

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

STOP LIVING IN THE PAST

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PART 1: ADMIT YOUR PROBLEM

Every believer in Christ has a filing system that is used on a daily basis. We can file things by design, or if we take no action, they are filed by default. Each one of us has two filing cabinets that most of us do not even know exist or that we are using and abusing them.



**IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE**



**ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE**

You will face challenges which demand a decision every moment that you are awake. Most believers in Christ have very little faith, and when they are confronted with a challenge that is going to take some effort to handle, they are resigned to the fact that the situation is impossible to handle and by default it filed as, "It Is Impossible." **James 1:1-8**

To have faith is the same as having a strong body. If you want to build up your strength, stamina and health, you must exercise regularly, eat the right kinds of foods that are free from preservatives and GMO ingredients and make sure that your body is given plenty of water that is free of chlorine and fluoride. If this isn't possible, you'll have to stand on Mark chapter 16. **Mark 16:17-20**

Likewise, if you want to build your faith, you must turn to the place where faith is generated, the Word of God. **Romans 10:17**

I will caution you that eating the nutrition found in the Word of God will do you no good unless you start to exercise your faith on a daily basis. **Mark 11:12-14; 20-24**

And in order to exercise your faith, you must first come to God's throne and use your right to forgive and to be forgiven. **Mark 11:25-26**



MOST CHRISTIANS ARE LIVING IN DEFEAT

Not only are most Christians living in defeat but they don't even know it.

If you don't know that something exists, you are not going to look for it!

Since very few churches are moving in the power of the Holy Spirit, believers in Christ have never heard there is a Holy Ghost power available and therefore they simply accept their sicknesses, divorces, rebellion by children, loss of employment, etc. **Revelation 3:14-17**

God has told us that people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Hosea 4:6**

God lays the blame on the pastors, evangelists, teachers and prophets who have neglected their duties and taken advantage of God's people. **Ezekiel 34:1-11**

A defeated Christian will be so low on faith that he will accept the status quo as long as he can eke out an existence. This is not living but surrender to the Devil, who is a pathological thief that robs everyone. **John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8**

You will never break out from defeat if you do not read the Bible on a daily basis and take time for prayer. You will never break out from defeat if you attend a church where they use bastard Bibles and teaching nothing but fluff.

If you are follow television evangelists who only emphasize healing or prosperity preachers who tell you that money is going to flow to you if you send the money you don't have by charging it on your credit cards, then the defeat is going to be worse. These preachers and evangelists have nothing to offer but more defeat, heartache and wrecked finances. **2 Timothy 3:1-7**

YESTERDAY'S VICTORIES OR DEFEATS

Living in the past brings stagnation; it's like living in a prison from which you cannot break free.

By always looking back, you cannot break loose from your childhood, the teenage years, the way it was before children were added to the marriage, the way it was before the children grew up and left home and the death of spouses and loved ones.

In our tough economy, we cannot look back at the way it was when a skilled laborer could make \$40 per hour but now has to settle for \$15 per hour.

It used to be that a college graduate could start a job with a salary of \$60,000 per year. Those days are gone and will never come back; we have to adjust to the fact that the standard of living in America is now on the same level as it was in the 1940's. But some things like the cost of gasoline have not been lowered. It was possible in 1963 to purchase a gallon of gasoline for 19 cents, mail a letter for four cents and purchase a brand new car for a mere \$3,000.

I speak from personal experience when I say it is hard to leave the great victories of the past. The moving of the Holy Spirit from 1970 through 1982 in Sweden and Finland with large evangelistic meetings that reached thousands of people for Christ was something I did not want to leave. My wife and I used to look at color

slides from the meetings, listen to old recordings and dream of to being able to go back to Sweden and Finland and do it all over again.

Living in the past made me bitter, angry and frustrated and I always wondered why this wonderful time had to come to an end? I didn't want to move into the future and do the new things that God had for me.

But as times are changing, we must also change. The Gospel is still the same and always will be, but the styles and methods are going to change.

We used reel tape recorders to make radio programs and send out copies to people when I started out as an evangelist. The ministry purchased equipment for this type of outreach for some \$10,000 in 1975 but it only took a few years until this equipment was outdated and we had to move to cassettes and purchase duplication equipment for thousands of dollars because the old stuff was useless. For the next 20 years we invested heavily into more equipment until we ran head on into the age of video players. Again, new equipment was purchased for thousands of dollars so that we could record our services and send out videocassettes to people.

Videotaping the services came to an end around the year 2000 and all we had left were the weekly radio programs and audio recording on cassettes. Five years later God pulled the plug on the daily radio programs that I had been doing for some 30 years and I went into a total shock. How could God do this? What about the thousands of people listening to me every day? God didn't answer and financially we were unable to sustain the radio ministry. I became very angry and bitter and began to stagnate.

I don't like changes. In 1975 I purchased a used Standard typewriter for \$25 and used it to write my books and the sermon outlines. I refused to even think about a computer as they started to come out in the late 1980's. Finally, I was talked into to buying one in 1993, and once I started to use it, I realized how much better it was and retired my old typewriter.

In 1997, the late Walter Gross from Michigan told me that the ministry needed a website. My answer was, "What for?" He insisted and so I told him that we did not have the manpower or finances for it, but it would be fine with me if he wanted to start one for the ministry and run it from Michigan. I didn't realize the vast outreach of the Internet and this was where God was leading our ministry.

God did not tell me when He closed down the radio programs that He was going to move us into webcasting. In 2008 the ministry prayed in some \$40,000 and we were able to convert the church sanctuary to a video studio from which we record and stream the Sunday morning service and the Thursday night Bible study.

I have learned my lesson that what we are doing today is not necessarily what we will be doing tomorrow. God has set me free! **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

HAS GOD SET YOU FREE?

From the time of Christ, the Jewish people have been living in the past. All they can think about is the glorious days of Israel during the reign of King David and

King Solomon. They want that back with a messiah they can control. Even the apostles initially thought like that. **Acts 1:4-8**

Jesus was going to do a new thing but it still took time before the apostles had understood that the Kingdom Jesus came to establish was not of the earth, but a spiritual Kingdom existing in the heart of every person who had been born again. **John 18:33-37**

Let's find out what Jesus is doing today and join Him. **John 15:1-5**

GET OUT OF THE PAST!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?