

The Victory

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[0:00] Life's hardness and burdens can overwhelm us and our own failings and doubts can weigh us down heavily. Sin can hold us captive and trap us. Sometimes we struggle to let go of past hurts or failures or disappointments. We can all get distracted from God's best and feel defeated and we opt out. We feel like we are a loser. We feel like quitting, throwing in the towel. It's easy to feel like that. It's easy to live in that defeat. To know that something's missing. To not know God's way to victory. We can all have moments like that.

I think of dear friends of mine, family. It's like they've dropped the ball spiritually. Something's happened and they're in this place of defeat. Despair. I want to show you this morning biblically how you can know victory in your life. There's a promise here. It's from the Word of God. I'd urge you, really write this down and put it on your fridge even.

Even better, write it on the tablet of your own heart. This very verse speaks volumes, doesn't it? 1 John 5 verse 4. It says, for whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world. And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. What is victory? We think of battles won. Of a foe overcome. You know, you win the big game or whatever it be. That's what the world would think, isn't it? Victory! We've won the premiership or whatever it be. But this is something much, much more than any kicking a ball around a piece of grass. This is something much, much more important. This is about the victory within. Victory, it means to win, to conquer, to fight, to be the winner. Think of what victory is not. It's not about being successful, as the world would reckon it. It's not about prosperity, or a perfect, trouble-free life, perfect health. It's not that. But it does take a battle. And times of testing. There is a victory for you, that we can know, each one. It's sad when people are defeated. You see people, they're downcast, downhearted. It doesn't have to be that way. The Bible shows us how we can set our affection on things above, not on the things of this world. We all want to survive, to achieve, to succeed. And the Bible shows us the way to victory. This very verse is jam-packed with these important truths. Ways to victory, to get the victory within, over the struggles and troubles of life. It doesn't mean that you'll have a trouble-free life, a stress-free life, even a happy life, as the world would call happy. But you can get victory. Amen. You can get victory. And you can know that victory inside. And you can see that load lighter, that God can touch our lives and our families, and give us that victory that really counts. And we are assured here, in this verse, of the victory. This is the victory. It's promised. It's offered. And there are conditions for it, though. Firstly, we see this. We see that we have to, firstly, be born of God. It's something we underline when we go witnessing, telling others, as each one can witness in their own way, are you saved? Are you born again? We cannot know true victory without this. We have to be born of God. We have to be made God's children. Some people think, when they're born through some tradition, or ritual, or ceremony, or family connection, that they're a child of God. No. Wrong. Boop. Wrong answer. You're not a child of God when you get born. You're a child of the devil. I was. Now I'm a child of God. We're born of our natural human mothers and fathers, of course. But we're not born children of God. No one is born a child of God. We're made a child of God. We are made. We're adopted into his family. And we can know that true victory in knowing that, making sure of that. First and foremost, are you born of God? It's like how the Lord tells Nicodemus, that religious searching man in John 3, those familiar verses where the Lord Jesus addressed him and said, truly, truly, verily, verily, amen, amen, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Of course, he explained that as Nicodemus asked, how can a man be born years old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born? The Lord Jesus explains, no, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the spirit is spirit. We're naturally born. Our mother's waters break. We're born of the flesh. But secondly, we

can be born of the spirit, born of God. And that's the point here. Not just born of the flesh, but born of the spirit also. The Bible tells us that victory is possible. It says, number one, that we must be born of God. We must first be born of God. You're not even on the starting block unless you're born again, born of God. And so first we have to be born of God. The devil is a loser and we have to stop following him. Amen? We know where the devil's going to end up. We don't want to follow him there. All right? We have to be born again. We have to have the new birth to be made anew and maybe made a new creature. And to be born of God, we have to be born again. And the Bible tells us that it's through the word of God. Peter writes that we are born again, not of corruptible seed, not of a seed that's going to corrupt and degrade, but it's incorruptible. It will never degrade. It's everlasting seed. And it's by the word of God, which lives and abides forever. This word is forever. Amen? It's for today. And what's more, it's for you. This truth is essential. It's eternal.

