

KEYS TO VICTORIOUS LIVING

JANUARY 8, 2023

WORSHIP

Victory In Jesus, We Praise You, You Alone Can Rescue, Living Hope, Onward Christian Soldiers

WELCOME

What were your victories in the past year? What are the “wins” that you are trusting God for this 2023?

WORD

JOSHUA 1:1-3, 5-9

¹ Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' [a]servant, saying, ² “Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³ Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

⁵ No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous; [b]be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may [c]have success wherever you go. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may [d] be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will [e]have success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

What enters your mind when you hear the word VICTORY? Perhaps we think of success and winning. But do you also realize that it is God's desire for us? The Christian life is compared to a race; Christians are compared to being an athlete, or a soldier. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** captures the command to “run in such a way that you may win” – and how do we win? There's a part for us to do. In this verse, it is through self-control. As we see from Paul's example, he said “I discipline my body to make it my slave” – living a life not wasted, and not given to uncontrolled desires. The greatest fear of the Apostle Paul was being disqualified!

The devil does not want us to know the truth, so that in the end, we not only feel defeated, but we miss out on fulfillment of the great promises of God. Our enemies are real – the devil, the world, and the flesh. There is a spiritual warfare set against us by the organized schemes of Satan (**Ephesians 6:11-12**) to trick us and make us dishonor the Name of Christ. We are to be sober spirit and be on the alert (**1 Peter 5:8**) to avoid the cunning traps of the devil! The “world” is also an enemy – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (**1 John 2:16**), it's the attraction that this world offers. The flesh is also an enemy; there is a war going on inside of us. But we are not alone, and we can be victorious (**Galatians 5:16-17**). We fight against temptation, get up, and rise to live victoriously! Our victory is secured – **1 Corinthians 15:57** points our victory to our Lord Jesus Christ. From Joshua chapter 1, we learn three principles for victorious living:

1. GOD'S PURPOSE

PURPOSE deals with the WHY. **Joshua 1:1-4** begins with an acknowledgement of Moses, the “servant of the LORD” – and mentions Joshua, called “Moses' servant”. After Moses died, God raises Joshua to lead the Israelites to the conquest of the Promise Land. God gives a fantastic promise to go along with this instruction – God promised His presence will be with Joshua (**v.5**). He commanded Joshua to be “strong and courageous” (**v.6**) and reinforces the purpose of Joshua. His job was to bring them to the Promise Land.

It is important for us to know what God's purpose is for our lives. His purpose for us is good! He gives us specific missions to accomplish (ex. **Matthew 28:18-20**, making disciples, evangelism). Our purpose in life is to use whatever platform God gave us to bless others as God has blessed us.

2. GOD'S PROMISES

God has given us many promises. **Joshua 1:5** is a promise given to Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and the same promise of God is given in the New Testament (**Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:5-6**). Embrace

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the promises of God to live a life of victory. We ought to live based on His promises. He is our Helper, and we don't have to be afraid! To overcome fear, we need God's presence. There is peace in the presence of God and one way we enter His presence is through prayer.

People fail because they don't hold on to the promises; they don't access them. **Numbers 13-14**: is a perfect picture of this. Twelve spies were sent to spy out the Promise Land. The majority report said that they cannot enter as the land is filled with giants, and they were all very intimidated. The minority report, from JOSHUA and CALEB, appeared positive – “we will overcome it”, while the other spies said, “we are not able to go up against them”. They all saw the same thing, but the sad part was that the ten spies focused on the problems and circumstances. Except for Joshua and Caleb, they failed to put God into the picture. When people don't trust God's promises, it's usually because they don't agree with God's purpose as well.

When people don't believe in God's goodness, it means they also don't trust God for all these promises. What a picture of our own unfaithfulness to the Lord! We question, we doubt, and we face consequences like this generation of Israelites who did not believe and were not able to enter the land. **Hebrews 3:18-19** declares they couldn't enter because of their unbelief.

3. GOD'S PRECEPTS

Psalms 19:8 describes how God's precepts (commandments) are a blessing. **Joshua 1:8-9** gives instruction to Joshua to meditate on the Law so they can do everything written in it, and the promised effect is prosperity and success. To meditate means to focus on the word, ponder about the things written in it. People who are worriers meditate on worries, fears, and the mysteries in their lives. Do you study and obey God's Word? **2 Timothy 3:16** tells us that Scripture is profitable – it is our manual for life. The BIBLE is “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth” – it is very essential! We are definitely more complicated than tools and gadgets – we need to follow the design of the Creator, and we can only do that if we have the instructions of God, and we obey them.

Exodus 17:8-11 shows us one thing that Joshua saw in his experience with Moses – victory is only possible as we entrust the battle to God (through prayer), and we do our part in doing our best in the battle (e.g., Joshua fighting physical battles). But it is PRAYER that secures victory and sends us to the presence of God. As this week is our Prayer and Fasting Week, may we be able to align our hearts to Him and His Word, clinging to God's promises and precepts, and accomplish His purpose for us – the keys to victorious living!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What is God's purpose for your life? Are you aligned to it? If not, how do you align?

2. Setting It Right.

What promises of God are you claiming?

3. Living It Out.

Are there any commandments /precepts of God that you need to follow?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Let's pray for challenges and battles that people around us face every day. From financial needs, physical healing, broken families and marriages, spiritual lostness, etc. Ask for specific prayer needs and let them know you will intercede for them during Prayer and Fasting week! Pray with them when you get the chance and ask them how God is working out the answers to your prayers. Take the opportunity to share the gospel to them and let them know the keys to victorious living!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's provision for families deeply affected by inflation.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 1:8

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