

MESSAGE #4 – Spiritual preparation for Christ’s return – “Daily Discipleship and Developing a Love for Jesus’ Appearing.”

Practicing a life of faith:

- **Setting our mind on the things above and the things of the Spirit:** Col. 3:1-4; Rom. 8:4-6. The verb translated as “setting the mind” includes the person’s will, thoughts and emotions. We do use our will to overcome, but not in a commonly understood way (utilizing our will power to overcome). We do not use our will to “achieve for God,” but to “seek after and receive [grace] from God.”

- **Our walk is by faith, not by sight or feeling.** 2 Cor. 5:7. Faith is our trust in God and in His Word, His truth. It is not based upon our physical senses or what we seem to see as true. As we trust in God’s word, then His truth becomes a reality in our lives.

- **Rom. 6:1-14 is critical truth for our walk of faith and victory in preparation for the Lord’s coming.** We can never graduate from memorizing, meditating and exercising our faith in these truths of our identification with Christ in His death and resurrection and life. (See more detail on how to live these truths in the book, *The Victorious Christian Life*.) The Christian life is not “imitation” of Christ (trying to be like Him), but “participation” in His life and work. Gal. 2:20. The key to our walk of faith is not what we can do, but rather, in full dependency upon Him and trust in Him, what He can do in and through us.

- ❖ Our old man was crucified with Christ. We were buried with Him. We were raised with Him so that we may now walk in newness of life, His life. The life He lives, He lives to God. These are all true in the spiritual realm. (6:3-6)
- ❖ We must “reckon” (count it as true) that we are dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (If we are not in agreement to die to sin, then such reckoning will not work.)
- ❖ 6:13 – We should **consciously present ourselves to God** as those alive from the dead (our new life). This is not a presentation of our old life, with its weakness, to follow God. This is a presentation by faith of our new life in Christ. All of our members should be purposefully given to God, preferably daily, to do His will alone. .

- **Dead to the world and its pull upon us. Gal. 6:14.** By faith we must stand on this verse. We must remain humbly open to the Lord to die to any desire we have that He is putting His finger on.

- **Dead to pleasing ourselves, but living to please Christ alone.** 2 Cor. 5:14-15.

Abiding in God’s Word: John 8:31-32; 17:17; James 1:21 (ref. Mk. 4:20). This must be a consistent habit in order to overcome in the Christian life. The Word of God is fuel for our faith. “Meditation” on the Word is a key aspect of being in the Word (see Lesson #17 in *The Victorious Christian Life*, as well as the testimony of George Muller in Appendix A).

Developing a love for Christ’s appearing:

Reading, studying and meditating upon the prophetic Scriptures so that the Lord’s return becomes a living reality in our hearts. 2 Pet. 1:19.

Paying much attention to, and loving the Lord’s appearing, is a powerful force in our lives, countering the love of the world and motivating us to live righteously. 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 6-10.

Opening our hearts to the Spirit’s work in the bride to desire and beckon the Bridegroom to come. The betrothed bride’s desire to be with the Bridegroom should supersede all other desires. We should seek and pray for growth in this desire. Rev. 22:17, 20.