[6:28] And we cannot have victory unless we are born again, born of God. The way to victory starts as we know that truly God is our father and we have become a child of God, a son of God, as our brother read earlier, as many as received him, Christ. He gave them the power to be, become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. So that moment that we believe we're born of God, as we believe we receive God's eternal free gift, we're born, born of God, born again, born from above.

And that's just the beginning of the new walk, of the new life, a new way of living. It's the way to victory. Be born again, number one. Secondly, we see we should be a battler with the world. Don't quit. As I say, as a Christian, it doesn't mean you have a bed of roses, that it's all plain and simple and easy going, that you'll never have a care in the world anymore.

You've got a battle, even more so as a believer. Can you say amen to that? There's a battle, you've got an enemy. So don't quit. Victory comes when we do battle. God says that we who are born of God are overcomers. So what is that, that we overcome? Again, for whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world. And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. So our victory comes when we fight and we conquer the world. We stand in opposition to the world, to what is popular culture, of times, to what is modern redefined so-called truth. The world would redefine the truth today, tell us it's something different from what it always has been. But we are opposed to that which is routinely applauded and celebrated by the world. We're against it. Oftentimes it's what's modern and trendy as the thing of the day, and we're against it because it's not in accord with God. And so there's a battle on our hands. Life can be a battle. Can you say, I identify with that? That it's a battle, isn't it? We wrestle. This fighting, it's a good fight. The good fight of the faith. It's not a game, it's a war. We must be a battler against the world. And unless we realise there's a foe to overcome, we will not overcome. So I put to you today to see the world for what it is. Christ gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world. This world is evil, isn't it? It's the enemy of God. It's against God. We see the trends more so all the time. See the world for what it is. It's the enemy of God, of Christ. And the Bible tells us not to be friends with the world. That friendship of the world is enmity with God. It's hateful. It's hostile to God.

Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. So think of this world, this world that crucified our Lord. If our Lord was to come today in this 21st century, the world would still stand against him. They would still hate him. They would still revile him and mock and curse him and crucify him again if he were here today. We that are born of God are not of God and not of that. We've got a different spirit. 1 Corinthians 2.12 talks about how we've not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God. It's a different spirit, this world. And some professing Christians though are in defeat because they are of the world.

They haven't let go. The world's still got a hold of them. It's like they've capitulated. They pretenders, they're fraternisers with the enemy. You see, back in world war times, they had a lot of propaganda warning people about fraternising with the enemy. Tuning into the enemy's wavelength, the enemy's radio broadcasts, trying to turn the population against and towards the enemy. And some people are like that with the world. They're so tuned in to the world's wavelength that they blend in like chameleons and they have no testimony. They have no victory because there's no battle there. There's no difference in them. They take no stand. Now we heard about our brother sharing how he's a glowing witness for Christ. Just the presence of that joy of the Lord can be a witness.

[11:08] We can be a witness in so many ways but for many they have no testimony. There's no difference in them. They just blend in. They live like the world. They act like the world. They think like the world.

And they speak like the world. There's no victory for them because they have no battle. No wonder they're in defeat. They've given up the fight if ever they were in it. If you will no victory brother, sister today, get in the fight.

Enter into the fray. Enlist in this great cause. I was thinking as the news media is putting it recently how a whole nation's virtually getting conscripted and how they're unwillingly going to war. And some of them are running away from the recruiting office.

It's a picture like some Christians I think. God wants to enlist you but he doesn't want to conscript you. You volunteer. You're like those that are lining up at the recruiting station saying I'm in.

Whereas others are running the other way.

They don't want to enlist in this great cause. Think of it today. We're in a battle, aren't we? We ought to be. If we want to have victory we've got to enter the fight. And we're waging a war against a system that's anti-God. It's a godless world.

[12:27] You look at, not that I make a point of tuning in, but you can't help but get the messaging about the way this world is going, what it's standing for, what it's falling for.

