

DO YOU FEEL DEFEATED SOMETIMES?

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September 5, 2021

Today I am going to continue to teach on the victory that we have even in the midst of defeat. Sometimes we think of our lives as if we are not in victory. But what about the victory there is in Jesus Christ...

I would like to welcome everybody that is slotting in to this broadcast of Dynamic Love Ministries. It's an honor for me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus, the Good News of the grace of God that is sufficient for us, that can empower us, that can give us joy in this world by His doing. Glory to God!

Let us just pray together as we start our Service.

Father, thank You so much that we can be together. Thank You for Your Good News, Your power, Your grace, that which You have brought us through Your death and resurrection. Thank You that You are the One that gives life and we can simply rest in You. Thank You that You had us in mind from before the world began and You've come to give us life. Amen and amen...

Today I am basically just going to re-preach last Sunday's message. I'm going to add just a little bit more scripture and just emphasize the point a little bit more. I just realized that the message that I preached last Sunday is of such a great importance for everybody today. Many people go through difficult times or when they seem not to be successful as a Christian, like for instance, people that have been confessing that the Lord protects them against the Covid and then they get Covid and become very ill. Sometimes they become more ill than the person that doesn't even believe in the Lord and how do you deal with something like that? How do you handle that or what about you spreading the Gospel, preaching the Gospel and then all of a sudden the Covid comes and your church closes down and now you are working for a salary somewhere. What about those things?

There are things that happen to us in this world. You start a business and things are going well. Covid comes and, all of a sudden, your business is suffering. People, Christians, starting to suffer from depression. What should we make of these things when we go through difficult times? How should we look at these things? I am going to point out to you that Jesus Christ Himself was at a place where He felt that what He has done was not successful. He did not successfully gather the Israelites, or Israel, while He was walking on the earth. He wanted to gather them. He wanted to do the will of God. The will of God was absolutely to gather them but they didn't want to and they couldn't be gathered. How did He deal with that?

We are also going to look at Jesus when He was in the desert. We're just going to quote that. We're not going to read about that but just look at when He was in the desert, how He handled the temptation of the devil. We are going to look at the Septuagint, looking at the Greek Old Testament, and what was said there and how the gathering of Israel took place there. Then we are going to look at the Apostle Paul. What happened in his life? I mean, he also was at a place where he quoted Psalm 49 and in his relationship with the people in Galatia where he was saying to them, "I'm afraid that I've labored in vain as pertaining to you." These were the very words that Jesus used in Isaiah. Now you might say that Jesus never used those words. He didn't. It is not recorded that He used those words but Isaiah is a prophet and it prophesied about a conversation between Jesus and the Father. Maybe the exact words weren't used in this conversation, but that is what was being said.

What is beautiful about reading the Old Testament, and I want to encourage you to read the Old Testament that way, is especially in the prophets, Isaiah 49:1 onwards. Psalm 40 is also a very good example of that is where the Father and the Son are in communication.

Psalm 22 is a very good example about the crucifixion and what Jesus would have said upon the cross, what was in His mind, words that were not recorded but which we know were spoken, in the heart of Jesus, to the Father and what the Father would say to Jesus. It's as if we, from the Old Testament, get a little bit of a glimpse on what was going on in the prayer life of Jesus as if we can look right into the heart of Jesus, what He would have said. We also need to understand that the New Testament people like the Apostle Paul and Peter, especially Paul and Jesus. People that were learned in the Old Testament scriptures prayed to the scriptures. They lived the scriptures. They saw that they made those scriptures applicable to themselves that when Jesus would read Isaiah 42, He would know that the Father speaks to Him.

I want us to start out in Isaiah 42. I didn't plan to do it that way but let us just do it that way. I ministered on this two Sundays ago. I want to just use this as an example. This is the Father speaking. It is Isaiah prophesying but it is the Father speaking. Here He says,

Isaiah 42:

1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. (This means it's not going to be a political rally.)

