



Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park



Theme: Launch! Redefining Our Actions



TOPIC: Victory Just Because of Who You Are

November 7, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." I John 5:4 (NKJV)

"For everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God]." I John 5:4 (Amplified Bible)

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

As we enter this month and season of Thanksgiving, let us take time to give to thanks, honor, and praise to God for the victorious life we now live in Christ Jesus. Like the church Paul wrote to in Galatia, after being saved a while, it is so easy for us to chart a new pattern of thinking and begin to feel that our victory and success, is because of some goodness of our own or some works we have done. Our lesson today helps us understand that **Christ in Us** is the only reason we live victoriously.

There are four key words in our memory verses that we will examine closely:

1. **"Born"** refers to "God making men his sons and daughters through faith in Christ's work... (Blueletterbible.com/ Strong's G1080)
2. **"Victorious"** refers to a conquest; the means of success: victory. (Blueletterbible.com/ Strong's G3529)
3. **"Overcomes"** refers to conquering, to hold fast our faith even unto death against the power of our foes, temptations and persecutions...(Blueletterbible.com/ Strong's G1080)
4. **"Faith"** refers to "conviction of the truth of anything, belief; of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it; (Blueletterbible.com/ Strong's G4102)



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BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

Our topic, “Victory Just Because of Who You Are” is represented by three principles found in our memory verses, **1 John 5:4; Galatians 2:20:**

- Principle #1: **Know your “position” in Christ;** know who you are
- Principle #2: **Know the “benefits” that comes with your position;** conquering power
- Principle #3: **Know the “force” behind your position;** what empowers you

Three Principles			
Scripture References	Principle #1 Know Your Position (Who You Are)	Principle #2 Know Your Benefits (Conquering Power)	Principle #3 Know Your Force (What Empowers You)
1 John 5:4	Born of God Transformed	Victorious, Conqueror Overcomer	Faith in Jesus Christ
Galatians 2:20	Crucified with Christ	Christ (Son of God) lives in you	The life you live is by faith in the Son of God

We can find numerous examples of these principles in the Old Testament as men like Abraham, Gideon, Joshua, David, and others; obtained promises, subdued kingdoms, stopped the mouths of lions as they were empowered by the principle of ***God With Us***, but today as we look at the lives of two New Testament characters (Peter and Paul), we see what can be accomplished with the principle of ***“Christ In Us”***.

Principle #1: Know who you are: Born of God and Transformed

There are two distinct phases in lives of Peter and Paul: ***Before the New Birth*** and ***After the New Birth***.

- **Before Pentecost**, Peter was a fisherman and unlearned. He was a follower and disciple of Christ, but without the new birth, he was unstable, impulsive, and insecure; somewhat arrogant, did whatever he felt was right or should be done, was very outspoken, would curse and swear, and cowardly denied Jesus at His arrest. Understanding Peter’s weakness, Jesus gave him and the other disciples the commission to go to Jerusalem and wait until they would be strengthened with Power from on high (receive the new birth).
- **After Pentecost**, Peter was changed, and he understood Jesus’ saying, “right now the Spirit lives WITH you, but then He shall be IN you ***Jn 14:16-17***. Peter then became aware



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of and accepted his position as a rock-solid pillar in the church and its foundation. With Christ in him, Peter was victorious and had an added dimension of boldness, maturity, and wisdom as he preached the Gospel, and it was received by many.

- **Before his new birth**, Paul was a well-educated young man on his way to becoming a rabbi. He was zealous in the Jewish faith, did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah, devoted his days to terrorizing Jesus' followers, was present at the stoning of Stephen, and had a determination to stop the growing church.
- **After his new birth experience Acts.9:17-18**, Paul's life was changed, and his mission was redirected. Accepting his new position in Christ, Paul became one of the most influential apostle and believer in the history of Christianity. Paul knew who he was and to whom he had been sent, the Gentiles **Gal. 2:7-8**.

