

Zahakiel: Let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the blessings of the past week. Thank You for this sacred hour during which we expect to receive a fresh baptism of Your Spirit. May all who attend receive and apply that refreshing. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

daphna: Amen

Barb: Amen

Adriel7777: Amen

Ruthline: Amen

Gloria Bailey: Amen.

Kimberly: Amen

Elyna1: Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Tonight's study is called "The Invincible Testimony." Inspiration has described the Christian as one who both speaks and acts as if the faith he bears is invincible. Just in case there is any question as to what those words literally mean, the definition of invincible is:

Too powerful to be overcome. Impossible to defeat, or to prevent from accomplishing its purpose. Incapable of being defeated. Interestingly, these descriptions, of the kind of faith that the Christian has received from the Almighty, are all fittingly applied to Yahweh Himself. Of His power, we read, "Ah, Adonai Yahweh! Behold, Thou hast made the Heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee." (Jer 32:17)

Of the strength of His will and purpose, we know the passage, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from Heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth. It shall not return unto Me void, but It shall accomplish that which I please, and It shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent It." (Isa 55:10, 11)

Should we leave off reading there, we would conclude, rightly, that the power of Yah's will is "invincible." It cannot be turned aside, except by His own decree, nor can it be prevented in carrying out its intent. And yet, if we should stop at verse 11, we would miss a most critical truth... that this invincible power that describes Yah's will is not used of Him alone, but others as well. Let me repeat the two verses I just quoted, and add the two that immediately follow them:

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not return unto me void, but It shall accomplish that which I please, and It shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent It. "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace. The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to Yahweh for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." (Isa 55:10-13) Let me know when you have read this.

Lucan: F

Adriel7777: F

Pastor Chick: F

Kimberly: F

Elyna1: F

Barb: F

daphna: F

Zahakiel: A Creation Seventh-Day Adventist should "light up" at the words of the prophet here quoted. We know that "for" means because. Why does Yah's purpose not fail to accomplish its mission? We would be correct, but incomplete in our understanding, if we read the "Word" there to be Christ alone in His limited, human form while on the earth. All glory is given to the Son, but the Word of Yah does not fail because it also inspires the saints, sinners now turned back to the Creator, to go forth with joy and with peace. Because the saints are a joyful people at peace, Yah's purposes are accomplished among mankind.

It is not because of military might, or cunning strategy. It is not because of the papal spirit that persecutes the voice of truth and opposition, using civil force in an attempt to control conscience. No, it is because of the Spirit of Yah, a gentle, still voice that draws the Christ-like character out of hearts once dead in trespasses and sins, and turns them loose upon the world to speak of their resurrection into life anew.

Consider also how Isaiah's passage both begins and concludes... the success of Yah's Word is likened to the rain that waters the earth, and the snow that settles over the land. It is a cooling, refreshing influence that causes seeds to sprout and young plants to grow. It is the word of life in our lips, which leads the sinner to repentance, and strengthens the saints in their walk of sanctification. It is with quiet assurance, and no great claims, that men will see us speaking of the Gospel, yet saying of us as they did of the Master: "He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Mat 7:29)

Now, the Scribes were those who were considered the masters of the written word. They would examine Moses' Law and make decisions about difficult matters. They were respected as spiritual leaders and teachers; and yet, because their understanding went no further than the written Word, they were strangers and aliens to the Living Word. When Christ appeared they did not recognize Him, even though He was, in human form, the very Wisdom they were renowned for having studied and imbibed.

Today we see many who would be considered modern day Scribes. They speak of the written Word with skill and subtlety. They ask questions of themselves and others that they believe hold the secrets of everlasting life; and yet, they do not recognize Christ or His people when they are blessed by such visitation.

The Savior's success is "for" His people. This is true both in the sense that by His power they can accomplish all, and in the sense that IN their accomplishing the Father's Will, the Son's purpose is also fulfilled. Thus, the Word does not return to the Father void, because His people have received His Gift. Because we have received the Son, we "go out with joy" and are "led forth with peace." Yahshua says of us, when speaking to the Father, "And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are One." (John 17:22)

The Son of Yah says, "I have given them" glory... the Father's glory, that perfect, invincible light that called forth all things into being, that raises the dead from their graves, that fills those who inherit everlasting life, and that banishes demons, disease, and disaster.

