

UNCHAINED

Part 3

I. INTRO

A. Update from Freedom Service.

- i. Many set free
- ii. Many delivered
- iii. Many graduated from a place of bondage to a place of battle
- iv. "May the Lord, my rock, be praised, **who trains my hands for battle and my fingers for warfare.**" -Psalms 144:1 HCSB

B. Personal Story

- i. Knew and loved God
- ii. Became legalistic and turned away from God
- iii. Stopped calling myself a Christian
- iv. Never did anything really bad
- v. Rededicated my life to Jesus—my "salvation" experience
- vi. Then...most ungodly year of my life (spiritual resistance)
- vii. Became bound in a particular sin
- viii. God began a 6 year process of teaching me who I was apart from my performance

C. Key Thought: **Some miracles come in a touch, others through a walk.**

- i. Never be discouraged when it seems you continue to fight in the same area.
- ii. God leaves "enemies in the land" to teach us to fight.
- iii. **"These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):"** -Judges 3:1-2 NIV
- iv. **"The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you."** -Deuteronomy 7:22 NIV
- v. **But** you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** -1 Timothy 6:11-12 NIV
 - "Take hold" – to seize with force
 - The fight of faith takes place between our ears.
 - Our spirit is reborn in an instant but renewing our mind takes time.

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D. At times your walk of faith will be filled with contradictions.

- i. "For consider Him who endured such **hostility** from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." - Hebrews 12:3 NKJV
- ii. **Hostility** "*antilogia*" – to speak against, opposition, contradiction
- iii. Jesus endured contradictions his whole life.
 - He was the son of God but considered a lowly carpenter
 - He was the son of God but was only considered a teacher or prophet.
 - He was the son of God but was rejected by most.
 - He was the son of God yet was crucified by the very people He came to save.
- iv. It can be hard to understand why...
 - I can lead other's to the Lord but my own family remains resistant to the gospel.
 - Why I was delivered from alcohol but not anger
 - Why other's are getting healed but I am not
 - Why God promised me victory but I continue to fall
- v. If we're not careful, these apparent *contradictions* can lead to discouragement.
- vi. But God's word to us is, "**Don't be afraid. Only believe!**"
 - He wants us to know our identity.
 - He wants us to rely on His grace—not our performance.
 - He wants us to learn to fight FROM victory not FOR it.
- vii. Paul experienced a contradiction in 2 Corinthians 12...
- viii. "...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for my power is made perfect in weakness." -2 Corinthians 12:7-8 NIV
- ix. Key Thought: **Grace is based on the kindness of the giver not the worthiness of the receiver.**

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II. THE POWER OF IDENTITY

- A. The Bible says those who've accepted Jesus are now God's children.
- i. *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." -John 1:12-13 NIV*
 - ii. *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! **And that is what we are!** -1 John 3:1 NIV*
- B. Before Jesus did one thing in ministry, God called him his "beloved son" in whom he was well pleased.
- i. The basis of all our success in fighting the good fight is to do so from our identity as sons.
 - ii. Satan's temptation of Jesus focused on his identity.
 - iii. "If you are the son of God..."
- C. Identity affects how we...
- i. View God, ourselves, our past, our future
 - ii. How we think, speak, act, treat others, and pray
 - iii. How you handle success, failure, and loss
 - iv. React to criticism and false accusation
 - v. Respond to temptation and sin
- D. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, "having predestined us to **adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **to the praise of the glory of His grace**, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." -Ephesians 1:3-6 NKJV*
- i. In Christ we are...
 - Blessed
 - Chosen
 - Adopted
 - ii. It goes on to say that we are redeemed by his blood and have been "sealed" with the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. The victorious Christ-life GRACE BASED.
 - iv. Grace = unmerited, unearned, undeserved kindness and favor of God.
 - v. Indicative Truth – a truth to believe
 - vi. Imperative Truth – a truth to obey
 - We can't live out the imperatives without believing the indicative.

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- Paul always began his letters with WHO before WHAT—who we are before what we're called to do.

E. Key Thought: **Grace depends on the kindness of the giver not the worthiness of the receiver.**

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Don't allow Satan to discourage you with how little you've progressed.
 - i. God is using this battle to teach you how to be victorious by grace.
 - ii. Refuse to compare yourself with others—run your race.
- B. Don't allow Satan to talk you out of your inheritance.
 - i. He'll question your identity because your flesh is weak.
 - ii. He'll tempt you to take shortcuts
- C. Every morning say, "I thank you Father for you love. I receive it today by faith in Jesus name."
- D. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." -Galatians 5:1 NIV