Principle #2: Know the benefits of that comes with your position: Conquering Power

With Christ in them, Peter and Paul understood the benefits that came with their positions; they we conquerors, victorious, and overcomers.

- Peter went from a man of little faith to great faith. He believed that the new birth gave him power over sickness, diseases and even death. At Lydda he healed Aeneas who had palsy, and at Joppa he raised Tabitha from the dead, **Acts 9:32-43**. Peter was even bold enough to cross cultures and obey the Christ in him to preach to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and he and his whole household were converted. (**Acts. 10:1-44**) Peter understood that he could speak a thing in the name of Jesus Christ, and it would be done **Acts. 3:6-7**. Even prison could not hold him bound **Acts. 12:5-7**.
- Paul went from no faith to unwavering faith. He saw himself as more than a conqueror, he could do all things through Christ that strengthened him, and there was nothing that could separate him from the love of Christ **Rom. 8:36-39**. Paul went so far as to believe that he could not perish though he was in the ocean in a sinking ship **Acts 27:31**. He was bold and fearless enough to preach Christ, and Him crucified, to King Agrippa and almost persuade him to become a Christian **Acts. 26:1-29**. Even the bite of a poisonous snake could not kill him **Acts 28:5**. After many persecutions, three beatings with rods, five times whipped with 39 stripes, perils of robbers, shipped wrecked three times, perils of his own countrymen, perils among false brethren, and many other things, because of his conquering power, Paul said he gloried in the things that concerned his infirmities. **2 Cor. 11:23-30**



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Principle 3: Know the Force behind the position: Faith

The one thing that Peter and Paul both attest to is that the force behind their position and their power was their Faith in Christ Jesus. Knowing the lives they lived before Christ, the new lives they were living in the flesh could only be accomplished by trusting the Christ IN them.

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Redefining our Actions: This understanding of knowing who we are in Christ Jesus, like Peter and Paul will lead us into a deeper trust-walk with the Lord which is a great victory for us in the Spirit realm. We are more apt to trust Jesus through the hardships and we are more likely to yearn to take on God's nature, behaviors and perspectives during life's hardships and challenges. Our true victories and overcoming occurs when we fully put our faith and trust in Christ. When we yield to adhere to God's perspectives, we are living that Spirit-led victorious lifestyle. And indeed, we are in the position of experiencing "Victory Just Because of Who You Are."



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TOPIC: Victory Through God's Power

November 14, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:

*"And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which delivered thine enemies into thy hand." **Gen. 14:19-20***

*"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." **Luke 10:19***

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

In today's lesson, we will focus on achieving "Victory through God's Power". As we review the lives of two patriarchs, Abram and David, we will see how they defeated enemies and conquered battles because of the Power of God that was working with them. The stories of the Old Testament were written to encourage and teach us that with God, nothing is impossible. Abram and David understood this very well. They were ordinary people who understood that total reliance on God was the prerequisite for victory through God's power. The difference in the saints today and the patriarchs of old is, *they* had God's Power working *WITH* them, but *we* have God's Power working *IN* us. Jesus said greater works shall we do, and therefore greater victories shall we achieve **John 14:12-14**.

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

Victory through God's Power Requires Obedience. **Gen. 13:15-17**

- In the 13th Chapter of Genesis, God made Abram a promise. He told him to arise, walk through the land, and he would give him the length and breadth of it. Because Abram believed God, he was **obedient** in going about to possess whatever God said was his. That's why when told what had befallen his brother Lot, his goods and the women, Abram didn't hesitate to pursue the Kings who had dared take them captive. Through God's power Abram defeated the kings in the valley of Shaveh, and brought back all the goods, his brother Lot, and his goods, the women, and the people **Gen 14:17-23**. Abram's obedience earned him not only a title to the land by grant, but now through God's power he had a title by conquest. Like Abraham let us be obedient and use our



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power within to relieve those that are in distress, especially our relations and friends
Luke 10:19. As we have opportunity, we must do good.

