

This article was something that was put together over a four week period, prior to the web site being designed. There are some great nuggets in here to help you live a victorious life.

## **Victorious Living**

**(Part 1 of 4)**

Many of us have heard that old saying, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired." Have you ever felt like this even as a CHILD OF GOD? You pray, fast, give, but it seems that nothing is moving. Scripture declares, "But thanks be to God, who **always** leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him." (2 Cor 2:14, NIV)

It says HE ALWAYS leads us in TRIUMPH, not sometimes, not just on some special occasion, but ALWAYS. The Lord wants us to be triumphant in every area of our lives, because that is what He paid for on the Cross. Sometimes we are looking to win the big war, but I believe the Lord is causing us to be VICTORIOUS over the daily battles. I'm not talking about us fighting the devil, because he is already defeated. (See Colossians 2:14-15). I'm talking about us defeating the enemy of our souls, which in most cases is OURSELVES. So how do we have this victorious life, 1 Corinthians 15:57, states, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ." The word "**victory**" originates from the Greek word, nike (nee'-kay); which is defined as, **the means of success.**

There are a few **means or tools** for success that I want to cover over the next few weeks. The first is FAITH. Scripture declares, for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **faith** (1 John 5:4).

We are called believers, so it is our job to believe that God will do His job, which is to cause us to triumph. So many times I think we can get off track and have faith in our ability to have faith, rather than just having faith in God's ability to do whatever He said He would do for us in His word. There are two Scriptures that I want to share with you on how we can increase our faith.

**Hebrews 11:1:** Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Romans 10:17:** so then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the **word** of God.

The first verse tells us if there is anything we are hoping for, the *means for success* or the substance we need to see it happen is faith. The second verse tells us in order to receive faith or the *means for success* we must HEAR the WORD OF GOD. This type of "hearing" is not just with our natural ears, but also with our spiritual ears. Jesus made many comments like, "if you have ears to hear", "you will be ever hearing but never understanding," and "be careful how you hear." So you see there must be a REVELATION in our HEARING from the WORD OF GOD in order for us to live victoriously. *If we are going to hear God CLEARLY then there must be times of Intimacy and an emptying of ourselves.*

## **Victorious Living** **(Part 2 of 4)**

Our next *means of success* is knowing the WORD OF GOD. I'm not talking about memorizing Scripture, although we need to do that as well, but the word KNOW has a deeper meaning. Jesus said in John 8:32, "and you shall **know** the truth and the truth shall make you free." Notice in this passage of Scripture that it is not just the truth that makes us free but it is us KNOWING the truth that makes us free.

The word "know" is the Greek word, ginosko (ghin-oc'e'-ko). This is the same Greek word that is used in Luke 1:34, where Mary told the Angel "How shall this be, seeing I **know** not a man?" Simply meaning, that she has not been *intimate* with a man. The word *intimate* as defined in Webster's dictionary is also the word, *essential*. The word *essential* means; **belonging to the very nature of a thing and therefore incapable of removal without destroying the thing itself or its character**. Paul gives us a great illustration in 1 Corinthians 6:16-17, stating whatever we are INTIMATE with that is what we become. **"Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.** The word *joined* in the Greek means "to glue." We must be careful what we allow ourselves to become "intimate" or "glued" too, because that is what we will become. If we allow fear, anger, offense, bitterness, etc., into our lives then eventually that is the very nature we will possess.

There is good news, the Word of God can destroy all the things that are in our hearts and minds that do not line up or are INTIMATE with the Word. Because the Bible states in Hebrews 4:12, **for the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it *judges* the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (NIV)

Whatever character flaws we might have now, we do not need to continue to live with them, because the Word of God has made a way for us to be free. I want to encourage you to begin to increase your time with the Lord. First by devouring His Word, because it is the very blueprint that He wants for our lives. Second, by spending time with Him through worship and just quite time with Him. Then lastly, times of prayer. I will cover next week some ways to become more INTIMATE with THE WORD.

## **Victorious Living**

**(Part 3 of 4)**

This week I want to give you two key principles, or "means of success", that will help you to be more INTIMATE or GLUED with the Word of God. The first one is CONFESSION.

