



Finding strength that will never fail you

After I became a Christian, there were many years when I had no victory in my everyday life. I was miserable because I still had wounds in my soul from the past that made me insecure, angry, suspicious of

others, and hard to get along with. Even though I loved God and went to church every week, I had no idea that there was power available to me to overcome the hurts from the past and the struggles of everyday life. And everything that came along that was hard to

handle, defeated me. But I was so grateful when I found out in God's Word that not only is He powerful, but He wants to fill us with His power. He promises in His Word that we can have abundant life in Christ because He has overcome the world (See John 10:10; 16:33).

The truth is, as believers in Christ, we don't have to live weak, wimpy, pitiful, pathetic, barely-getting-by lives. We can have God's power working in us to enable us to do whatever we need to do in life.

up anyway because Jesus has overcome the world. In John 16:33 (AMP), Jesus says, "...In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world."

No one can promise you a problem-free life, but God promises that if you will put your trust in Him, He will give you a faith that enables you to rise above the problems you face. And when you get through them, you'll be stronger on the other side than you were before you had them.

you face. I love Philippians 3:10 because it says we can actually experience the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

In this verse, the apostle Paul says his determined purpose was to "know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]" (AMP).

This is an amazing and encouraging promise from God, because we all face problems and have weaknesses we can't overcome in our own strength or effort. But if we are determined to trust God in every situation, all the time, we can fight the good fight of faith by His grace.

Being more than a conqueror through Christ

Romans 8:37 (AMP) says: "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]." I love this phrase "more than conquerors." But what does it really mean?

Being more than a con-

queror means that before you ever have a problem, you are confident that you have whatever it takes to overcome it through your relationship with Christ.

In other words, you know you have the victory before you ever get the problem.

Now, in order to "qualify" for the power of God, we must first come to the place where we recognize that in and of ourselves, we are weak and we have limitations without God. If we didn't have any weakness, we wouldn't realize we need Him. And one of the best prayers we can ever pray is "God, I need You, and I'm nothing without You" (See John 15:5.)

It's so important for us to understand this because if we wait until we have a problem that's too big for us to handle before we rely on God's strength, then we're setting ourselves up to fail.

The best thing we can do to live this life in victory is to continually seek God with our whole heart, realizing we're desperate for Him all the time. Spend time with Him in prayer and studying His Word every day.

Then, when the storms of life happen, you will be confident that in Christ, you already have everything you need to overcome them... and you'll experience the power of His resurrection as you rise above them.

'Humanitarian Clown' topic at next FUUF service

Reatha Ryan will be the guest speaker at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, July 16, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Ryan's message is titled: "The Humanitarian Clown."

Ryan has worked in the medical and mental health fields as a registered nurse and practitioner for 45 years. After so many years of "pretty serious work," Ryan said she took interest in being a clown as a fun way to make a difference in the world.

She and a busload of 40 international clowns, all very

like-minded and like-hearted took a trip together to Russia for humanitarian reasons.

Ryan will share her experience as a clown in Russia with the UU congregation.

The UU Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Rd. is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuuf.org or call 541-997-2840.

SPIRITUALI-TEA INVITES PUBLIC TO 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

In the summer of 1999, Suzanne Mann-Heintz, along with James Heintz, began co-facilitating the "Soup's On" spiritual group inside her home.

Since then, the meeting's name has been changed to Spirituali-Tea, but Mann-Heintz has kept on.

In celebration of her 70th birthday, the group will be serving the same style of clam chowder when they first began, along with music and conversation.

All are welcome to attend the free gathering to be held on July 17 at 6:30 p.m. at 874 Seventh St.

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Your name: _____
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