- God does not move in “fear” but in “faith”, **Rom. 1:16-17**. God told Abram, “do not be afraid” (NKJV) or “fear not...I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward”, **Gen. 15:1** (KJV). Like Abram, we should walk in confidence and faith in God because fear produces doubt and unbelief. If we consider ourselves faithful, then we must make every effort to dismiss thoughts of fear and doubt in order to be victorious over the attacks of the enemy.

Victory Through God’s Power Requires Trust. Prov. 3:5-6

- The victories David experienced were due to his reliance on God’s wisdom and understanding. It is recorded in the Bible that David “inquired of the Lord”. He would ask, “should I go up?”, or “should I pursue?” before engaging in battles. **I Sam. 23:2, 14; 30:8, II Sam. 2:1; 5:19, 23; 21:1.**
- God strengthened David and taught him the importance of trusting in Him when he allowed the lion and the bear to attack his sheep. David recognized he was only able to kill those animals in the strength of God! **I Sam. 17:37** God used those circumstances to prepare David to defeat the Philistine giant, Goliath, and increased Israel’s awareness of the chosen anointed vessel in Israel. Hence, the song sung by the women in Israel, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten-thousands”, **I Sam. 18:7-8.**
- We should follow David’s examples and always look to the Lord for His guidance and direction when we are in battles, trusting that the battle is not ours but God’s **II Chron. 20:15**. We should totally rely on His wisdom and not our own wisdom, power, or understanding, **Zech. 4:6.**

The Ultimate Victory Through God’s Power is Our Redemption. I Cor. 15:50-57, Rom. 1:16

In **I Cor. 15:50-57**, Paul encouraged the Saints that through the blood of Jesus, His death, and resurrection, we have the victory over death and the grave. This is a paradox because death for a Saints is actually the beginning of (eternal) life with Christ. We are instantly changed into our glorified bodies which enables us to see the Lord face to face and live. This is the ultimate victory through God’s power!



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BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

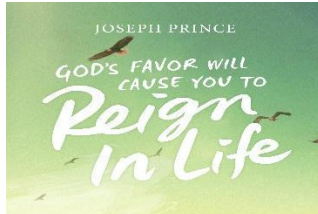
Our lives lived on Planet Earth is truly a Pilgrim's journey, thus, our focus should not be on the "worldly" things/thoughts but on the Heavenly. We will not have the victory through God's power if we do not have a relationship with Him and learn to lean and wait on Him. In **Isaiah 41:1**, God told Israel, "Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength:", this is God's call for us to trust in Him to fight on our behalf. Only when we learn to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and obey His Word will we experience the victory through God's power in our lives and in every situation.



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TOPIC: Victory Through God's Favor

November 21, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:

"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." **Ps. 37:4**

"For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor you will surround him as with a shield." **Psalm 5:12**
NKJV

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

In our previous lessons this month we focused on *Victory because of Who We Are* and *Victory Through God's Power*, but today we want to reflect on **Victory through God's Favor**; victory just because God chooses to be gracious unto us, He chooses to overlook our faults, and He shows kindness beyond what is due or usual. We will learn how God's favor protects us so that; our enemies will not triumph over us, and temptations will not overtake us (**1 Cor. 10:13**). Even though favor is not something we deserve, as we study our memory verse **Ps 37:7**, we will unfold the secret of how we can put ourselves in the path of God's favor by "Delighting Ourselves in the Lord".

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

Favor, God's Undeserved Gift to HIS children:

- "Favor" is God's unmerited gifts to us, His children. Merriam-Webster defines "**favor**" as a "friendly regard shown toward another, especially by a superior. As you read scriptures related to God's favor, the word "**delight**" is often used in conjunction with "favor". Delight means to have a "high degree of gratification or pleasure; joy; extreme satisfaction." As we examine the word **delight**, we must look at the Hebrew definition. According to Strong's dictionary, "**delight**" is a root word that refers to being "**soft and pliable (soft and easy to bend)**". This definition placed in **Psalm 37:4** reads: Be a "Soft and Pliable person" in the Lord: and HE shall give thee the desires of thine heart."
- There is a distinct parallel in the metaphor of "Delight thyself" (being soft and pliable) in **Psalm 37:4** to the Word of the Lord through the Prophet Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 18: verses 1-3...** "The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:



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²“Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” ³Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the ⁴wheel. ⁴And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.”