It hates the truth. It hates the gospel, doesn't it? It hates Christians. So we should recognise that we've got a battle and be willing to be a battler. Paul says, God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

See the world for what it is. It's wicked. It's evil. The world should be dead to us. We should be dead to it. Not having a love for it. No more attachment to it. God has something better for us. He wants you to have victory.

We see James records how pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction and to keep himself, keep himself unspotted from the world.

We don't want to have that defilement. We don't want that. There's a difference in us. Some Christians seem to have no difference from the world. They don't have victory because there's no difference.

[13:39] They're stained. They're defiled. There's no testimony against sin. They aren't standing up for Christ. We can all be there. We can all have that moment when, wow, I've blown it. I've been ashamed to my Lord, a reproach.

God wants us to be unspotted from the world. May God give you the grace to be that one, to make that choice, to battle and to love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.

You know these scriptures. If a man loved the world, the love of the Father is not in him. All that is in the world, it says, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, it's not of the Father, but it is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. So think of the world. We're battling it. That's why we've got victory. We're willing to stand for Christ. This world and its pleasures and empty vanities is going to pass away. But the one that does the will of God is going to abide forever. We've got a different spirit.

[14:45] We're not following after the lustings and vanities of this world and its greed and the attractions that draw us away from God. Some seem overwhelmed with that though. The love for the world, the thought of worldly things.

You know these things that get a hold of us, these addictions, these things that drain us and defile the temple and hurt us. We should let it go. Give it away.

No wonder we lack victory when we just chase after the empty things and vanities of this world. See the world for what it is. Realise it's the enemy of your Saviour.

It wants to rob you of your peace with God. It wants to rob you of that victory. It wants to be a substitute for you, a man-made idol. No wonder we doubt God when we get discouraged sometimes in unbelief when we give way to the world and we lose sight of God's will.

They're contrary. Are we battling the world or being overcome by it? Are we caring more for pleasing men, ourselves, or pleasing God? What matters?

[15:51] Do we follow along with the ways of the world? We won't have victory then. We've got to say no. I'm going to refuse that. For you to know victory, don't conform to the world. Be a non-conformist.

You don't have to be defeated. Brother, sister, whatever you're struggling with. You don't have to be defeated and overcome by that which holds you and hurts you.

Don't quit. Be a battler. I know for some, there's friends I know, it seems like they're thrown in the towel. They've lost the fight. They've quit. They've given up.

Brother, sister, if that's you, you can get back in the fight. You can refresh your zeal. You can restore that overcoming that God wants you to have.

So don't quit. Be a battler. The Lord wants us to be an overcomer. For us to overcome, we've got to fight. We've got to battle. And sometimes the battle's within, isn't it? You know, I'm my own worst enemy. It's me. It's me standing in need of prayer.

[16:59] It's me, oh Lord. It's in me. You know, that wrestling. Even Paul, the saintly Paul in the Bible, he struggled. Paul knew that battle of fighting within. The good that I would, I don't do it.

The bad that I shouldn't do, I do. You know, it's in us. It's in every man. And we've got to fight that. Be a battler. Thirdly, we see being a believer. Another way to victory, the key for victory really, is faith.

It's even our faith. Our victory is even our faith. It's by faith. By faith. Yeah. Simple faith. God-given faith, isn't it?

It's God-manifested faith. It's God-granted faith. That we should not lose heart. That we should be a believer. That we should keep the faith. Keep on believing. Believe God. Trust God.

We see that in 1 John 5, 4. For whatsoever is born of God, born again, overcometh the world, be a battler. And this, this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Believe. Believe God.

[18:08] We see that God wants us to get the victory to conquer, to overcome. It's our faith. It's our faith that we must nurture and build. Build your faith. Build your faith.

That's what we're doing here. When we fellowship, we're building our faith, aren't we? Building our faith, not our doubts. Don't hold back. Believe God. Believe God. We're powerless to overcome without the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

There's no victory without Christ. Without Him we're lost, we're defeated, we're enslaved. He is the only one who can set us free and give us the power to overcome.

