



TOM LEDING MINISTRIES

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Dear Partner,

Years ago the devil started a rumor. He told a few Christians that as long as they lived in the world they had to suffer as the world did. He told them they had to share the diseases, the defeat, the poverty and the failures of those around them. He told them to not even hope to escape those things (not until they got to heaven anyway)...that to do so would be selfish.

It was a crafty lie and it worked. Christians accepted it and began to spread it among themselves. You may have even heard it yourself. If so, I want to help you put that rumor to rest today. I want to help you get the facts straight once and for all. You see, despite what you may have heard; health, prosperity and victorious living aren't concepts some comfort-hungry believers selfishly dreamed up. They are God's ideas.

Since the beginning of time, God has desired for His family on earth to enjoy those things. He has longed for a people who would take Him up on His many gracious promises and live in victory over the beggarly elements of this world. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, He's made it possible for us to do that. As 1 John 5:4 says, "*Whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.*" (The Amplified Bible)

The simple truth is if you are born of God you have what it takes to live in victory. Don't let the devil talk you into anything less! You may say, "That sounds good, Tom, but we have to be realistic. We live in a world that is full of problems. As long as we live in this world, it seems to me we are going to have our share of them."

Yes, that is true. Even Jesus said, "*In the world you have tribulation, trials, distress and frustration...*" But notice, He didn't stop there! He went on to say, "*...but be of good cheer (take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted)! For I have overcome the world. (I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you)*" John 16:33 (The Amplified Bible)

Most Christians don't have any trouble believing the first part of that verse. They know all too well how many tribulations, trials, distresses and frustrations surround them. But they are less certain about the last part. They haven't yet experienced for themselves exactly what Jesus meant when He said He had deprived those things of the power to harm them. The reason they haven't had that experience is because they are still living as though they are a part of the world.

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Let me show you what I mean. In John 17:15-17, as He was praying for all of us who would become His disciples, Jesus said, *“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

In other words, although you as a Christian must live in the world, Jesus never intended you to live as though you were part of the world. He didn't intend for you to share in its sins, its sicknesses, its poverty or its perversions.

You see, there are two kingdoms in operation on this earth. There is the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Light. As children of God, you and I are citizens of the Kingdom of Light – even though we are surrounded by darkness. Some people make the mistake of thinking they won't be able to live in the Kingdom of Light until they die and go to heaven. But that is not the case. Colossians 1:12-13 makes that clear. It says, *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son...”* Notice the verbs in those verses are past tense. That is because your transference into the Kingdom of Light isn't something that is going to happen to you some day in the future. It is something that happened to you the day you made Jesus the Lord of your life.

You have already been brought out of the darkness into the light. Yes, even though your feet are firmly planted on the earth, as a born-again child of God you are already a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. That citizenship gives you certain rights – including the right to experience victory over all the evils of this world. You are, however, as Jesus said, to be “sanctified” or separated from them.

Just exactly how are you to separate yourself from the world when you are surrounded by it on every side? Look again at that last verse we read in John: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* It is the Word of God that separates you from the world. It is His Word and His Word alone that will set your victory in motion. If you will receive it, believe it, speak it and act on it, that Word will set you apart from those around you. It will take you from trouble to triumph again and again.

We already found in 1 John 5:4 that *“...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”* Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, we could also say that Scripture this way: *“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our believing God's Word.”*

Faith is believing God's Word under any circumstances (and usually **in spite** of circumstances). It is believing God's promises of prosperity, in spite of the negative balance in your bank account. It is believing God's promise of healing, in spite of the pain. I know that sounds tough, and it is at first. But anyone who has lived by faith for very long will tell you that if you will just keep on feeding your mind and your heart with the Word of God, one day that Word will start to take a hold inside of you.

You may be facing some obstacle you haven't quite been able to conquer. You may have prayed about it, read the Word and yet still struggled with doubts. If you will just keep at it, then one day the reality of God's Word concerning that obstacle will start to dawn on you. Suddenly that impossibility you have been dealing with will become a possibility. Victory will start to well up within you from the inside out. You will begin using the Word to draw boundaries around your life, to paint spiritual warning signs for the devil that say: *“Off limits! According to God's Word I don't belong to you any more. My family*

doesn't belong to you. My health doesn't belong to you. My future doesn't belong to you. My money doesn't belong to you. My ministry doesn't belong to you. I belong to a different kingdom. Now, back off in Jesus Name!"

If you will put the Word to work in your life, you can stake out your territory! You can live a life of peace and victory right here in the middle of anxiety and defeat in the world. God gave us a physical illustration of that principle during the time the nation of Israel was held captive in Egypt. Pharaoh had refused to set the Israelites free, so God had allowed a thick darkness to cover the whole land. The darkness was so dreadful throughout Egypt that no one moved for three days.

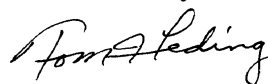
"But," says Exodus 10:23, *"all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."* What a thrilling illustration of how God desires us to live. He desires us to live in the light in spite of the thick darkness around us. God doesn't intend for us to share the ailments of the world. He never had that in His heart for His people. He intends for us to stand out from the rest, to be a living testament of His power and His love. That was His plan for the children of Israel and that is what He has planned for us. Years and years after the Israelites had been delivered from bondage in Egypt, Rahab, the harlot, said to the spies who came to Jericho, *"The Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt... for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."* Joshua 2:10-11

God's fame was established because of the miracles He had worked for His people! The same thing should be true with you and me. We should be glorifying God by the miraculously victorious lives we lead. We should constantly have people telling us, "I've heard how your God saved your children from drugs," or, "I've heard how God healed you."

Can you see now why Satan would try to spread a rumor that would make you believe you have to suffer with the world instead of live as victor over it? Sure you can! He doesn't want the people of the world running after you asking where you get your power, your prosperity, your health and your peace. He doesn't want you to be a living demonstration of the saving power of Jesus Christ, but your heavenly Father does! So don't hold back.

Put the Word of God to work in your life and dare to receive the rich blessings that belong to those who believe and let the light of your life help put the devil's dark rumors to rest.

Your Prayer Partner,



Tom Leding