- The clay (or man) in the potter’s hand (God’s hand) had to be soft and pliable to be shaped by God into a vessel that seemed “good” to HIM. This gives us a clear understanding that being soft, pliable, bendable, teachable, humble during corrections, non-resistant to the teachings of the Lord, places us in the eyes of the Lord favorably. Here lies our guidance to Victory though the God’s Favor!

Favor to Triumph over our Enemies:

Those who love God’s ways and seek His wisdom open themselves to His favor. Throughout the Bible we find examples of those who found favor with God and were victorious; Noah **Gen. 6:8**, Abraham **Gen. 18:3-5**, Lot **Gen. 19:19**, Joseph **Gen. 39:4-5**, Moses **Ex. 33:16-17**, Daniel **Dan. 1:9**, and the list goes on even up to Mary **Luke 1:30**.

Favor to Resist Temptation

- In **I Cor. 10:13**, Paul admonished the Saints and encouraged them that they can, in fact, bear the temptation because **God will not allow** them to be tempted more than they are able to bear. And He will, with the temptation, give them a way of escape.
- The story of Joseph is a great example of favor to resist temptation. He was tempted in in all points like Christians today but was victorious because of God’s favor. He had:
 - **Natural Temptation** (because he was handsome **Gen. 39:6**),
 - **Influential Temptation** (Potiphar’s wife **Gen. 39:7**),
 - **Promotion Temptation** (given executive powers **Gen. 39:9**),
 - **Persistent Temptation** (she spoke day after day **Ge. 39:10**),
 - **The Perfect Setting Temptation** (no one around **Gen. 39:11-12**),
 - **Isolation Temptation** (he was isolated from his home and people).

Favor Makes Ways for other Believers

In the book of Esther, God gave Esther favor with the eunuchs and King Ahasuerus in order to save the Jews from Haman’s plot of annihilating all Jews in Media Persia. Esther had to risk being killed because she was not summoned by her husband, the King. She saved lives of her people.

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

As believers, we must see changes, challenges, and the “unknown” experiences as opportunities or voyages for the Lord’s work of favor to prevail in our lives. It’s almost as if we are learning to wait in expectation by finding comfort in being uncomfortable. When we are open to and practice trusting God through the physical and spiritual threats and unknowns, we are delighting in or are being pliable to HIS molding of us into a pleasing vessel to HIM. How do we experience victory from God’s favor?...Remain



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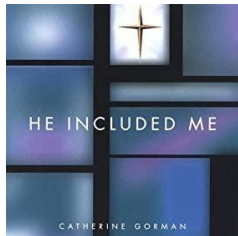
humble, teachable, moveable and usable by the Lord. Trust, that although you may not understand and don't feel like God favors me, there is a higher purpose in this uncontrollable-uncomfortable situation that is impacting you and or your family. Wait and expect that God will make a way of escape as HIS WORD says.



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TOPIC: Victory Through Coverage

November 28, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES:

*"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread ^{1st}My wing over you and covered your nakedness." **Ezk. 16:8** (NKJV)*

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ^{2nd}having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone," **Eph. 2:19-20** (NKJV)*

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

In today's lesson, we will discuss Victory through God's "Coverage". What is "coverage"?

"Coverage" is defined as, "something that covers", such as "inclusion in an insurance policy".