3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4 he will not falter (fail) or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

So, we can see here that this is the Father speaking to us. What would be good in our prayer life is to memorize that piece, think of it, ponder upon it, and hear the Father saying it to you. In the very same way as we would look at that passage and hear the Father speak to us today,

Jesus would look at that passage and He would see the Father speaking to us with Him present, where the Father presents the Son to us. He would also read that and see that He shall not falter nor be discouraged till He establishes justice in the earth. That would be a great encouragement for Jesus knowing that the Father says that He is not going to fail. It also, if you read the next verse there it says, "***In his teaching the islands will put their hope.***"

Jesus would know that the islands is referring to the Gentiles and He knows that He would have a doctrine and this doctrine is what these people would trust in. ***5 This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it...***

I mean you can just read the Father speaking to us. We see it in its historic context. We see it in His prophetic context and we see it as a conversation. That is how the Old Testament people, that were serious about the scriptures, thought of Scripture. It became theirs. It was their conversation with God. Now, with that point made, we are going to Isaiah 49 and we are going to see how this is a conversation between Jesus and God.

This is basically Jesus speaking:

Isaiah 49:1 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; (Now imagine Jesus reading Isaiah 49 when He was on the earth. He would know that His job would be not only for Israel but also to gather the heathen, to gather all nations. Now He is speaking to you and me. He's saying, ***Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.***

Now we know the history with Mary and all those kinds of things. Now, imagine Jesus reading that knowing that Mary told Him that the Father God is His Father.

2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.
3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

So, what does Jesus believe? Jesus believed that He is Israel. That's what He believes. And He believes that in Him all the glory of God will be displayed. Now listen to what the next verse says. This is now Jesus speaking to us, telling us, what the Father said to Him and now, what His response was to the Father.

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."
5 And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—

Now I want to read this from the **King James**:

4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain:

5 And now, the Lord said to me, the one that formed me in my mother's womb to bring Jacob again to him, (And this is what He said:) Though Israel be not gathered, You shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

Isn't that absolutely beautiful! So here we see Isaiah 49, Jesus speaking to the people saying, "God has called Me. Listen to Me. I am His Servant Israel." And then He says, "When He called Me as His Servant Israel, I went to gather Jacob, (He went to gather the Israelites) although I am Israel in the eyes of God, He's called Me to gather the Israelites but they didn't want to. And My words were that I labored in vain. I have spent My strength for nothing and it is in vain, **and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.**

Now let me read it from the Afrikaans and translate it for you. I'm going to try to just do the direct translation without reading the Afrikaans.

3 God said to Me, that You are My Servant, You are Israel and through You I will show My glory.

4 But, I was thinking in My mind that I've wasted My strength and that I am fruitless in all My effort. Yet, what will be of Me will be decided by God.

What a powerful passage! So what Jesus is saying is that He tried to gather Israel, the physical Jews, but they didn't want to. They didn't listen to Jesus. They rejected Him. We are going to look at those scriptures today. They rejected Him but what did Jesus say? He said, "Although I am not successful and it feels like an absolute waste of time, My judgment, or what will be of Me, is in front of God.

So, what He was saying was that His success was not determined in how successfully He, according to His understanding of gathering Israel when He walked the face of the earth, that His success was not measured by that. He knew that He did not have the ability. He came to the end of Himself. Jesus Christ. Jesus knew that He did not have the ability to gather the Jews. He didn't. He wanted to. He says, "I wanted to gather the you." And Jesus says, "Whatever you see Me do, is what the Father does." So, was it the will of God that Israel be gathered while Jesus was walking on the face of the earth?" Yes, it was the will of God. It was the will of God that they would be gathered.

How would they be gathered... That they would believe upon Him that when the man Judas came and betrayed Him, and the other people, the Romans, came and killed Him, that He would still have a united Israel that believed upon Him, that would believe in His resurrection and be powerfully touched and not reject Christ. It was not the will of the Father that the Jews would reject Jesus.

