

# STEPS TO VICTORY

LORDS WILLING, FOR THE REST OF THIS WEEK WE WILL OFFER A SERIES OF MESSAGES DESIGNED TO OVERCOME ANY SITUATION YOU ARE FACING: THESE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES WILL WORK, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WHETHER YOU'RE TRYING TO OVERCOME DEPRESSION, RECOVER FROM THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, STRUGGLING WITH DIVORCE, FINANCES, TRYING TO **LOSE WEIGHT**, or KICK A NASTY HABIT. IF APPLIED, THEY WILL ALSO IMPROVE YOUR OVERALL WELL-BEING. IF YOU'RE FACING HEALTH ISSUES THEY WILL STILL HELP, BUT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CHECK WITH AND SEEK YOUR DOCTOR'S ADVICE

**MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016**

## ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

When someone has undergone a traumatic life-altering experience like the loss of a loved one, divorce, lost custody of their children, loss of a job, loss of a home, WHAT IS **THE FIRST THING** THEY NEED TO DO?

This ministry is not above giving **practical** advice.

Some individuals are SO spiritually minded that they're NO EARTHLY GOOD.

We can have the greatest experiences and revelations in the world, but if they serve NO PRACTICAL PURPOSE to those trapped in this lie called "time", they are **OF NO USE** to anyone but us.

And ministry is **ALL about SERVING** Jesus **and OTHERS.**

I get hit with a barrage of emails each morning and another barrage in the evening after I finish my day job.

Some are very encouraging and complimentary (thank you!), some are critical and downright vicious, some are beyond silly, some contain questions about the Bible and Bible prophecy, and some ASK FOR COUNSEL about various personal situations.

I'm **NOT** a "KNOW IT ALL".

There's **A LOT** that **I DON'T** know.

However, I've learned a few things from walking with Jesus all these years, listening to His most Holy Spirit, studying His Word, and from just EXISTING.

The FIRST thing we need to do when we survive some personal trauma, and as soon as we are able to think rationally again, is **THE SAME THING THAT GOD DID IN GENESIS chapter 1:**

**Re-establish ORDER out of CHAOS.**

satan had wreaked havoc on this earth and devastated it during his rebellion (Isaiah 14:20):

It was barren and empty, covered with water, immersed in darkness, and in a totally chaotic state. (Genesis 1:2)

And **THE FIRST THING** God does is **END THE CHAOS:**

1. God determined THE END (His ULTIMATE GOAL, where He wanted this whole thing to END) (Isaiah 46:10)

You need to **DEFINE YOUR GOALS** and decide **HOW AND WHERE** you want your earthly life experience to end.

2. Then God **BROUGHT LIGHT TO SHINE** on the **darkness** that covered this planet.

LIGHT ALWAYS **DRIVES OUT** DARKNESS: LIGHT ALWAYS **OVERPOWERS** DARKNESS: LIGHT **ALWAYS PREVAILS OVER** DARKNESS. (John 1:4-5)

Pause and meditate **on THAT** for a moment.

If you want to establish order, **YOU NEED TO SEE CLEARLY.**

And you CANNOT see clearly in darkness. **You need to SHINE THE LIGHT OF THE ETERNAL GOSPEL into your own heart and mind:**

If you haven't received Christ into your heart, **YOU NEED TO DO SO NOW.**

**Not next week, not "tomorrow", but RIGHT NOW.**

And if you have done so before, you need to RE-COMMIT your heart and entire life TO HIM – and REALLY mean it!

The principle is given BY JESUS HIMSELF in Matthew 6:33:

**"Seek FIRST** the Kingdom of God:

and **His Righteousness plus ALL THESE THINGS will be ADDED** to you".

3. Then GOD sets out TO RESTORE the planet **METHODICALLY:**

GOD – and He is **ALL-MIGHTY— DID NOT try to DO IT ALL AT ONCE.**

Repeat: God, being the Almighty One, DID NOT try to do it **ALL at once.**

And if you try to fix **EVERYTHING** in your life at once, you will feel OVERWHELMED and defeated BEFORE you even start.

The task before you will seem INSURMOUNTABLE, and you'll become discouraged and simply throw in the towel.

**Instead of looking AT YOUR SITUATION AS A WHOLE, divide it into A SERIES OF SMALLER STEPS.**

**MAKE A LIST** of the various steps you need to take in order to get from WHERE YOU ARE to WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.