(Miriam-Webster Dictionary) Today we can rejoice in knowing that God included victory in the terms of our spiritual insurance policy. However, there is also a contingency there, victory will only be achieved if there is a covenant relationship. A **"Covenant Relationship"** is, "a relationship between God and persons or groups of persons marked either by God's unilateral promises or by mutual agreements and marked especially by human promises for obedience to God's will." (The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms)

As evidence that coverage is contingent on "covenant relationship", when the Jews' rejected Paul's teaching of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, their coverage was denied, and the Gentile nations were given the opportunity to receive redemption of their sins. Thus, relationship was established, and "coverage" was extended to them through the blood of Jesus. **Eph. 2:11-13.**



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BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

Victory through “Coverage”, Jesus my “Kingsman Redeemer”

- In **Ezekiel 16** God describes the sinful behavior of Judah and appeals to them to repent of the sin of idolatry and return to their “covenant” relationship with Him. God desired to forgive and “cover Judah of his nakedness” and when He saw them “struggling in their own blood”, He told them to, “**Live**”. **Ezk. 16:6**
- **Ezekiel 16:8**, God spoke to Judah saying, “...so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness.” This shows God’s love for Judah and His willingness to forgive them of all their past sins. To, basically, cover them. The “covering” of His wings is His redemptive power to forgive them and restore them back to Zion. After the land had completed her 70-year sabbath, God yearned to have His people back in Jerusalem to begin rebuilding the City and the temple. See also **Jer. 2:2**.
- The story of Ruth can be compared to God’s covering of Judah. In this story, Ruth asked Boaz to redeem her, “*I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take^[b] your maidservant under your wing, for you are a^[c] close relative*” **Ruth 3:9**. Thus, Ruth initiated the relationship with Boaz and he became known as her “Kingsman Redeemer”. Ruth received her victory when Boaz redeemed her and married her in honor of her late husband, Mahlon.
- This was a foreshadow of Jesus’ death on the cross to redeem the whole world of her sins and to reconcile us back to God. We are victorious through coverage when we accept Jesus as our “Kingman’s redeemer” and believe in his death, burial, and resurrection. **Eph. 2:16, Col. 2:20-23, 2 Cor. 5:19**

Victory through “Coverage”, Access by “One Spirit”

- We have been “made alive together with Christ” and “saved by” (God’s) “Grace”. However, it is through “faith” in Jesus Christ that we received this “gift from God”. **Eph. 2: 4-8**
- God’s gift of Grace is for all Nations who believe in the “blood of Jesus” and encompasses “sonship” with the Father. As such, we now have access by “One Spirit”, the Holy Spirit, to the Father. **Eph. 2:13-18**
- Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost; thus, God communicate with us through His “Spirit” that **lives** in us. This allows us to have a relationship with Him. We can talk to God about our struggles and circumstances. Thus, we are victorious through coverage because we are covered by the blood of Jesus and have access to God by His Spirit that lives in us.



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Victory through “Coverage”, Jesus our Cornerstone

- As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, we become obedient and faithful to Him. We are no longer separated as “Gentiles” but are called fellow citizens of the heavenly body, the Saints, and “members of the household of God”. **Eph. 2:19**
- We build our lives on Jesus Christ and His principles, **Eph. 2:20**, “built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets,” with Jesus Christ, “the **CHIEF CORNERSTONE**”.
Let’s look at some facts about a “cornerstone” in the natural:
 - “In architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure. It marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction.” (newstudioarchitecture.com)
 - “It is one of three main stones used during the building process,” (billwarch.com-private).

So, we see that the “cornerstone is the main stone in the foundation of a building, and it provides the direction of how the bricks will be laid. If we make Jesus our “cornerstone” in the foundation of our lives, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to GUIDE us in every decision and step in life. Only then are we guaranteeing ourselves the opportunity to experience victory through “coverage”. **Acts 17:28**

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Victory through “coverage” is a product of our “covenant” relationship with the God”. When we make Jesus our firm foundation, we become is a “holy temple in the Lord”, and a “dwelling place of God in the Spirit”. **Eph. 2:21-22**

References: Blue-Letter Bible.com, Strong’s Concordance, Study Bible, The logos, Miriam-Webster Dictionary, crosswalk.com, www.studioarchitecture.com, billwarch.com-Private, Suzette Gaines, Odette Watson