But here we find that Jesus wanted to do the will of the Father and He came to gather Israel but Israel didn't want to. When He talks about Israel there, it talks about the individuals. It talks about the people that walked on the earth there didn't want to. And we can read this frustration in Jesus. We can read what was going on in His heart here. He felt that He was basically a burden to those people with His message. He was burdening them because they were rejecting Him all the time. This is what it says in **Matthew 17:17. Then Jesus answered and said, "Oh, faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you? How long shall I suffer you?"**

So, if you read Isaiah 49, Jesus is, basically, speaking to us, He's speaking to the Gentiles and He's saying, "Listen islands. Listen Gentiles. I am the one that the Father spoke about in my mother's womb. He has already called Me. He has called Me and He wanted Me to gather Jacob and although Jacob was not gathered and I felt that I've wasted My strength in gathering Jacob and then I felt that it was simply for nothing. My justice and My judgment is with God! It is with God! And although Israel will not be gathered, let Me tell you this: It is a small thing for God, if you read the rest of Isaiah 49, just to gather Israel, I am there for you! You now be gathered!"

So, was there a time when Jesus felt that He wasn't successful? I bet there was... definitely! When Jesus read Isaiah 49, I cannot but think that He was not, when He was reading this, thinking, "Well, this is actually Me saying these words. This is how I should interpret this prophetically." And then He would then have to realize as He was reading that, that these Jews are not going to want to be gathered.

We're reading **Matthew 23:37**

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets (It actually says, you that are killing, actively killing, the prophets) **and stone them which are sent unto you. How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing** (You did not want to).

John 1:

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came to his own, and his own received him not.

Romans 10:21 But to Israel he says, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Why did He stretch forth the hand? Was it a prophetic action? No... He genuinely, truly, wanted to gather the people of that day. They just simply didn't want to! And as they didn't want to do to that, this is the word that was in Jesus: **Isaiah 49:4 Jesus said, "I've labored in vain. I have spent my strength for nothing, and it is in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work is with my God.**

"I'm not successful in gathering them but My life is not determined by how successful I gather these people." This is key for all of us.

We can take this and practically apply it to raising our children. Let's make this very practical: As you raise your kids... Let's say you have five children. One of them believes in the Lord. The other one doesn't. Maybe one of them may be on drugs. The other one is obedient. You might raise your children in the ways of the Lord. You now believe the grace message. You try to convey the grace message but they stay in the law that you've preached to them when they were in school. And now they are thinking that there is something wrong in your mind and you are not successful in teaching your children the grace message. You want to gather them but they don't want to. And you can come to a place where you look at raising your kids and you are saying, "Man, all the effort that I have made in teaching them the gospel, I wonder if it is not in vain." I think that is how God must have felt with Adam and Eve. He could have easily felt that. Imagine the almighty God looked at Adam and Eve and says, "Ahh... you know My labor is in vain and My strength was for nothing. It was all in vain. It was just useless and therefore My judgment is now with what I could accomplish in Adam and Eve."

No! God had Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were disobedient. Adam and Eve did not grab a hold of the life that was offered them. Adam and Eve died but God's judgment, who God is, was not defined in what He could accomplish in Adam and Eve. It was inside Himself. He's got eternal life. His judgment is into eternal life and not in what is accomplished in people.

In the very same way, you know God could have felt like a failure when it comes to Israel even when He let them out in the wilderness. Moses... I mean He looked at Israel and He could have said, "I am not a success. These people are not listening. Did God send Moses? Yes! Did Moses speak for God? Yes! Was Moses successful with a bunch of people that he led out? No! He was 100% unsuccessful because the Bible says that none of that generation entered into the promised land. But it was the will of the Father that they would enter into that. So, Moses could have said, "I've wasted my strength I've wasted everything." But Moses's judgment before God is not in what he could accomplish by the power of God but in the promise that God has towards him as an individual.