We must believe God. It's what sets the saved apart from the unsaved, isn't it? Faith. Faith. It's faith. 1 John 5.5 says, Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Now sometimes it's hard when you're witnessing to someone to just get them to confess it. They can't articulate it, let alone incorporate it.

[19:12] You know, that Jesus is my Lord. That Jesus is my Saviour. That Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I believe in Him. And yet, it's that essential need for every soul.

Know the Lord. Trust your Saviour. And He will uphold you and cherish you. You can have a God confidence. It tells you that we can be confident of this very thing. He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

And He's that started it, He's going to fulfil it. He's that's begun it, He's going to finish it, what He started. And we can have a confidence in God. So take hold of His hand by faith.

Now, I'm saying all this here to encourage you to have victory, to live the victorious Christian life. Does that mean it's all going to be plain sailing?

That you're never going to have a worry in the world? No. But you're going to have the Saviour. And you can trust in Him. You can take a hold of His hand through the storms, through the doubts, through the trials, through the failures, through the disappointments, through your grief, through your heartaches.

[20:23] That Christ will be with you in the storm. And He will help you through it. Are you living in defeat or in victory? I urge you today,

overcome your doubts and unbelief.

Leave that doubt zone. Leave the doubt zone and enter the faith zone. I love a quote I picked up from somewhere. Feed your faith and starve your doubts to death.

It's a good one, isn't it? Feed your faith. Brother, sister, take a hold of His truth, His promises. Feed your faith. Feed. Here it is. This is good food.

Feed your faith and you'll starve your doubts to death. Sometimes we feed our doubts, don't we, instead? We feed our doubts. We feed our flesh.

And no wonder we lack victory. We know that the Lord wants us to have a life filled with fruit, with power, with positive witness.

[21:23] Will we follow the flesh or the spirit? Will we be carnal or spiritual? Will we be just like the world and the enemies of God? Or will we believe God?

Really it's faith that changes everything, isn't it? Faith changes everything. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Amen. And we can all have those moments of wondering why life is not fair. I think of some friends of mine of late, how they've been talking and feeling like, oh, look, it's all unfair. You know, I've had a raw deal. I've had a lousy chain of events and bad things have happened to me and keep on happening to me.

And I'm just gonna, you know, just sit here and stew about it. And look, I'm not downplaying that's very real for that one.

I'm not in their shoes. You know, it's easy for me to say, ha, he should sort this out. She should do this and that. And when really it's me.

[22:24] It's me that needs sorting out. Amen. And we can all have those moments when life is unfair. Life is unfair, isn't it?

And why? Why me? Why me? Why me? And we get it often when we witness things to folk. People get these mental blocks, this wall that they're building around their, their mind, their heart, building up against the knowledge of God.

There's this big fortress that they're building. I want to stay inside this stronghold. Yeah. Bad things. God's fault. That's what they say.

Even the atheists. It's ironic, isn't it? I'm an atheist. I don't believe in God. He's not fair. You know, they point the finger at God.

And some people say, why do bad things happen to good people? And then I saw something lately. Well, actually, there's no good people. There is none good. None.

[23:24] Not one. None good. No, not one. There is no righteous. We all live in a sinful, fallen planet. None of us are good. We all deserve misery and suffering in a sense.

And I don't mean to make light of that. Julie says, sometimes I laugh at saying bad things. I don't mean to downplay that honestly. It's real for people.

Heartache, loss, grief, tragedy, sickness. The worst kind of evil happening to your family members. How could this be? And then we're seeing the headlines. Bishop molests young boys while he's in the office of a bishop. You think, that's the church. That's God. That's evil.

And they blame God for what is man's sin. Yeah. And they make that a reason why they don't believe. Yeah. Excuse. Honestly.

[24:24] Truly, we're all subject to the miseries and sufferings of life at times. But don't let that give way to doubt, to despair. Yeah.

These are not times to falter or doubt God. It's God's fault, they say. He's not helped me or he's not helping me. He's let this happen, that happen.

It's God's fault. No way. No. It's not his fault. He is with you that believe. He is for you. Actually, if anyone's to blame, it's our fault.

