

Sunday Morning Worship
January 15, 2012

Sermon: **“Confidence for Christian Climbers”**

Text: John 16:25-33

Even though difficult hours and days were about to unfold, Jesus wanted His disciples to remember that because they had aligned themselves with Him, that special relationship would entitle them to receive unique spiritual blessings and resources that would encourage, equip, and strengthen them. As we consider this concluding section of Jesus’ Upper Room discourse, what are those unique spiritual blessings Jesus promises?

Because of our connection to Jesus we are privileged to receive:

1. _____ of spiritual _____. (16:25)

That phrase “*figurative language*” literally means “*proverbial language*”—or language that is *purposefully veiled, vague, or obscure*.

“What seemed hard to understand for the disciples during the life of Jesus would become clear after His death, resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.” –John MacArthur

1 Cor. 2:14 ESV “...*natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*”

1 Cor. 2:16 ESV Christians “*have the mind of Christ.*”

2. _____ with the _____. (16:26-27)

One of the greatest tragedies of doctrine that persists in the Roman Catholic system is their general belief that God is hard to approach. That is why in the Roman system there is an ongoing emphasis on praying to Mary and the various saints.

Rom. 5:1-2 ESV, “*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*”

Heb. 4:16 ESV “*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*”

God bids us to come boldly--- and He rejoices to hear us and answer us because He loves us!

In verse 28, Jesus makes one of the clearest statements anywhere in the Gospels regarding His mission as the Son of God. It’s really the perfect summary of Jesus life and task: *Came forth from the Father* (incarnation) *and have come into the world* (humiliation). *Again, I leave the world and go to the Father* (summarizes His resurrection, ascension, and exaltation).

3. _____ of _____. (16:33a)

Jesus wanted His disciples to have a reminder that because they knew Him and were rightly related to Him--- they possessed a supernatural commodity of peace that would sustain them through the terrible turmoil to come!

John 14:17 ESV “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you....Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*”

Rom. 14:17 “*righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*”

Phil. 4:6-7 ESV “...*the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

Jesus says His legacy of supernatural peace is there to guard our hearts--- turning doubt into confidence, worry into assurance, and fear into joy!

4. _____ over the _____ world
_____. (16:33b)

Jesus doesn’t say that the tribulation would be optional or voluntary.

2 Tim. 3:12 ESV “*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...*”

Even though this hostile world system is going to stand against us with all its might--- this world is a defeated foe!

Jesus made it to the top. He conquered sin, death, the grave, the devil, and especially this hostile world system. And because we are “on the rope” with Him--- because we are rightly related to Him and in union with Him through the Gospel--- we can have confidence knowing that we too have victory assured!