There's a difference between you as an individual before God and your vocation. You are not what you do! God has promised me, Bertie Brits, eternal life by the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ as I believe upon Him. I just trust Him. He will do it. That is how I get saved. That's how I will have life. I might preach and think, sometimes, you know, in ministry you think, "Wow! This is truly successful and this is truly reaching a lot of people and you're very happy." Other times you look and say, "Well, I don't know." You know, like you preach there only once and then there was an argument with the pastor and he just warned the people against you and now people are scared. You know, that also happens. But, the success there has nothing to do with what God has promised me. It has nothing to do with that.

If I tell my son, "Abrie, would you please go and call so and so for me." Then he goes and calls so and so and he makes great effort to tell that person. I mean he really struggles to find the guy. Eventually he finds the guy and takes off a day, hard work, hard labor, to get a hold of this guy. He gets a hold of him and tells him that I am calling him to come."

Now the guy doesn't come. Then he can think, "Oh, my goodness! I've wasted my time. I've wasted my energy. I have not been successful in my mission because I know that my father wanted this person to contact him and now this guy doesn't do it. He does not come to see my father." But, my son's justice in being an heir has nothing to do with his success when he called that man. And this is the truth that Jesus Christ lived from. And this brought Jesus to a place where His circumstances didn't really have a voice that could discourage Him to a rejection of what God is saying because He wasn't adding anything to the grace that the Father has promised Him.

The word, grace, means the divine influence or the power of God to life. So, the Bible also says that Jesus Christ grew in the grace of God. That means that Jesus needed grace. Jesus couldn't be who He was without the grace of God. And the grace of God towards Jesus, in order for Jesus to be who He is today, was that God promised Jesus that He would influence His physical body with life and gather Jesus to Himself, to eternal life. He'll gather Jesus bodily to Himself to eternal life and Jesus would be in the very same condition where the Father finds Himself in eternal life.

So, when Jesus went to the Father, it means He went into eternal immortality, bodily, and as He is seated there, He prepares a place in who He is, for us to be where the Father is... which is to have eternal life. Now, Jesus didn't add to the grace that the Father gave Him. So, when He looked at Israel that would not be gathered, He knew that He would be gathered. When He tried to gather Israel to eternal life, the individuals didn't want to believe Him, He did not confuse, He did not say, "Well, Father, can You empower Me more so that these people will listen?" Jesus did not say, "Please remove the thorn in My flesh which is these people that are bad mouthing Me, lying, and all those kinds of things." He did not pray that prayer. He didn't ask for that. He did not say, "Stop these people that are breaking down the work that I am doing so that I can be successful in the world!" For He knew that the grace of the Father for Him was enough to accomplish what God wants to accomplish which is for Him to be a light to the Gentiles. Plus, the promise of gathering Israel was also fulfilled because Jesus was called Israel.

So, when Jesus was gathered to the Father in His resurrection, the promise that God had towards Israel, that He would gather Israel, was fulfilled in the one man, Jesus. The individuals weren't gathered because they had to believe. But the truth that Israel would be gathered, that was so.

Let us read that again. It might sound a little confusing but let me wrap this up and put it together. Jesus was never at the place where He said that He needed to be successful in gathering Jacob, gathering the physical Jews, when He was walking on the earth, to follow Him. He never thought that that would determine God's judgment on Him. That means that He never thought that He could find life out of that. He wanted to gather them. He even wept when He wanted to gather them as He saw that they didn't want to be gathered. He even, with tears in His eyes, proclaimed the woes in Matthew 23: "Woe are you..." And He just declared that they would be cursed and all those kinds of things, because He knew the destruction that was coming their way in 70 AD.

They didn't want to listen. But Jesus, although He said, "I've wasted my time with these people.", He still said, "My justice is with God. My judgment is with God."

With that in mind, I want to quickly go and look at the Apostle Paul and **2 Corinthians 12:**

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

So, he says, "I will glory in my infirmities." Where does he get this? Where does he get this idea of glorying in his infirmities? It is talking about his own inability. I am sure he's getting this from Isaiah 49 where Jesus was, basically, saying that He, Himself, was weak. He Himself did not have the ability to gather Israel, but, that His strength is in the Father that can raise Him from the dead. This is what I think. I also want to read in the Septuagint.

