

1-19-2025 Sunday Sermon Message
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16
Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Title: **The victorious Christian Life in the Power of Christ in Weakness**

The Apostle Paul testified that he was stoned to death in Iconium and that his soul left his body for a short time and went to the third heaven as was experienced by another person fourteen years earlier.

When he said that it was the third heaven, he was testifying that the heaven we see is made up of three heavens. The first heaven refers to the atmosphere with clouds, the second refers to the universe with the sun, the moon, and stars, and the third heaven refers to the heaven where the throne of God is.

When the Bible speaks of the heavens, we see many places where it speaks of the heavens:

"And the heavens and the earth were completed, and so were all the princes of the heavens...Behold, the heavens and the heavens of heavens, and the earth and all that is in them, belong to the Lord your God...Lord, as thou went out of Seir, and thou didst march in the fields of Edom, the earth quaked, and the heavens fell, and the clouds sent down waters...And he inclined the heavens and came down, and there was darkness under his feet...But shall God really dwell on the earth? Behold, even the heavens and the heavens of heavens cannot accommodate thee, much less shall this temple which I have built?.... He alone stretches out the heavens, and treads upon the waves of the sea...He who sits in the heavens will laugh, and the Lord

will mock them...By wisdom the Lord hath founded the earth, and by understanding hath established the heavens,...Hear, O heavens. Hearken, O earth. The Lord hath spoken...Be astonished at this, ye heavens. And they shall be exceedingly afraid...Let us lift up our hands and our hearts to God in the heavens...And the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God...The earth will shake before them, and the heavens will tremble, and the sheh and the moon will be darkened, and the stars will withdraw their light...In a little while I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land once more...(Genesis 2:1, Deuteronomy 10:14, Judges 5:4, 2 Samuel 22:10, 1 Kings 8:27, Job 9:8, Psalm 2:4, Proverbs 3:10, Isaiah 1:2, Jeremiah 2; 12, Lamentations 3:41, Ezekiel 1:1, Joel 2:10, Haggai 2:6)

He said that God had given him a thorn in his flesh, a messenger of Satan, so that he would not be exalted by the riches of the great revelations He had given him. To this end, he begged Him three times to remove it, but he said, **"My grace is sufficient for you. for my power is made perfect in weakness."**He said.

This led the Apostle Paul to make a confession in which he realized and resolved that his future life would be filled with the power of Christ:

"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.Wherefore I rejoice in weakness ."(II Corinthians 12:10)

He testified that he had come to realize the tremendous truth that the power of Christ could not enter him when he was physically strong, and from then on he boasted of his weaknesses, even though he seemed to be foolish in front of men.

Christians cannot live this testimony without experiencing the power of Christ that the Apostle Paul experienced. Therefore, God sometimes allows great hardship in order to give His children His power.

As the apostle Paul testified, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness on high. They are objects that cannot be overcome by the power of the flesh. That is why Christians must give up their own strength and put on the full armor that God gives them. Finally, the Apostle Paul confessed:

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

¹⁴ Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.”(Philippians 4:12-14)

He witnessed to his co-workers who followed him and lived in the power of Christ:

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”1 Corinthians 15:19-26)

Living a victorious life in the power of Christ, he encouraged Christians that in the future they would all be transformed into the image of Christ in the third heaven to which he had gone and live with Christ forever:

“ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”(Philippians 3:20-21)

Amen! Hallelujah!