Matthew 12:37, gives us a clear picture. "Your words **now reflect your fate** then: either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned." (TLB) I love how the Message Translation says this verse: " Let me tell you something: **Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you.** There will be a time of Reckoning. **Words are powerful; take them seriously.** Words can be your **salvation**. Words can also be your damnation." It is interesting that the Message translation uses the word SALVATION. So many times we just think of this word as a ticket to Heaven, but in the Greek it has an original meaning of to **MAKE WHOLE!** Are there areas in your life that need to be made WHOLE? If so, then you need to stay CONSISTENT in your CONFESSION, but it **MUST BE IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE WORD OF GOD!**

Romans 10:10 says this, "for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and **with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**". The word "confession" is the Greek word homologeo (hom-ol-og-eh'-o) which is made up of two Greek words. The first one is, homou (hom-oo') which means, **together**. The second one is, logos (log'-os), which is the **WRITTEN WORD OF GOD**. Simply meaning, that our CONFESSION must come together with the WORD OF GOD in order for us to receive WHOLENESS or SALVATION.

The second means of success is our THOUGHTS. Scripture gives us a great example through the life of Abraham on how we should keep our thoughts in line.

**Romans 4:19-21;** "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully **persuaded** that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform".

Persuaded is the Greek word (play-rof-or-eh`-o)} which is made up of two words. The first one is [play`-race] which means to **cover completely**. The second is, [for-eh`-o] which means **to have a burden**. This second word gives an analogy of to WEAR LIKE A GARMENT. It would simply mean that, Abraham's mind was covered completely with the promise that HE WHO PROMISED WAS ALSO ABLE TO PERFORM what He had promised, it is as if Abraham was wearing the PROMISE on his MIND like a GARMENT. We must make sure that we also take captive EVERY thought (2 Cor.10:5).

We can not afford to meditate on failure, fear, what if God doesn't come through, why doesn't it happen for me? Etc. We must have a mind set of, blessings overtake me, God is guiding my foot steps, something great is going to happen for me today, etc.

Philippians 4:8 says, "finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- **think about such things.**" (NIV)

When it comes to being more INTIMATE with the Word, we must be CONSISTENT in our CONFESSION of the Word. Also, CONSISTENT in allowing our THOUGHTS to be **covered completely** (like wearing a garment) with the Word.

## **Victorious Living** **(Part 4 of 4)**

The last "**means of success**" is WAITING ON THE LORD. Isaiah 40:31 says, "But those who **WAIT** on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

The word wait is the Hebrew word, qavah (kaw-vaw') which means, **to bind together (perhaps by twisting)**. We can see through this Scripture that it is not just about us waiting for God to do something, although there is a perfect timing of God, but it is more about us staying connected with the Lord while we are waiting. For example, if we become anxious for something, if we begin to worry, or we think we can do a better job, then we are not "knit together" with the Lord, and we have moved ourselves out of the position of faith. I'm not saying we need to be perfect all of the time, but we need to do our best to remain in faith. Remember, ***frustration breeds deception.***

Jesus gives us a clear picture in John 15:4; "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." The word ABIDE is the Greek word, meno (men'-o), which means, to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy). The word IN also has a meaning of remaining in a **FIXED** position. Scripture is very clear that in order for us to produce fruit in our lives we must maintain our **[position (faith, confession, thoughts, & how we wait)]** in the Lord. We must remember that we are to keep FAITH PRESSURE on the Word of God in order for us to receive a harvest from the Word. That is what it means to have a FIXED POSITION. I think so many times we begin to meditate on **HOW** God is going to fulfill the promise, rather than, He **WILL** fulfill the promise.

I want to close with one last Scripture. Luke 1:37 says, "For **with** God nothing shall be impossible." Vine's Dictionary defines the word "with" as, **ALONG SIDE OF**, so we could read that Scripture as; For **ALONG SIDE OF** (knit together with) God nothing shall be impossible. Let me recap the key points in this series.

1. Have Faith in God.
2. Become intimate with the Word of God.
3. Your confession & thoughts must line up with the Word of God.
4. While waiting for the promise to be fulfilled, **STAY FIXED ON POINTS 1-3.**