List them in the order you need to take them, in order to right the situation.

Then PRIORITIZE: assign A NUMBER to each step, in order of importance.

Then **IMPLEMENT** those steps, **ONE AT A TIME.**

That's what **GOD** did:

He gathered the waters in one place one day and re-established dry land, the next day He restored vegetation, the next He established certain ordinances in the sky, the following day He replenished the waters with fish and other aquatic creatures, created all manner of birds, then land animals and, finally He created man in His own Image (Genesis 1:1-27).

**Then, and ONLY then, were they able to “BE FRUITFUL and MULTIPLY” (Genesis 1:28).**

The same principles apply to your life.

We never go wrong by following GOD’S EXAMPLE.

But we’re not finished yet.

Come back tomorrow for further instructions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016

## **OFFENSE OR DEFENSE**

Whether you’ve experienced some personal tragedy, financial loss, are trying to lose weight, break a nasty habit, or tackle some other **DISORDER** in your life, **as long as things in your life are OUT OF ORDER, it’s almost impossible for you to overcome and get ahead.**

**When things ARE NOT up to date, that’s DISORDER.**

**If you’re playing “catch up” all the time, that’s DEFENSE, NOT offense.**

**When you play DEFENSE you CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS.**

When we play DEFENSE we're NOT ADVANCING, we're retreating or, at best, STAYING IN THE SAME POSITION.

When we're playing DEFENSE we live IN FEAR.

And when we LIVE IN FEAR, we give satan license to kill, steal, destroy and bring EVEN MORE havoc and destruction to our lives.

Things MUST be brought to order, and UP TO DATE.

This may involve GETTING RID OF a lot of junk.

That "junk" can be emotional, financial, or material in nature: or a combination of all three.

Show me a person who PACKS JUNK – who "saves" everything, never GIVES AWAY or throws away anything – and I'll show you someone LIVING IN FEAR and **battered mercilessly by satan**.

You can't even think clearly when you DON'T KNOW where anything is, or when you're piling junk that you never use.

**LET IT GO!!!**

Junk **IS** chaos and CONFUSION. **Get rid of it!**

If you don't want to throw it out, then **GIVE IT AWAY.**

Another important part of restoring order is FINANCES.

If you got a ton of past due bills, creditors calling or knocking on your door, your bank account is overdrawn, and you can't pay your mortgage, rent or phone...

Needless to say your finances ARE OUT OF ORDER. They need to be restored to order.

If the situation is extreme, as I just described, you may have to file bankruptcy or work with a credit company to work out a long-term payment plan.

If it hasn't gotten to that point, then **you need to take action NOW**, bring your accounts up to date, and **GET OUT OF DEBT ASAP.**

If your income barely covers living expenses, then get a part time job and **EVERY EXTRA DIME you earn should go toward debt reduction.**

Start by paying off the credit card **with the highest APR and smallest balance.**

When that is paid off, then apply **WHATEVER YOU WERE PAYING TOWARD THAT CARD** to the next one, and so on.

Everyone should have A LIST of **WHAT IS DUE each month, and the EXACT DUE DATE.**

Payments should be made **BEFORE** that due date.

And please **DO NOT NEGLECT** personal hygiene: bathe or shower **DAILY**, brush your teeth, use deodorant, groom your hair, splash on **A LITTLE** perfume or after shave, and wear clean clothes, including underwear.

You'll **FEEL BETTER**, and more confident, and others will respond accordingly.

**FEAR AND CONFUSION (DISORDER) are of satan, NOT OF GOD.**

And, unless we **ELIMINATE BOTH**, it's going to be nearly impossible to forge ahead.

**When you BRING ORDER to your life, you BRING ORDER to YOUR MIND, and everything else will follow:**

Your finances will straighten out, so will your life, so will your health, and so will your weight.



