

UNTO THE END

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“BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE
SAVED” (MTH. 24:13)

Look Up!

By Bro. Jim

Your salvation draweth nigh! Satan knows this basic fact and as a result, he knows his time is short. He is on a mission to devour as many people, and especially Christians, as possible in the time he has left in this world. If you are a born again believer one of the most common devices that Dragon employs is to get you to stop looking at God and to look at your problems (Mountains). If Satan can get you to focus on your mountain(s) then he has the foothold he needs to get into your mind by getting you to allow your thoughts to run wild. Once Satan has been given the necessary space to get into your mind, if you don't vigorously fight him off it will only be a matter of time before those wicked and contrary thoughts turn into wicked and contrary words and actions. When this occurs, before you know it, you find yourself in a backslidden and powerless state of sin and darkness with your faith and salvation being eaten away like a cancer. That is why we are instructed to take every single thought that is contrary to the Word of God captive and to bring low every thought that exalts itself above the throne of God (2 Cor. 10:4-5). That is why it is of paramount importance to keep our eyes on the throne of grace and to look beyond our mountain(s) to the face of Jesus Christ. It is only through Him that we can overcome! In this issue of **Unto the End** we will look at this very topic. It is my hope and prayer that if you find yourself in a situation whereby you have been looking at your mountain and have been living in defeat and humiliation that you will be encouraged to once again fight the good fight of faith, turn your eyes to Jesus Christ, and get back to victorious and abundant living in this present life! Every single thing we need to be overcomers in this present life is AVAILABLE TO YOU RIGHT NOW (2 Pe. 1:3)! You can declare that today is your victory day in Jesus name. But first, let's make sure our eyes

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(and mind) are where they are supposed to be! Praise the Lord! If you want to walk in power and victory over Satan, sin, and this world, let's make sure we are looking in the right direction! Keep reading man or woman of God! Amen.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12:1-2.

Here we see the command as to where our eyes should be. When we face a trial or trials we have two options: we can look at the trial or we can look to Jesus Christ. Depending upon where we look will determine the outcome! Satan says look at your mountain. God says look at me! I'm going to say this again, **Satan says look at your mountain; God says look at me!** It is easy to look at the mountain in your life because it's right there before your eyes, it's “real to you” so to speak. And certainly mountains are real. But so is God! Praise the Lord. We need to look to God when we face the armies of darkness, look to God when we have a mountain before us. Israel faced a similar situation when they were backed up to the Red Sea and the army of Pharaoh was descending on them. Let's turn to that account now to see what they did.

Allow me to set the stage for us. Israel had already left Egypt. They had seen the mighty hand of God smite Egypt with plague after plague. They

had seen God deliver them out of that dark place. They had also seen God operate as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night buffering them from the army of Egypt that had pursued them once they left out of Egypt. Yet despite all that, in this particular instance they were led of God to a point that looked like they could go no further. They were led right up to the edge of the vast Red Sea. With the sea before them and the approaching army of Pharaoh behind them, bent on destroying them they found themselves between a rock and a hard place very quickly. Some of the Israelites could only focus on what they were seeing with their physical eyes (the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army). Satan had infiltrated their minds and rather than trust in God, rather than look unto the throne of grace from whence their help had come and would come, they instead allowed Satan to get into their minds. Lets see how this group of people responded to this situation,

“And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.” Ex. 14:11-12.

Isn't that remarkable? The people speaking here were God's people! These very people had seen the hand of God do wonderful works in Egypt and yet they can only see the mountains and because they had allowed Satan to get into their minds, they were walking in unbelief which caused them to sin with their hearts and mouths. Notice they were trying to get Moses himself to fear. Satan had gotten into their minds and was trying to spread a spirit of fear, which he was doing right here in this account. What was Moses response?

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians, whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Ex. 14:13.

Thank God for the man of God! He did NOT give in to the spirit of fear that had gripped a large portion of God's people. He rather prophesied to them that they would not see the Egyptians any more. He had NO IDEA how this was going to happen, but he believed God! That is faith operating right there! He was standing in the same spot that those who were murmuring were. He saw the Red Sea before them and the fast approaching army behind them. **But he saw these things through the eyes of faith. He was looking unto God, not the mountains!** Let's see what God says to Moses concerning this seemingly impossible situation,

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward:” Ex. 14:15.