Is this the glory of which Yahshua has said, "Some of my followers might possess?" No, not at all. He says of this glory and those who follow Him, without exception or the shadow of doubt, "I have given them."

Are we "them?"

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: Are we those who are described in that chapter? Are we those who "also [...] shall believe on Me" through the words of His other followers?

Whether by vision, or by the testimony of another believer, we are brought to Christ, and He says of us regarding His Father's own glory, "I have given them." Shall any, then, claim to be lacking the very glory of God? Who shall make the Son a liar, and His prayer to the Father of no effect?

Those who believe know that they have been given the glory of Yahweh, being therefore made His righteousness on the earth and one with each other, even as the Father and Son are One.

Do they not, then, have victory?

The glory is described as being all-mighty, and impossible to disrupt from its intended purpose. The purpose of Yahweh is a universe clean of all sin – and we, as the children of promise, are the first-fruits of this cleansing. Those who have received Yah's glory do so not in some mere theological sense, as the scribes would claim it... but we claim it as those that say, with boldness, "I shall not fail, for the Word of Yah cannot fail." And these people for whom Christ prayed... these followers, and the followers of His followers... do they not have divine purity?

The scribes would say, "The Word of God is pure, and our understanding of it is true, but our lives are filthy still, for we are only men." That is how scribes, both ancient and modern, speak. But we are no mere scribes, and we are no mere men.

Consider... if a man receives the glory of the Almighty God as a gift, and remains only a man, then what has that glory profited him? What has it done? How has he been transformed? Multitudes who claim to be Christ's live as the scribes did... with a passing to excellent understanding of the written words, but no breath of Heaven from the Living Word. With righteousness by faith comes an intimate, personal understanding of the truth. Falsehoods invented by men fall away naturally, for their very nature betrays them as imperfect, limited, and contradictory.

We have read also that those who receive Yah's glory will be "one," even as (with the same characteristic nature, and to the same extent) the Father and Son are One. What can this mean? We can be physically separated, as were the Father and Son, and yet our fellowship, our communion, our Spirit... these are all united in perfect accord, with common purpose, and uniform judgment in those things that pertain to "life and godliness." Superficial differences are ignored, and preferences are incidental.

When the people of Yah speak of the glory they have received, and the Kingdom into which they have been translated, they speak with a unity and power that no mere scribe has ever known. Imagine such a people as this. How do they act? How do they speak? With what words do they express themselves to the world?

Christ says, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)

What mighty nation or army is created when those who hear these words believe them? A people who believe this shall never say a negative thing about themselves. Their testimony is not, "I am overcome by such and such a weakness," or, "When circumstances occur, I cannot exercise Christ's characteristics."

Sanctification is progressive, no doubt... and the work of the saints involves finding any weaknesses that may remain. It involves discovering circumstances that may take us by surprise, but that does not mean that in finding or discovering these things, they become a part of our testimony. If we uncover a blind spot in some area, we do not deny it. We do not, however, testify to it either... and this is a point worthy of prayerful consideration.

If we uncover a blind spot in some unexpected circumstances, we do not say it does not exist... but we confess it to Yah, in that very moment, and then we go forward from that moment believing that we are both forgiven and healed. We then speak, not of the weakness, but of the healing. In that way, the testimony is not marred, and Christ is not dishonored by any former ignorance, now healed over and awaiting final resolution in the judgment.

If there is a "root" of the action that is not uncovered, and we have merely revealed a symptom, there is no need to be discouraged. That root, should it manifest itself in another way, may prompt deeper self-examination, and therefore more thorough cleansing when it is confessed and made the subject of repentance. But whatsoever we forsake and confess, we expect to be clean of it entirely when speaking of being set free from some besetting misunderstanding or error in judgment. The saints do not define themselves by the errors of our past, even the errors of a moment in the past... who we are now is who Yah knows us to be, and if we have recognized, and truly repented, of a thing... then this is sanctification indeed; we do not speak as if we ever expect to see it again, once or ever more.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: The Bible speaks of the invincible faith in this way:

"And having an High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised." (Heb 10:21-23)

With a true heart in full assurance of faith, without wavering, relying upon He who is faithful... this is a description of a people who speak and act with authority, with quiet power, and with a certainty that their desires are heard and acknowledged by He who is limitless in power and in love.

