

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get your coffee or tea. Get comfortable and let's talk.

Today I want to discuss why so many Christian act so beaten up by the world. We are rejected by the world this is true but we should not walk around acting so dejected. Aren't we called to a victorious life? In 1st John.

1 John 5:4-5(NKJV) ***4For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory** that has overcome **the world**—our faith. **5Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*****

John is making it clear that if we believe in Jesus we have victory over the world. So why do so many Christian act like the world is beating them up?. Maybe our focus is wrong. The here and now instead of understanding we are just at the beginning of our eternal lives. Our comfort or circumstances now does not impact our long term destination. We need to be able to see through the now with a future point of view.

It really comes down to choice. Do I choose joy now no matter what is going on, or do I choose self-pity, anxiousness, dejection? God has promised peace and assurance, don't we believe Him.? I think the constant worries of this world weigh most of us down. We worry about our health, We worry about our finances. We worry about our children or jobs. And in this broken world there is a lot to worry about. Or at least that's what the world says. We as Christians should not be acting like everyone else. We have hope not just in the future. Our hope is now.

What does the word of God say? Let's take a look at Philippians 2:6-7. Paul tells us how to handle worries.

Philippians 2:6-7(NKJV) ***6 Don't worry** about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and **thank him for all he has done.** **7Then you will experience God's peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Sounds easy, just don't worry. Turn it over to God. But how many of us can do this. I believe it's impossible on our own. Stop believing it's up to you. Tell God and then thank Jesus for what he's done. Thank Him for His sacrifice. Does our problem really seem big compared to what Jesus did for you.? Thank Jesus for things He has done for you in the past. Then Thank Jesus for what He is doing now. Now this is not "name it and claim it" this is earnestly thanking God for what He is doing and will do, even if it's a "no" or a "not now." I know God can save me from this fire, this trial or this trouble. But even if He chooses not to in His divine providence. I will praise Him. God is good all the time in every circumstance. I will trust the Lord of the universe with the outcome, with my outcome. I'll do my part. We still need to work at it and be disciplined, but trust God with everything else. It is surrender to God's will that allows us to "experience God's peace". He is in control, we are not. He is God, and we are not.

So how do we do this practically. Honestly we can't. Only through God can we achieve this. We have to consciously give it over to God. I'll give you two examples from my life.

First is health, I recently had severe case of COVID and kidney problems. When I was in the hospital and when I was in agonizing pain, I choose to trust God. If I died, I trust God to take care of my family. In my pain, I trust God there is a plan. I trust God. It's still hard. I'm still not healed. But I trust God. It's a choice. And the peace and assurances are boundless.

Second is Finances. I work as a consultant in the Oil & Gas industry. There are ups and downs. In the abundant years, I made money at a ridiculous rate. I followed the proverbs advice and diversified my investments. And I lost huge chunks of money, 7 figures. I learned money is not a security, even if you follow the bibles principles. It can be gone like that. Don't put your faith in money. Only God is our security. Then, there are lean years. In fact the last five years have been very poor for my work. For instance, I had one paycheck last year. But I don't put my security in money. Now for us in the middle of these ups and downs, we started doing our charity work. PUNLA Christian Ministries. Our paychecks fund this work. We have been faithful to what God is asking us to do and trusting He will provide the resources. God said buy this pastor a truck. So we did, even though, I had not had a paycheck. God said sponsor 150 student scholarships in the Philippines. We just said yes. And God provided. Now this is not a license to be irresponsible and we will talk about God's principles for using money another time. But if you follow Bible principles of money allocation and use, and God asks you to do things for His kingdom. The resources will just be there. If it's God's will, its God's bill. If the resources are not there, then that's is a "no" from God. Don't push it. Don't step out blindly in faith. Our faith is not blind. I believe in a tangible God. I believe in what the evidence shows us. We can Trust God. And we must trust Him when its "no", "not now" or yes. Or yes but someone else will benefit.

So let's end by looking at some words of Jesus. First in Matthew Jesus addressing worry. **Matthew 6:31-34**(NKJV) ³¹*Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'* ³²*For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* ³³*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* ³⁴*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Jesus is not telling us there won't be troubles. He's telling us to stay focused on what is most important. Living as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. God promises to meet our needs not our wants. Jesus goes on to say this in the Gospel of John. **John 10:9-10** (NKJV) ⁹*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* ¹⁰*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

God contrast the world and Himself. He is the good shepherd. He came to give of life not death. And not just a mediocre life but one filled with wonder and joy, an abundant life of serving Him. Life beyond what you can imagine. Life beyond the things of this world. A truly Abundant Life.

Now you don't need a near death experience or agonizing pain like I had to learn this. This life is not all there is. Why worry about things you can't control when they are truly here today and gone tomorrow..... Choose Joy. Choose to trust in God, because that's is what God is asking you to do. Don't you believe God is big enough to handle your problem. Don't you believe He cares enough for you to handle your problem Or in the big picture is this really worth your time and energy, since you can't change the outcome. This has to be practiced, like every life skill.

If we believe Jesus, then we must surrender the here and now to His authority and trust the outcome. Even if it means you die or suffer. Just surrender, because whether you do or don't, God is still in control and He alone controls the outcome. Death is only the graduation to heaven. It should be celebrated. Illness and pain here on earth, is an opportunity to shine the light of Jesus into this dark world with how we live and deal with adversity. Our trials and troubles are tools that the creator uses to reach others. Are you willing to be used by God to reach others? Even if it means you sacrifice your comforts. In the end your opinion does not matter. It will happen anyway. (SLIDE 6) You can choose to be miserable or you can choose to be victorious. Smile when it hurts. Have joy in the pain. Look forward to death.

We can choose Joy and have peace and assurance because we know where we are going and we follow the king.

Let me close with a prayer.

Lord Jesus. Help us to choose joy during life's troubles. I need your peace and assurance because I know I cannot do it without You Father. I choose to be victorious and trust you God with the outcomes.

I pray for the listener today. Help them to see their worry has not value. It's just the evil one keeping them from the abundant life you promise, Lord. Please give them the strength they need to choose You and Trust You. Then I know, their worries will melt away.

And I pray all these things to the Father in your name Jesus. Amen.

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.