Look at that! Moses had cried unto God for help and God said, “Why are you crying to me? Tell Israel to move FORWARD!” **God always commands His people to move forward!** If you are born again, God EXPECTS YOU TO MOVE FORWARD in the faith! In addition, this was quite a command from God given the fact that before them was the Red Sea! If you were looking at the sea you would have been tempted to say, “Forward? Forward WHERE God?! There is a sea in front of us?!” But thank God Moses wasn't looking at that mountain (Red Sea) he was looking at God! Let's see what happens next,

“But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.” Ex. 14:16.

We know the rest of the story. Moses obeyed God and God divided the waters and Israel indeed did walk on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Egypt tried to follow and the sea covered them all up and destroyed them as Moses had prophesied. Dear brother and sister, **God is a Way Maker! He makes a way**

when there is no way!! Praise the Lord! He did it for Israel time and again and He will do it for you too if you look to Him! I also want to draw attention to the very first passage we listed in Hebrews that says we are to lay aside every weight and run the race before us with patience. It tells us that we are to do this in conjunction with looking unto Jesus Christ. So look to God, but also, and just as importantly, you need to lay aside every weight (sin) that weighs you down so you can run the race that is before you. Part of being able to look to God is to do so with clean hands and a pure heart for God will not regard us if we are in iniquity and sin (Ps. 66:18). So walk before your God denying self and the lusts of your flesh and keep your eyes on Him rather than the mountains and you WILL HAVE VICTORY! Praise the Lord! Let's take another example in the Bible of someone who had to make a choice to look at Jesus Christ or look at the mountain before him.

In Matthew chapter fourteen we find the account where Peter and company were in a boat at sea as commanded by Jesus Christ while he had gone up to a mountain to pray. The sea becomes choppy from a storm and in the fourth watch the disciples look out and see Jesus Christ coming unto them in the midst of the sea walking on water,

“And when his disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.” Mth. 14:26-29.

Peter, in an act of faith actually gets out of the boat, during a storm no less, and begins walking on the water! A mere man walks on water out of faith! Praise the Lord! His eyes were on Jesus and he began to do the impossible. But look what happened next,

“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, cried, saying, Lord, save me.” Mth. 14:30.

Though he was walking on water one minute, in the next minute, just as SOON AS HE TOOK HIS EYES OFF JESUS AND BEGAN TO LOOK AT HIS PROBLEM (MOUNTAIN) HE BEGAN TO SINK. He looked at his problem and fear set in. Once fear set in, he began to doubt and once he doubted, he began to sink. Dear Christian let us not let Satan do this to us! Satan is very good at what he does and will not miss a chance to get you if you allow him. You can be walking in victory with your eyes on Jesus Christ one minute and the moment you take your eyes off him and look at your mountain, boom, Satan has you. Looking at your mountain will create fear and doubt and once fear and doubt come in, BAM, you begin to sink. The victorious living you were experiencing is gone and you start walking in unbelief, doubt, and sin. This is when we sink. Praise the Lord, as Peter did in this account, we can cry out to God and He will reach down and grab us, Hallelujah! It is paramount that we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ and keep our spirit eye on the things that cannot be seen with their physical eye,

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:18.

To be overcomers we need an eternal perspective all the time and in all circumstances. Satan wants us to have short sightedness and to look at mountains and every other thing that can be seen with the physical eye. God wants us to look at Him and to cast our spiritual eye on things that cannot be seen. Why? Because things that cannot be seen with the physical eye have an eternal weight of glory! Satan knows this and he also knows if he can get you to look at physical things long enough, he will ensnare you in them. Let's take some examples.

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband, with her; and he did eat.” Gen. 3:6.