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in my infirmities.

6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he sees me to be, or that he hears of me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me,

(Sometimes we think that God is given this. Paul says, "No, I willfully, by myself, am just boasting in my weaknesses because it is not about my own strength at all. And Paul knew his own weaknesses. But then he says

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh.

Now the way this works is like it would work in politics today. You would see that somebody is maybe advancing and is doing well. Then the other political party would then find somebody to go and look for faults in a person's life, or to make life difficult for him, so that he would not advance too much. I see that with political parties whenever they come to the rise. In the beginning they grow quickly because they find people to follow them. But the moment they really start to make an impact, you find the other political parties giving them thorns in the flesh. They make life difficult for them. They attack them. They sue them. They make life very difficult for them and this is what Paul was talking about. He was talking about somebody that was a thorn in the flesh which basically talks about somebody spreading lies about Paul and I believe it was some of his kinsmen, some of his own people, Jews, that went and preached Judaism. They Judaized the churches wherever he would preach so that, because of the revelations that he had, because of his understanding of the Gospel, that he should not grow exceedingly and have a massive impact. Let's read it again:

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations (This is not about pride in Paul's heart. That's not what it was about. This was all about him getting too big, his ministry growing too much.) ***there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted*** (grow) ***above measure.***

They tried to control him through false teachers that came... a messenger from the devil, people that would speak bad, buffeting Paul, making life just very, very difficult for him.

Let me read verse 7 again:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh (It doesn't say that God), ***the messenger of Satan to buffet me*** (It clearly says the messenger was of Satan. It does not say it was of God. Satan means the accuser so they were messengers coming from the accuser, accusing Paul saying that he was a false person. He does not say what the Israelites or the true church is saying in Jerusalem and so forth. You can go and study all of that out in Galatians, Ephesians, Acts 15, and so forth), ***lest I should be exalted above measure.***

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...

My goodness! So, Paul was looking at his ministry and he was seeing that it was going well. And then he said, "God, it's going well here. We want to be strong in the earth. Let us be strong. Remove these false messengers. Let them even be cut off. Let them be destroyed so that the Church can advance." Then He said to Paul, "Paul, you are not going to be strong by how strong the Church is. My grace is sufficient to manifest in you whatever I wanted to manifest in you." And look at what God did in Paul. Paul, number one, has eternal life. Paul will be raised in the last day. And look at the effect that God had through that man, Paul, in all the earth! Although when Paul was in the earth, he didn't have many followers. He was seen as an absolute troublemaker. He was too hot to handle. He was in courts most of his life. He was in courts for years fighting cases.

At the end of his life, the way I read the scriptures, the way I see it is that he went to Rome in defense of himself. He stayed there in house arrest. That's where he was. And then from there he preached to large groups in his house. A large group in his house was when a large group start to become 15 or 20 people. That is what you can fit in a house that you're renting and from there he was beheaded. I mean, that doesn't sound nice. It doesn't sound successful. He didn't go out like Reinhard Bonnke did, or Billy Graham or some of these evangelists, people that have great big ministries like Kenneth Hagin and those people. No! But, the grace of God was enough to establish in him what He wanted to establish.

My greatest vision for you, you can acknowledge your weakness. You can acknowledge what you couldn't get right. That's why he goes and basically mentions all of his infirmities that he was beaten. He never says how successful he was. It is the same with Jesus. He didn't go about boasting on how many people followed Him or any of those kinds of things. He simply believed that what the Father said is what he would have life from.

I want to quickly go to the Septuagint and read what it says there, going back to Jesus and then we are going to end off this message with just the true Gospel of Jesus Christ for us.

