V

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR RANKIN

Victorious Faith

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (St. John 16:33)

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4)

Do not think it strange when negative things happen in your life – health problems, financial difficulty, family problems, etc. Because they are Scriptural and cannot be avoided. Jesus said that we will experience **tribulation** in the world. I have experienced tribulation recently in my life. The key is learning how to overcome tribulation with God's **Faith**. It is in overcoming that we enjoy life. God's Faith always causes us to triumph because it is an "overcoming" Faith. Several things must be learned about it to experience victory:

■ Faith Spirit

When we receive the "Holy Spirit" into our heart, we receive a spirit of **Faith**. This "new spirit" is already <u>greater</u> than the negative challenges that **Satan** brings. (I John 4:4) The "spirit of Faith" does two fundamental things: (1) it **believes** and (2) it **speaks**. Keep this in mind. II Corinthians 4:13 declares, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak."

Obviously, the key is what we believe. We believe what God's word <u>says</u> about a challenge. His word has **authority** over all challenges. When we believe, what happens is that we come into **agreement** with God. To agree with Him is to disagree with our challenge, although it is there and pressures us. God says that <u>in</u> all these things, we are more than conquerors. Therefore, the situation will change. (*Romans 8:37*)

■ Faith Law

Faith is a Spiritual <u>thinking</u> and <u>speaking</u> Law. (Romans 3:27) Please know that we cannot think Faith Law with a "natural mind." Our mind must be changed with God's word for the Law to work. Faith Law works in two places: our heart and our mouth. We think God's words and speak them only. Without these thinking and speaking works, Faith is dead and will not produce victory. (James 2:17) Further, it must not be **transgressed** to see victory. We transgress it fundamentally with our **mouth**. (Psalm 17:3) That is, we speak, or complain, about our situation; not what God says. Such speaking is called <u>unbelief</u>. This causes us to depart from God. (Hebrews 3:12) Also, we cannot say what God says, then turn around and speak about our situation. Such speaking is called **wavering**. (James 1:6-7) Where unbelief and wavering exist, the situation will not change. God only responds to His Faith operating in our hearts. (Eph. 3:20)

■ Working our Faith

We are *speaking* beings. We are going to talk daily. The key is what we are talking about: the situation that we are in, or God's word for **victory** over it. God will cause you to overcome. Therefore, do not **focus** on the situation. It will certainly change. We do not deny its existence; we deny its right to exist in our lives. We believe it will change as we *speak* God's word.