

September 24, 2023

Superman

by Rickie Jenkins

When I was a kid, I loved watching Superman. “Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!” “Up in the sky – Look! It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s Superman!”

Superman! A being no larger than an ordinary man but possessed of powers and abilities never before realized on earth. Able to leap into the air an eighth of a mile in a single jump, tremendous weights, and bend solid steel in his bare hands as though it was paper. Superman! Strange visitor from a distant planet. Champion of the oppressed! Physical marvel extraordinaire, who has sworn his existence on Earth to helping those in need.

Yet, with all his superhuman powers, there was still one weakness that could make him less than superman. It was kryptonite. To escape it he would have to accelerate to light-speed to prevent being exposed.

Consider, no matter how strong or powerful we may be, we too have one danger. Our kryptonite is sin. We are not strong enough to stand up to Satan and sin, but there is one who is stronger and mightier than Superman. He can and has defeated Satan. He has provided the strength for us to stand up to the devil (Eph. 6:10-19). He has empowered us to withstand the fiery darts of Satan. That

one is Jesus Christ.

We cannot stand with our own power. We are weak. We stand with His power. “Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Eph. 2:10). The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is for all who believe (Eph. 1:18-19). The power of the resurrection not only makes forgiveness of sin possible, it also enables us to break the habit of sin.

Having put off the old man and put on the new, we have a new mind. No longer do we have the mind of Satan. Now we have the mind of Christ. With this change, we said we were through with Satan and we now turn to God. That’s an anchor that is set. No small print. No excuses. It’s a mind that we continually renew. When we find ourselves away from it, we go back to our anchor.

Having the mind of Christ, the pursuit of sin is no longer appealing. Now our whole heart, soul, and mind is set on pleasing God always in all things. The mind of Christ, His character, His disposition, His teaching, and His nature becomes ours. So, it is no longer my will, but His will that is done in my life.

Satan, sin, and selfishness have been defeated. That’s not to suggest we will never sin again, but it does say when we do sin, we are reminded of what we

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, September 29 - October 1

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, September 26 at 10 a.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

said when we put off the old man and put on the new. Our character is being transformed to be like His. We empty ourselves of our will and put on His will. His will enables us to defeat the practice of sin.

Superman? No. Kryptonite? No. Transformed into the image of Christ? Yes. Transformed into His image-- now able to break the habit and practice of sin? Yes. "Here in the power of Christ we will stand!"

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy.

Mike McMurray will be undergoing triple bypass surgery.

Tristen Boatright had a procedure to remove a cyst.

George Hicks was hit by his car.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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