears are to the body.

God created you so that your spirit would respond to God the same way that your eye responds to light and your ear responds to sound.

You can refuse to see God if you want. But I tell you right now, if you'll just open the eyes of faith, God will reveal Himself to you.

You can't make yourself believe. You couldn't believe unless God were to reveal Himself to you, but He will.

You say I'm not going to believe anything unless I can see it and touch it. Then you'll die and go straight to hell. The Bible says, can a man by reasoning find out God? He cannot. There's one thing everybody can do. And that's have faith in God. A child can do it, an adult can do it, the scholar can do it. Isn't that great? Isn't that wonderful? That's the reason it's by faith!

And how did Moses come out of Egypt? By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king for he endured as by seeing Him who is invisible, immortal, eternal, our God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's bow our heads together in prayer.