The Scriptures say, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

But who, after following these divine instructions, will claim a lack of wisdom? Who, after asking for cleansing in faith, will claim distress? Such is a lack of Sabbath rest

found only in the carnality of the world, and not Yah's people. Because of Christ, we deny all the power of darkness and evil. We stand without doubting before the Throne of our Father... and should the world, our senses, and even our own flesh seek to betray us, we deny the power of these things also, for we have been given the glory of Yah, and our eyes see Him clearly upon the Throne.

There is one last thing from that Isaiah passage we ought to consider. We read at the very end: "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to Yahweh for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Where the world expects failure, there is success. Where it expects a coarse plant, small and dry, it will discover a vine on which hangs the fruit of the Spirit. And this miracle, bringing forth bounty out of want, and light out of darkness, this is a "name" of Yah that He gives to His people. Because He has raised up a victorious nation out of a dry land, it shall be remembered as His mercy, and it shall be commemorated by a title of His choosing, as a banner that serves as an outward testimony of Yah's glory upon His people.

We are not illegitimate children. We are not orphans, nor has our Father abandoned us. Like Abraham, like Israel, He has given us a name... a name that reflects our joy, our peace, and our ministry to the world. Our testimony has given our Father a place to set His name in the world. If there were none obedient on the planet, who had been brought to life from the dust of the earth, who would consent to call himself or herself a Creation Seventh Day Adventist? Only the obedient can carry that name with courage and with joy, for in it the true features of our faith are borne in front, neither hidden behind complicated doctrines nor compromised with a shifting, uncertain world.

The invincible testimony we are called to bear is nothing complicated – not at all. We have read of it in the Scriptures.

"When [the Jewish Council] heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on [Stephen] with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into Heaven, and saw the glory of Yah, and Yahshua standing on the right hand of Yah, and said, 'Behold, I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of Yahweh.' Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him." (Acts 7:54-58)

When the first Christian martyr, Stephen, was stoned to death, He said, "I see." And what he saw was "the glory of Yah." What is a "witness?" It is one who has seen. The Scriptures say, "Ye are all my witnesses." (Isa 44:9) You are those who have seen the Father and Son... and though no man has "seen" Him, yet we here have seen Him. We live in the contradiction that surpasses understanding, and know the truth that the

world, and the scribes, cannot understand. Even if rocks are raining down on our heads. Even if we are in distress of mind and body. Even if we are afflicted with a malady that seems to be gaining on our mortal flesh, let us, like Stephen, look up to Heaven and say, "I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of Yahweh. Because of Them, I shall not fail, nor shall I be discouraged."

This is the invincible testimony. This is the glory that Yahshua has given to us from the Father, shining out of our spirits into the earth. This is the light that is shed forth along the strait and narrow path to Heaven, one victorious step at a time.

Are there any questions or comments about tonight's study?

Pastor Chick: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel7777: Amen

Pastor Chick: There is a REALITY that is seen only with converted eyes -- for the "reality" that the flesh experiences... seems to all "humans" to be THE reality. People will have the testimony that they experience. If their mind is set on the flesh, it will be ONLY the reality of the flesh... but when we partake of the DIVINE NATURE (by faith), we live in "the Atmosphere of Heaven" and testify to the REALITY of that experience. END. I might add something... just because one is a member of CSDA or wanting to be a member. IF we have any love of the world or attraction to the world... we are still hostile towards Yah. Those who live in the Atmosphere of Heaven, have left the world and its lusts. End

Zahakiel: Amen. Thank you for sharing that.

Adriel7777: Amen

Zahakiel: Are there any others with thoughts to share? If there are none, then I'll ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the reality of your Spirit, which leaves the flesh crucified. We are blessed to walk on streets of gold, and testify to your victory in us. We ask that you continue to refine and perfect us, individually and corporately. And we rejoice in the sure fulfillment of your work. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Adriel7777: Amen

Barb: Amen

Ruthline: Amen.

Elyna1: Amen.

Kimberly: Amen

Gloria Bailey: Amen.

daphna: Amen

PETER: Amen