Collectively, we are to blame for the unspeakable evil that's all around us. Man's sin. It's man. It's me. Man is getting his due penalty.

Mankind, the burden, the misery, the human suffering, the pain. It's our lot for the now. It doesn't mean that God doesn't care. No, not at all. It doesn't mean that he doesn't care or that God has left us.

[25:21] He's with us. He's with us in the valley of the shadow of death. We know that God will right all the wrongs. One day it'll all be sorted.

Hallelujah. The God of all the earth shall do right.

All the wrongs will be righted. And all the justice will be truly given. All the penalties shall apply.

Friends, we know that God will right all the wrongs.

And for the meantime, we must simply trust him. Trust his plan. Trust him. It's faith. It's faith. It sees the invisible. It sees his hand.

I have seen the nearest and dearest to me go through a lifetime of sometimes burden, trauma, heartache and pain. Past hurts still wreak havoc.

Yeah. Things that happened decades ago are still impacting loved ones in my life. And many hurts last lifelong.

[26:22] That's not to discount. That's the reality. Yet these are not the times to give up. Yeah. These are the times to have faith, to believe, to yet believe.

It's like our Lord says to the ruler of the synagogue. He says, be not afraid. Only believe. Only believe. In times of human suffering, we can draw closer to our Saviour and know that real source of help and hope and comfort.

And these really are all the more reason to believe. When the hard things happen, it's all the more reason to believe. Doubt and unbelief will just bring defeat.

And you can stay there. You can stay in the doubt and unbelief. You can stay there. That's where the devil wants you to be. In doubt and unbelief. And to stay there. Stay unbelieving.

Stay doubting. Stay backsliding. Stay blaming God. Stay out of the firing line. Stay chilled. Cold.

Very cold. The devil loves it that way.

[27:25] To keep you there. Or you can be on the other side. Only believe. I don't know why this is happening. I don't know why I've had all this hurt and heartache.

The baggage. The disappointments. The discouragement. The weights. But I still believe. I only believe. Only believe. Simply believe. We see God's word is jam packed with men and women who just believed.

They believed God no matter what their circumstance. The heroes of the faith. We see their stories. Real men and women of God. Who took a stand. They believed God and his promises.

Abraham. The friend of God. Wow. What a title. If you want a title. That's one to get. Isn't it? Not the Duke of Edinburgh. Or the Prince of Wales. Or the King of England.

Yeah. The friend of God. Wow. Nothing beats that. Abraham was the friend of God. He followed the Lord. Even when he didn't know where he was going. When his faith was tested.

[28:23] Even to the point of being willing to even sacrifice Isaac his son. We see Moses by faith. Moses the man of faith. He turned his back on Egypt and all the treasures and pleasures of it.

He chose instead the afflictions. The afflictions of the people of God. By faith he led Israel out of Egypt to the promised land. We see by faith Joshua.

See the faith of Joshua. He crossed over the Jordan on dry ground. He circled Jericho for seven days. And the walls fell down. Apparently those walls of Jericho you look up in the books.

They're really thick walls. These weren't just little flimsy walls. These were thick fortress walls. They fell down. By faith. By faith. By faith Enoch walked with God.

He had this testimony that he pleased God. Wouldn't that be something? Put that on your resume.

He pleased God. That's what we want to be isn't it? By faith Joseph. He saw God deliver him time and time again from trial after trial.

[29:23] By faith Noah. He built an ark for the saving of his house. By faith Rahab the harlot believed God. You know you think you might be too far gone. Rahab the harlot.

She's known as a woman of faith now. Yeah. We know her now as the woman of faith. Despite where she used to be. Yeah. It's Rahab the woman of faith now. Amen. By faith Rahab.

By faith Samson. He was a one-man army against the Philistines. He failed. But he got the ultimate victory. You might say preacher I've failed. Well I joined the club.

You know. You can get the victory. Despite the failures. Despite the failures. We can get victory after victory.

