**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 65**

**1 John 2:12-14**

I am writing to you, dear children,

because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

I am writing to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,

because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children,

because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,

because you are strong,

and the word of God lives in you,

and you have overcome the evil one.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. Do I feel forgiven by God? Why?
2. Am I sharing my knowledge of God to those around me? Why?
3. Am I still overcoming the evil one or have I allowed myself to be defeated? Why?
4. Do I feel strong? Why?
5. Is the Word of God living in me? Why?

***Insight:***

In his letter, John included a song or a poem that recounts the blessings that Christians have. Songs and poems can be powerful reminders of what God has done for us. Some of the songs we sing in church have lyrics that remind us of the greatness of God and his blessings for us. We should focus on the lyrics so we can be inspired. In fact, we should be more concerned about understanding the message of the lyrics and be moved by the words more than singing in the right tone.

The first blessing mentioned is that all Christians have been forgiven of their sins. If this was the only thing that God did for us, it would be more than enough for us to be joyful for the rest of our lives. Being forgiven means we don’t have to be punished for our sins. We are forgiven because Jesus died on the cross for us. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our forgiveness. Have we forgotten this? For as long as we remain faithful, we are forgiven today as on the day of our baptism. How much do we value this forgiveness?

The second blessing mentioned is that we know God. I think as Christians we often take this for granted. Many people in the world do not know God. What is sad is that most of them think that they have the correct view of God, but they don’t. Many people are confused or misled about God. But we are not. We have something that many people around us do not have – knowledge of God. This is the knowledge that everyone needs. This is life-saving knowledge. But are we sharing this knowledge with the people around us? What are we doing to share this knowledge?

The third blessing is that we have overcome the evil one. The Greek translated as “overcome” means “to conquer” or “to subdue.” We didn’t just escape or survive the evil one, we conquered him. We are no longer under his power; we have been set free from the slavery of sin. Many people are a slave to their sins, they cannot overcome the evil one. Some of them really want to change but they could not. In contrast, by the grace of God we can say no to sin. Have we forgotten this? Have we allowed ourselves to be defeated by sin again? For those who remain in Christ, our victory is assured. We just need to continue fighting the spiritual battle. Even if sometimes it seems like we are losing, God promises that in the end we will be victorious. The ending of the story has already been written. We just need to stay faithful until the very end.

The fourth blessing is that Christians are strong. But sometimes we don’t feel strong because of weaknesses we have. We need to remember that our strength does not depend on us. We are strong when our strength is in God. Like Paul we can say that: “For when I am weak, then I am strong” (1 Co 12:10). We need to rely on God in order to be strong. Have we been relying on God or on ourselves? Are we doing our best to be stronger in the Lord every single day?

The fifth blessing is that the Word of God lives in us. God has written his Word in our hearts (Heb 8:10). Many people in the world do not know the Word of God. Not only is the Word in our hearts, it is living and active. The Word of God is influencing our thoughts, actions and feelings. What an incredible privilege this is! But sadly, this is not true for some of us because we have not allowed the Word of God to influence us. Is the Word of God living in you? Is it guiding your every decision, action and thought? If out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks, do our words show that the Word is in our hearts?

John wrote to remind them of who they were. He wrote to encourage them. Let us strive to encourage each other. Let’s remind each other of the blessings we have in Christ. Let us remember what we have because of Jesus. Sometimes we may need to sing songs to remind us.

Let us set aside time each day to sing and thank God for all that we have in Christ.