We will deal with weight loss in another message.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016**

# **FACE IT**

**DON'T run away: FACE IT.**

We get into drugs, alcohol, infidelity, AND OTHER UNWISE PURSUITS -- we become shopaholics, we overeat, in order to “run away” from problems: **to run away from things that we DO NOT WANT TO FACE.**

**We DON'T WANT TO face that mess at home, or the chaotic condition in our lives, or the financial stress, so we try to ESCAPE...**

**And THE MORE we “run away” THE WORSE things get.**

**After the effects of such negative activities vanish, after you recover from the hangover, your problems will still be there, only BIGGER and DEEPER.**

**Running away will AGGRAVATE your situation. It WILL NOT SOLVE IT.**

And I understand that **FACING** our temporary “reality” can be enormously difficult, **BUT IT’S ABSOLUTE MUST** in order to **GET OUT** of the mess in which you find yourself.

Again: **FACING IT is ABSOLUTE MUST** in order to **OVERCOME IT.**

How can you “arrive” at a permanent solution, when you don’t know where you’re going, or **FROM WHERE?**

**DON’T** try to “escape” by drinking, smoking, boozing, visiting bars and night clubs, maxing out your credit cards, or watching porn.

**NONE OF THAT** will fix your situation.

Those things and places offer **ONLY VERY TEMPORARY** relief, at best.

And what little relief they offer will be **OFFSET** by the misery they bring.

You have to **FACE your situation HEAD ON.**

You have to **FACE IT** realistically, and **HONESTLY.**

If you do that, **YOU’RE OVERCOMING FEAR,** and **ON YOUR WAY TO VICTORY.**

If you refuse, you can **COUNT ON** things going from bad to worse.

Don't run away, **DON'T SWEEP IT UNDER THE RUG, DON'T TRY TO "ESCAPE"**:

**FACE IT!!!**

**THIS** is where I am, **THIS** is who I am, and **THIS** is where it **ENDS**.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016**

# **SERVE OTHERS**

Serving Jesus and others is therapeutic. And I'm not "just saying" that.

It **REALLY** is!

Show me a **SELF-ABSORBED** individual, who **ONLY** thinks about him or herself, and I'll show you someone who is – at the very least – **USELESS**, depressed, and **DEFEATED**.

**SELF-CENTERED INDIVIDUALS** are **DEAD ENDS**.

Stuff flows **INTO** them, but **NEVER OUT of them**.

And **DEAD ENDS** lead **NOWHERE**.

Look at people who are successful by world standards, and **THEY ALL ENGAGE IN PHILANTHROPY** of some sort.

They **ALL** donate time, resources and money **TO CHARITABLE CAUSES** that **HELP OTHERS**:

Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, the late Steven Jobs, Donald Trump...

They may not necessarily support the causes you or I would support, **BUT THEY GIVE TO OTHERS** nonetheless.

Look at the people that God used mightily in the Bible, **WHO WERE MINISTERIAL SUCCESSES**:

**THEY GAVE, AND GAVE, AND GAVE** of themselves **TO OTHERS**.

Jesus said that the **FIRST, and MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT, IS TO LOVE GOD** with **ALL** our heart, strength, and might.

And the second is similar: **TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, as we love OURSELVES.**

When we're **SELFISH** we do **NEITHER**.

The ONE SURE WAY TO REMAIN in that negative situation is TO FOCUS ONLY ON YOURSELF.

If you're depressed, THE WORST thing you can do is flop into a chair, BECOME A COUCH POTATO, and sulk.

The WORST thing you can do is indulge in a PERMANENT PITY PARTY: "woe is me, poor me, look what he/she/they did to me, look at what's happened to me":

Me, me, me, me, me and **me!**

SERVING OTHERS GETS OUR OWN PROBLEMS off our minds for a while so we can approach them with a FRESH perspective.

It also helps us see that "we are NOT the only ones" who face challenges and needs.

It's also PART OF the Gospel of Grace.

Serving others **MAKE US USEFUL!**

And **if we FEEL and ARE USEFUL, then we CANNOT see ourselves as FAILURES.**

Again: When we help OTHERS, we DO NOT see ourselves as FAILURES.

After all, if we can **HELP THEM** OVERCOME **THEIR** problems, THEN WE CAN ALSO OVERCOME **OURS.**

Get off your pity pot, DUST YOURSELF OFF, and **HELP SOMEONE ELSE WITH THEIR needs.**

Do it in Jesus' Name and for Jesus' glory!

**THAT** gives purpose to your life.

**THAT** makes **you** **SUCCESSFUL.**

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

We can blame Adam, blame Eve, blame satan for what happened in Eden, **but GOD ULTIMATELY ASSUMED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for man's sin HIMSELF.**

That's why Jesus **DIED ON THE CROSS** and rose from the dead.