We can get victory after failure too can't we? Amen. Because he's the God of the breakthrough. The God of the second chance. I'm not meaning to sound too hyper charismatic here. But the Bible is filled with life after life of the victory of faith.

[30:21] Of faithfulness. See Elijah by faith. Elijah he stood in confronts of the king. Over his sin. Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are. He was just like you and me.

A common, ordinary garden variety. Elijah he was subject to the same passions like as we are. But he prayed. By faith. God answered.

And the heavens opened. And he prayed again. And the rain came. By faith Daniel. Daniel's faith. Held strong in a heathen land.

He had it all against him. He was outnumbered. But Daniel was strong in the Lord by faith. In prayer. And when he was older he stood firmly. To take a message of judgment to the king. By faith. Men and women. Men and women of faith. Victory came. By faith. And it will come for you. By faith. The good news is that Christ has already defeated Satan for us.

[31:19] It says greater is he that is in you. Than he that is in the world. So if you know Christ as your saviour. If you're born again. If you keep on that battle. That battling on. You can know by faith.

God's victory. You can know that he is able to finish what he started. And believer you can know victory today. You can know victory in this day. In this day.

Victory after victory. Victory even after defeat. Don't let the defeat. Keep you there. If you felt like you've fallen.

You've failed. You've been defeated. God hasn't given up on you yet. There's victory for you. And by faith. All of us can rise up. By faith.

We can rise up and stand up. By faith. And know the victory. Even after we've failed. Because God doesn't give up. On his own. But thanks be to God. Which giveth us the victory.

[32:15] Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's pray. Lord we thank you today. That we can know. Your saving grace. We can be born of God. Born again.

Lord that you can affect a Transformation. Such that we made new creatures. And we made brand new. Inside. We're born of God. We're born of God.

Lord we thank you that. We have. A world to overcome. The world. The flesh. The devil. It's a fight. We've got that fight on our hands. We're battling on. Lord it's hard.

Sometimes it's a slog. It's hard to put our head above the trenches. And. We know. This is real. We've got an enemy committed. Lock, stock and barrel.

To our assassination. Lord we pray. Give us the grace. To carry on. This fight. To fight. The good fight of the faith. To run that race with patience.

[33:12] Until. The very finish. Of it. Lord we pray. There's any doubting. That. They can. Only believe. Only believe. Pray for those. That we've been witnessing to.

Numbers come to mind. From yesterday. There's that mental block. That mental block. Of. Something stopping them. And we know who it is. We know who it is. It's the devil.

Has blinded the minds of them. That believe not. Lord help. Help their eyes to be. Wide open. To see. This reality of faith.

Lord it's not something complicated. It's something so very simple. That we can simply receive. That great work of your. Salvation. That you've done everything to pay for.

We simply have to receive it. Lord help us to be your workmanship. Created in Christ Jesus. Unto good works. Pray for every soul. He gathered. Lord for those who watch.

[34:08] From afar. Whether there's. Trial. There's test. There's. Temptation. There's tragedy. There's loss. There's grief. There's heartache. There's pain.

Lord the battle rages on. And sometimes we get injured. And bruised. And wounded. Lord it's. It's. Easy to feel. Overwhelmed. Yet.

Lord. You are with us. You never leave us. Nor forsake us. And Lord. You're always there with us. You're always by our side. Lord. You're always there for us. We pray that.

Those that are struggling with doubt. We'd. See. Where the doubt comes from. And. Give it over. Lord. Receive. By faith. That.

Enlightenment. From above. That. That light. That shines. Through our darkness. And gives us. That. Blessed truth. Of your saving. We pray for each soul.

[35:03] To know that. And Lord. It's each one. As we are born again. As we're battling. That you'll give us that victory. By faith. Help our faith. To get stronger. Help us to feed our faith.

Every chance we can. To come. And hear the word of God. So we can. Be blessed. Lord. We pray. In Jesus name. That each one will know. What it means.

To trust. Christ. As their saviour. And to walk in that truth. To walk. To live by faith. And walk that walk of faith. In Jesus. Precious name. We pray.

Amen.