

Victory in Jesus

Welcome to our final week of our series called **Hymn'd Up**. During this series, we have been diving into some of the most popular hymnal songs; we want to not only praise God through singing, but to also learn the background behind these songs and why they came about. We can sing the words of any song, but to know what we are singing makes a big difference in our worship.

Today we will be looking at the classic Hymn **"Victory In Jesus"**

On Christmas Eve, 1885, American musician Eugene Monroe Bartlett was born. From a young age, Bartlett dedicated his life to loving and serving Jesus. He had a passion for music and business and would teach music anywhere people were interested in learning across the south. In 1917, he married his high school sweetheart, Joan Tatum. In 1918 Bartlett founded the Hartford Music Company in Hartford, Arkansas. The company published hymnals, selling more than 15,000 in the first year. His goal was not only to publish hymnals but to also teach singers how to read music.

In 1939, at the age of 53, Bartlett suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed and unable to speak. He could no longer travel, but during this time, he wrote his best-known hymn, "Victory in Jesus." While in his bed paralyzed, he thought about the day he was saved and wrote the words, "I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory." He said he felt the Holy Spirit urging him to write the next verse, "I heard about His healing, of His cleaning pow'r revealing." Even though he was disabled, he knew that God was a healer. He thought about the redemption story and wanted his song to be a joyful one. The three verses of the song tell the story of how a person comes to salvation in Christ.

Since Bartlett could no longer travel, his son Eugene Jr. took over and continued Bartlett's traveling ministry across the south. While at a revival in East Texas, Eugene Jr. felt the Holy Spirit telling him to sing his father's newest song, "Victory in Jesus." The revival welcomed the public debut of the hymn. "At the end of the service over 50 men and women had accepted Christ as their Savior." During Bartlette's suffering, he had been able to write the words, "And then I cried dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit." In 1941, Bartlett Sr. passed away from complications from the stroke he had two years earlier. He published over 800 songs during his 56 years of life and left us with a beautiful hymn that reminds us no matter what we are going through, no matter how bleak things become, we always have victory. That victory is in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

The dictionary definition of "victory" is an act of defeating an enemy or opponent in a battle, game, or other competition.

We have victory in Jesus and when this becomes something we live with in the forefront of our hearts and minds, it changes our lives. In the Greek there is a phrase **"euangelion nika"** (pronounced - u-on-gell-ee-on nikay) This is a phrase that was shouted by ancient Greek

warriors when battles had ended in their favor. These victories would allow the citizens to celebrate and reap the benefits of the victory.

Euangelion translates “Good News” and it is from this word that we get “Gospel” or “The Good News”. Nike (nikay) or as we say “Nike” means victory. When we truly understand all that Christ has done for us, “GOOD NEWS VICTORY!” will become our anthem as well and just like the Greek citizens we can celebrate and reap the benefits of the victory Jesus won for us.

Today we are going to look at **3 areas that Christ has given us Victory**.

Area #1 - We Have Victory Over This World

Jesus wanted his disciples to know that He has overcome this world, and while it may not always look like we are in a position of victory given constant conflict and turmoil in the world, the victory has already been accomplished. Here are **FOUR PROMISES victory over this world gives us according to God’s Word**.

First of all, victory brings a JOY that no one else can take away!

John 16:20-22 (NIV) “20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”

Secondly, victory brings a JOY that is full and complete!

John 16:23-24 (NIV) “23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Third, victory brings a PEACE that transcends our circumstances

John 16:25-33 (NIV) 25 “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” 29 Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.” 31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with

me. 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Lastly, victory over this world is granted to us through confession and repentance

Mark 1:15 (NIV) “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Bartlett made this statement at the end of the first verse.

“Then I repented of my sins and won the victory”

This is a beautiful thing for us to realize, that the only thing we add to the victory is our willingness to turn from our sin to receive it. Christ has already established that He has the victory, and that we share in His Victory over “This World”. **Area #1 - We Have Victory Over This World.**

Area #2 - We Have Victory Over Our flesh

Beyond the conflicts we face in this world externally, living in this world is filled with internal battles with the sins that wage war on us, against us, and through us.

Romans 7:14-25 (NIV) 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

This is the battle we are constantly at war with. The battle that affects every decision and action we make. It’s hard to live abundantly in the middle of a battlefield. Paul was one of the most spiritually perceptive and effective believers to exist, yet he lived in the same struggles we are faced with today.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

Paul rhetorically poses this question of who will save us from this body that brings death, and then hits us with the answer we all know fully well. **25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

In order to give us victory over our flesh, God has to do a redeeming work in us internally by giving us His spirit to override our sinful nature, leading us to true life and redemption. When it comes to this victory we need to realize a few realities.

First, He gives us victory over our flesh through the work of His spirit in our lives.

Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV) 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Secondly, The victory is provided for us, but we still have to consciously choose to follow the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV) 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Thirdly, When victory is realized it will bear the fruit of the Spirit in our life.

Galatians 5:22-25 (NIV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Not only does Christ give us victory over the battle that's raging within us, but as we follow His spirit we become part of the solution, helping to share life and light with the whole world around us, making their battles that much more manageable

The second verse of the hymn says,

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing pow'r revealing
How he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"
And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

Our body's healing is more than just our physical condition, and being healed from our sin nature is true victory. **Area #1 - We Have Victory Over This World. Area#2 - We Have Victory Over Our Flesh** and that brings us to:

Area #3 - Our Ultimate Victory is realized in Eternity

While we can walk in a semblance of victory here on this earth, this world is a temporary arrangement. This world is bound in sin, and affected by the fallen nature at every turn. Not only our earthly bodies, but the very world we live in is subject to death and destruction.

Because of Our Sin Eternity was out of Reach

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV) 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Jesus through the CROSS turned our defeat into victory

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NIV) 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Jesus brought life here and the real victory is to come. We get to see what the final victory looks like in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 20:10 (NIV) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 21:1-7 (NIV) 1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

What we love about eternity is the thought of (no more sorrow, death, etc.)! A place where we can have unhindered fellowship with God. In essence it is the complete removal of sin and all of its burdens and barriers. Our victory is God returning us to our original settings. You see, victory was how God intended for us to live from the beginning. Sin messed all that up. What looked like hopeless defeat has been overcome through Jesus! The victory that God is calling us to is be restored to how we were always meant to live.

Invitation:

- Are you walking in that VICTORY?
- How do you define victory? What we see as victory is important.
- Do you see Jesus as your ultimate victory or do you look to other things/people for your victory in life?

Use prayer cards; challenge to bring to the altar:

- What act(s) of the flesh needs to be cut out of your life and repented of so you can claim victory?
- What fruit of the spirit needs to grow in your life in victory over your flesh?