I'm NOT saying that God is to blame for what went down in Eden.

But the fact remains that He KNEW "in advance" what would happen and He allowed it.

Likewise, **YOU need to take PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for what happened to you.**

You may not be the main culprit.

But even if you were “the victim” in the situation, I promise THAT YOU – not him, not her, not them, **but YOU bear SOME responsibility.**

(The ONLY exception I can think of is if something awful happened to you as a small child.)

We bear SOME responsibility for whatever has happened in our lives when we were teenagers and adults.

YOU NEED TO **FACE IT** AND **ACCEPT IT.**

It may not be mostly your fault but YOU PLAYED A ROLE somehow, someday.

You bear **SOME** responsibility for what happened.

Even if it's just **that YOU ALLOWED IT** to happen.

It COULD BE that you **made the wrong CHOICE.**

It could be that you just “gave in” and chose the path of least resistance.

It COULD BE that you KNEW your choice WAS **IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL** and you went ahead with it anyway.

Born-again Christians who marry non-Christians or marry members of a "Christian" cult, ARE **DELIBERATELY DISOBEYING** God's orders. (2 Corinthians 6;14)

They're also **asking for trouble**.

Don't just blame your spouse, your ex, your boss, your parents, your siblings, or your lawyer.

**Take personal responsibility for whatever role you played in the situation**, whether small or large.

Repent: receive forgiveness, and **LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKE**.

Then **FORGIVE YOURSELF**.

If you don't **FACE YOUR SHARE** of the blame, whether small or large, **YOU ARE IN DENIAL**.

**DENIAL is A LIE**.

**ONLY THE TRUTH** will set us free.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016**

# **PRAISE JESUS!**

Praise Jesus every single day, and MEAN IT.

I'm not talking about ritualistic "empty" praise.

I'm talking about **REAL praise that comes from your heart**, which OVERFLOWS from the deepest recesses of your being.

You get FOUR BENEFITS in one:

1. Praise exalts God, elevates you.
2. It REPELS satan
3. Praise CHANGES the atmosphere.
4. No evil spirit will hang REMOTELY NEAR a person or place filled with God's praises.

# **ELIMINATE FEAR**

**CHOOSE to walk in God's Divine, SUPERNATURAL Love.**

**His love is NOT natural human love.**

**His Love is SUPERNATURAL.**

**His love is THE FRUIT OF His Holy Spirit.**  
(Galatians 5:22)

**And, if you're born-again, God's supernatural love is already INSIDE YOU.** (Romans 5:5)

Ask the Holy Spirit to manifest His Love in you **AT ALL TIMES.**

**Perfect Love which is God's Love (as in God Himself) CASTS OUT FEAR.** (1 John 4:18)

**By casting out FEAR, it CASTS OUT SATAN, and SLAMS THE DOOR ON HIS UGLY FACE** (2 Timothy 1:7).

### **CONFESS GOD'S WORD**

Find God's promises that deal with your situation.

Confess the Word of God **OUT LOUD** each day.

**His Word RESTORES your soul (and, as a result, restores YOUR LIFE)**

**His Word CLEANSSES and flushes out ALL the spiritual and emotional toxins that have accumulated.**

**His Word causes FAITH (TRUST, deeply-rooted CONVICTION).** (Romans 10:17)

His Word HAS THE ANSWER to WHATEVER you are facing.

His Word (Jesus) is YOUR SALVATION – not only from hell or eternal damnation, but **your SALVATION IN THE HERE AND NOW.**

His Word is THE SOLUTION to WHATEVER you're facing.

To recap, the steps out of that mess in which you find yourself are:

1. Re-establish ORDER out of chaos:

**HAVE A STEP-BY-STEP PLAN** to reach victory, and implement it **ONE** step at a time.

2. **DON'T FALL BEHIND** on anything: bring **EVERYTHING** up to date. Play **OFFENSE NOT DEFENSE.**

3. **FACE IT**

4. **SERVE OTHERS.**

5. **ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

6. **PRAISE JESUS**

7. **ELIMINATE FEAR**

## 8. CONFESS the Word

Say **OUT LOUD** what GOD SAYS about your situation.

These steps **WILL WORK** for anyone.

Yes, they'll work **FOR YOU.**



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