Satan had been coming to Eve, and seducing her and because she didn't go to her husband to tell him what was going on, she was eventually taken. Notice that though this tree was in the garden and Adam and Eve had no doubt seen it hundreds of times, once Satan had gotten into her mind and seduced her, the tree, a physical thing, took on a whole different look to Eve. Once she was under this seducing spirit the tree looked pleasant to her, it looked good, and it looked like something to be desired. This is how Satan operates dear man and woman of God! Once this was cemented in her mind/spirit, it wasn't long before action occurred (sin) because whatsoever is in our heart, if not dealt with properly, will play out in the physical realm sooner or later. That is what James declares when he says,

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” Ja. 1:14-16.

Is this not what happened right here with Eve? She was drawn away and enticed and her lust conceived and brought forth sin. And that sin caused death (spiritual) for both her and Adam. She wasn't looking at God; she was looking at that tree and lost eternal perspective.

The same thing happened to Esau. He was so hungry and all he could see was the little bowl of food that looked so very appealing to him. He lost eternal perspective and ended up selling his birthright for a morsel of food; something he ate one day and it exited his body the next. This is also why the Bible tells us that God hated him (Ro. 9:13). The same thing happened to Achan. He was told not to touch of the accursed things and rather than obey God, he saw these things were good and something to be desired. He allowed Satan to get into his mind, he was enticed by his lust and when lust conceived, it brought forth sin and his sin led to his death (Joshua 7). The same thing happened to Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament. The money for the land is all they could see and in their greed it caused dishonesty and death. Satan knows this works every time. Like I already said, it is one of his most common devices against us! We must keep our eyes on Jesus Christ! We must keep denying self and the things our flesh wants that are contrary to God's word. We must rather look at the things that are invisible to the physical eye because those things are ETERNAL! It is also why we get this very warning in Luke,

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.” Lk. 21:34.

Let us keep our eyes on Jesus Christ and not on the things of this world. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus Christ and not upon our mountains (trials). If we are faithful and keep the Word of God, if we are faithful and deny ourselves and not give in to sin and the things of this world that God calls sin, and rather keep our eyes upon Jesus Christ, then God will do His part and make a way when there is NO WAY! God can make mountains to melt!

**“The mountains melted from before the Lord, even that Sinai from before the Lord God of Israel.”
Jud. 5:5.**

**“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.”
Isa. 54:10.**

“The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs. What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? Thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back? Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?” Ps. 114:4-6.

“So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.”
Ezk. 38:20.

I cannot stress enough to you that God is a Way Maker! He will make a way when there is no way! No matter what your mountain, God can remove it! The Bible is full of mountains that God removed for His faithful! Leprosy was healed; barren wombs produced fruit, the dead raised to life again and on and on and on. God is a Way Maker; won't you turn to Him now?

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of his glory and grace.*

Praise the Lord!

What to do:

1. Make sure you are clean and right before God. Any sin you have been allowing, you need to confess it, repent of it, and ask God to wash you and make you clean in the Blood of Jesus Christ.
Overcome: make sure if the sin you are praying against has been an issue, you need to overcome it so you don't keep committing it regularly. This may mean you need to go into fasting, you may need to get a brother or sister in Christ involved for accountability, etc. But at the end of the day, you need to overcome. Amen.
2. Go into prayer and declare out loud to your mountain that it will be removed in Jesus name. Cancel it (list it by name), revoke it, renounce it, and declare that it will be removed by the power of Almighty Jah Jehovah on High! You need to do this in prayer, and out loud with vigor and power and most importantly faith.
3. Make sure you keep your eyes upon Jesus Christ and when Satan comes to you to get you to look at your mountain or other mountains that may arise, you rebuke him quickly. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

If you want prayer the Gathering of the Saints ministers will prayer with you. You can send your prayer request and the best way to get hold of you by going to our website www.gatheringofthesaints.com and submitting your request there. He that endures to the end, the same shall be saved (Mth. 24:13). I pray God give you victory over EVERY sin, every weight, and every mountain in your life. I pray His divine power strengthens you in your inner man and that you are empowered to live above sin, above Satan, and above the enticements of this world. I pray that God's power, blessings, and favors upon you and that you will be an overcomer unto the very end in Jesus mighty name. Keep your eyes on Jesus saints and LOOK UP, our salvation draweth nigh!! Praise the Lord! Maranatha!

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