Victory

October 21, 2026



Craig Smith • Victory • October 25, 2026

We don't fight <u>FOR</u> victory, we fight <u>FROM</u> victory…

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (**Col. 2:13-15**)*

The "don'ts" of walking in victory….

• **Don't <u>under-estimate</u> your <u>vulnerability</u>** – *"'You will all fall away,' Jesus told them… Peter declared, 'Even if all fall away, I will not.'… Peter insisted emphatically, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you…'" (**Mark 14:27, 29, 31**)*

• **Don't <u>excuse</u> the power of <u>choice</u>** – *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." (**1 Peter 5:8-9**)*

A faith that <u>cannot</u> be <u>shaken</u> is a faith that has been <u>shaken</u> – *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in*

*praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (**1 Peter 1:6-7**)*

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life…
*(**Rom. 6:11-13a**)*

• **Don't expect <u>perfection</u>** – *"We all stumble in many ways…" (**James 3:2a**)*

The mental shift…
• **<u>Defeatist</u> mindset** – *" 'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher. 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'" (**Eccl. 1:2**)*

• **<u>Victorious</u> mindset*** – "…being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (*Phil. 1:6*)*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (**1 Cor. 15:56-57**)*