

Word and Spirit! Part 2: "Victims No More!"

Now is the Time! To fully worship... to lay it all down at His feet! "Bring You more than a song!" To fully engage in His work! Find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, to rebuild people... To do some real damage to the kingdom of darkness!

"For this purpose He came (and enabled us), to destroy the works of the evil one!"

Now is the Time! To defeat Misbelief, that the past can hold us back from our future! Victimization! **Disbelief, that with God we stand as a majority force!** We are not a minority force! **Unbelief that, no matter how formidable the giants before us, we will win!** "David meets Goliath, Part 2"

And our success in this warfare will come from a new grasp on the Word and Spirit! Both becoming lifelong companions that we simply cannot live without! Today, Spirit, Word and us coming against the spirit of "Misbelief!"

Misbelief... Wants us to feel "victimized" by circumstances, people, God and the devil! Devil works more on the, "Disbelief and Unbelief" levels... but wants you to feel helpless against him! **By God!** "Oh, why, why, God?" "Why me God?" "Why not them, God?" **By people!** "They changed my life..." **By life circumstances!** "If only" I had a better start! Better life! Better choices! Victim mentality!

Victim Mentality 101: Suggests that somehow you have been singled out... Somehow you have suffered something others don't have to... Always *self-focused*... painfully *self-condemning*... and mostly *self-administered/administrated*... Self-inflicted and nurtured!

Victim Mentality 101 is a learned personality trait in which a person tends to regard him or herself as a victim of the negative actions of others, and to think, speak and act as if that were the case - even in the absence of clear evidence. It requires habitual thought processes and reinforcement to survive. Is primarily learned from family members during childhood. *In the most general sense, a victim is anyone who experiences injury, loss, or misfortune as a result of some event or series of events.* But "bad things" are insufficient for the emergence of a sense of *victimhood*... It requires negative reinforcement... the lack of proper interpretation of what "bad things" are and why they happen... And a sense of pleasure that comes from being "coddled" thru bad things!

Victim Mentality 101 People who have a victim mentality define themselves as: being dramatically harmed... not responsible for the harmful acts... possessing qualities which make them people who "didn't deserve it..." deserving sympathy/special *treatment*... This is crucial to the fall since harmful events are normal life! They need to *believe* they were singled out to justify what comes next!

Victim's Manifest... Different ways/thot's/talk; they... blame others for their current situation! fail to take responsibility to correct the situation! assign negative intentions to others! believe others are more blessed, happier and struggle free. "Why me?" gain short-term pleasure from feeling sorry for themselves and getting pity from others! develop convincing and sophisticated arguments to reinforce their victim status!

Victim Traits... Negative! "The glass is only half full, and someone will probably steal it from me..." **Self-absorbed!** "Don't talk to me until you've walked a mile in my shoes!" **Defensive!** in conversation/ confrontation, hindering the solution and deepening the conflict. **Sour!** Most people are "bad!" "And I'll probably never meet the good ones!" **Non-adventurous!** Unwilling to take risks; exaggerating the likelihood of *another* negative outcome. **Exhibit helplessness!** "Would if I could but I can't so I won't!" Despite faith! **Unhearing!** Just can't hear the helpers love and care! **Self-abasing!** Own worst enemy! **Sad, doleful, hurt!**

Victim Problems... Sickness/disease... from stress/fear! **Eating disorders...** nervous/comfort eating, tormenting anorexia/bulimia! **Low self-esteem...** Lowering of value! **A sense loss of control in life...** drifting, purposeless! **Pessimism, doubt, despair...** nothing works, *not even faith!* **And chronic depression...** Usually the influence of ungodly spirit! Drugs/alcohol only make worse!

In short, victimization is a belief that we can never get over the past; too wounded, too hindered, opportunity lost! There is not one of us that hasn't come under the strategy of self-indulgence!

The Stories of Two... Ann's sickness... Within weeks of coming to Angleton she became very ill... Living with severe pain/nausea... Diagnosed w/lupus, fibromyalgia, candida, anorexia, psychological prob... Down to 78 pounds... "Say goodbye..." But we were standing on God's words! Ann was taping verses to mirror/fridge! *We were praying!* **Holy Spirit spoke: "Not physical, not mental, what's left?"**

Asides #1 For six years she stood valiantly – with almost no complaint! Times when she was just flat worn out from the pain and struggle... Ask me for some special help... But she was the model of endurance! Her battle might not have lasted so long if I had been more observant! Huge difference between Play-station warrior and Frontline warrior... Spirit made it clear I had not been "watching"/listening/warring for a life!

IT'S WHERE I LEARNED THE CONCEPT THAT A MAN WITH A WIFE WHO HAS A PROBLEM IS A MAN WHO HAS A PROBLEM!

Asides #2 After service: "I remember those days and I remember that in the midst of it all you never missed one Sunday!" Took a minute to realize how unusual... People who are *suffering* are notorious for self-indulgence... Many noble-pandering reasons/opt out!

Ann did what she did because she was being obedient to her heavenly calling as a Christian to stay in the battle until the end – and she wasn't dead yet!

The Stories of Two... Jane's story... The prospect of new baby/light up life! Miscarriage hit hard, "Why me?" Tested/took the "scrip" over scripture... Felt better/got hooked [literally]... With a new lover/husband neglected... Someone showed up who "cared..." Marriage ruined – two children at home without parents/proper models!

"Jane's" is the disaster story (of all) of self-indulgence/"victimization!"

New Beginnings... Not going to allow a victim mentality into our lives any longer! All of us have been a victim bad stuff! There is nowhere in the world you can go where there is no pain/suffering! Reeducation is available to us all! People's ill-intentions no longer have any influence to guide our lives! Received all the special treatment you're ever going to need from Jesus! Mercy that's new every morning... Grace that flows freely for equipping!

The whole point of the Cross is freedom from victim mentality! Not governed by the past! Old person with the old traits and indulgences died w/Him! **NEW MAN!** Not weak and powerless any more! **HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN YOU!** Bad things are normal in this life! "in the world you will have trouble..." "roaring lion seeking whom he may... Power to overcome them all!

Filling up on Faith... "Let the morally wrong forsake their way and return to the Lord and He will have mercy on Him, abundantly pardoning! For His thot's are not our thot's and His ways are not ours – as the heavens are higher than the earth so His thot's and ways are higher than ours... and the words that come out of His mouth will not return to Him void but will accomplish what He pleases and prosper where He sends it! **Isaiah 55.7ff**

Everything we need for peace, identification, surviving, thriving, defeating, succeeding has already been spoken over us! All we have to do is find out what's been said and then stand on it, believe it, wait for it and receive it! Let's begin the New Year with a fresh determination and new motivation to fill up on the word and Spirit!

One final motivation to fill up on God's Word... We all know Jesus words, "This people draws near to me with their mouths and honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from Me..."

Quote from one of four times the Bible tells us about a famine of God's word! Described:

"people dreaming they are full – waking hungry, deep sleep, closed eyes, prophets covered, the words of a book that is sealed, wandering from sea to sea and not finding the words... then fainting..."

The *cause* and *result* of apostasy is a lack of hunger for God's words!