
Jubilee 2020

Victory Life Church

Friday, August 7, 2020 — Faith is the Victory

There is massive upheaval and chaos in our world and the tectonic shift in our church, and even in the American body of Christ, I see is God bringing His Church into alignment for a divine moment. This is a divine moment where God wants to take us to a new level of impact and effectiveness.

John 16:33 (ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

My word to us is one of reminding us who we are and whose we are. My challenge to us is to look beyond what is obvious with your natural eyes, and see what God is doing, and what that means for the Body of Christ in this day and hour. But most importantly remind us who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

In this world we will have tribulation. We cannot avoid that. But the trials and tribulations we encounter do not have the final word. Jesus has already overcome the world. How do we receive His victory?

1 John 5:4 (ESV) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.**

We are in a war. Not a military war, not a political one, not even a cultural one. We are in a spiritual war. Everything we see in the natural world of chaos and upheaval and injustice is just the outworking of what is happening in the spirit. But we must recognize that we do not engage in this battle trying to *achieve* victory. No, the victory is already ours, “the victory that *has* overcome the world.” We already have the victory in Jesus, who overcame the world and has given us the victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).

It’s time for faith to rise in the people of God. It’s time we understand what it means for Jesus to have overcome the world, given us the victory, and that victory is our faith. If we are to fight and stand from a position of victory, then we have to understand what it means for our faith to be the victory.

Faith is not manipulation - like a quid pro quo with God. It’s not formulaic - like a magic incantation we mutter that enacts God’s promise simply because we said the right words. Nor is faith is not transactional - like a vending machine that we punch the right

code into to get God to deliver on His promises. God is not Amazon Prime where you shop for the promise you want, use your Jesus' Blood credit card and get 2-5 day shipping. This is not the Christian faith. That is not the faith that is the victory.

Faith is primarily covenant relationship and cooperative obedience. It's building a relationship with God built on trust in His character and His word, and obedient responses to His instructions.

The story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 gives an example of what it means to have faith in God in the midst of overwhelming circumstances. The setting is that 3 armies have united to come against Israel. It was a massive horde that meant impending doom for God's people. This is King Jehoshaphat's response:

2 Chronicles 20:3-12, 15-17, 20-24, 27-29 (ESV)

This is the faith that is the victory. In the face of all the "what-about's", we believe anyway; we praise anyway. For the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. His steadfast love endures beyond personal trials and sufferings; it endures beyond national or global crises; it endures beyond political or cultural upheaval. His steadfast love outlasts our lifetimes, this century, this millennia, this age! Through the disappointment, through the fear, through the chaos, through the challenges, we praise anyway; we believe anyway; we trust God anyway!

This is the moment for the church to embody the power of God that brings deliverance. This is the moment for the church to be a people of faith and victory. We are powerless on our own, but we are not on our own. Our eyes are upon King Jesus, the one who defeated death and the grave.

Acts 16:22-26 (ESV)

We must pay close attention to what battle we are in. We often get caught up in surface-level quibbles and concerns. We need prophetic eyes to see what is beyond the obvious and into the spirit. We have to remember who our enemy really is. Our enemy is not flesh and blood; it's not human beings.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The church that is effective in the near future will be the church that fights in full armor.

1 John 5:4-5 (ESV) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith**. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

WE FOLLOW KING JESUS. He is the only true King. He is the only Redeemer. He is the only Savior! He is the final Victor! And thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57)! We fight *from* the position of victory, not *for* the victory.

There is no other name under heaven or in earth by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11). This is a time where we must give our full allegiance to King Jesus, allowing Him to transform us.