This is the Septuagint. It says it this way: ***And now this is the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant to gather Jacob to him and to Israel.***

Remember the verse prior to that, Jesus said to the Father, "I've labored in vain. I've given My strength for vanity and for nothing. Therefore, My judgment is with You, God, and My labor is with You, God. I've come to gather Israel." This is what He says, "I formed Him in the womb to be My servant and to gather Jacob to Me and to gather Israel to Me. I shall gather You and You will be glorified before Me and I will be Your strength"

So, what is He saying? The Father is saying, "Yes, maybe You were weak in gathering Israel in physically getting them to follow You. But, let Ye tell you, "I've made You as Israel and I will gather You to Me and in that weakness of Yours, My strength is made perfect when I raise You from the dead." Because when Jesus was raised from the dead, in Him, there is no more Jew, no more Gentile, and in Him is the way for Jew and Gentile unto the Father where they can be gathered unto life.

So, Israel, His servant, was gathered as the Father has promised and Israel was basically gathered unto the Father in a different way. Jesus came to gather the Jews but He was called Israel. And Jesus said, "Father, I've wasted My time to gather these people" but the Father said, "But, I will gather You Israel. You shall be gathered unto Me!" And He raised Jesus from the dead and Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. And before He went, He said, "I've gone to prepare a place for you and I will take you to where I am. I'll gather you to the Father!" Isn't that absolutely beautiful! So, this means that we don't have to try and listen to the voice of the successes we have in this world. Yes, will we be successful in this world? Obviously, we will be very successful in many things in this world. We have seen Jesus feed the five thousand. We've seen Him preach to the multitudes. We've seen the Apostle Paul reach many people. We have seen the Church do great exploits. We are not denying that. That is not normally when we have our problem. Our problem is when things seem not to work out.

Galatians 4:11 Paul says to the Galatians, "It seems to me as if I've labored for you in vain" quoting that very verse that I've mentioned. .

I want to go to ***Galatians 1:***

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you (the thorn in the flesh) , and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you (I'm using my own words, "but the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that through Him, you have enough grace to live forever.)

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received (from us), let him be accursed.

That is what he is saying there. You know there is only one Gospel. What is this Gospel? This Gospel is the comfort that comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is it: **Isaiah 40:**

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people (comfort also means to bring repentance, get their mind to change), **saith your God.**

2 Speak tenderly (comfortably) **to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned for she has received double of the blessings from the hand of the Lord for all her sins.** Isn't that absolutely beautiful!

You know, Paul changed his name from Saul to Paul and there are many different theories about that of which two stand out to me. The one is that the word, Saul, was royal. It was kingly. Saul saw himself as the king in Israel history. According to Andrew Wright, Paul, means little one. He says it means little one. So, he said, "Well, maybe I was great. I was a great persecutor of the Church. I was great in my own eyes. I was great a Hebrew of the Hebrews. I was of the tribe of Benjamin. I was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. I was very zealous." He, as Saul, was above those around him. Then he said, "I realize that in my own power I am nothing and that everything, only determines on Him that I can only rest in the grace of God and I don't have to live by my own works. He calls himself, Paul.

Another thing that the word, Saul is, if I got it right in the Greek, means somebody that walks like a lady... something like that. So, that could also have been that he said, "Well, I don't want to have that mockery there and I'd rather take the name, Paul, which means little one.

Personally, I think that it was about Saul saying, "I'm not going to boast. I'm finding my identity only in the word of Jesus about me and not my own works, where I can, like Jesus, say, "My works, maybe if it looks as if I've wasted my time, my right and my justice is before God. And then we will know who will gather me to Him and He will accomplish, in my life, what He has promised, even if it is after my death."

We shall be raised to eternal life through Jesus Christ and that is why, today, as the Church, don't have to feel like failures. We don't have to feel that we are not accomplishing what we are supposed to accomplish and walk in condemnation and guilt and all those kinds of things. No! Our righteousness is with our God! Let us trust Him. Let us live our lives fully and not give our lives the voice to confirm us or to tell us that we are not successful. We can boldly say, "It looks as if we have wasted our time but we are saying that we can boldly say, "It looks as if we are successful!" We can say those things boldly but we can say it from a heart that knows that we are justified by the love of God and not in what we do.

Thank you that I could encourage you with this message today. We will chat again in this week. God bless...