

**Big Idea:** We're fighting *from* victory, not *for* victory.

**Primary Scripture:** Romans 8:37-39

**Supporting Scripture:** John 16:33

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**CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)**

- Have you ever worried about something only to later find out that it had already been taken care of?
  - Maybe you spent all night stressing about a test you had just taken, and you were convinced you failed... but then, the next day, you find out you actually passed with a pretty decent grade?
  - Or you panicked because you had convinced yourself that your friend was mad at you, and you spent the weekend replaying every conversation in your head... only to find out that they weren't even thinking about it?
  - Or maybe you've refreshed your phone a thousand times, waiting to see if you made the team or got the part in the musical... but the whole time you were spinning out, imagining the worst, you suddenly realized that you were checking the wrong page and that the decision had already been made?
- In each of those situations, the anxiety was real. The stress was real. But the outcome was already decided way before you stopped worrying about it. You just didn't know it yet.
- A lot of us live like the outcome is still in doubt. Like everything depends on how we perform today. Like one wrong move, and it'll all just fall apart.
- That's ***exhausting*** because we're constantly fighting battles that have already been won—we just haven't realized it yet.
- We're in the final week of our series called ***Done***, where we've been looking at what Jesus has *already* accomplished. Not what you need to do. What He's already **done**.
  - We started by talking about how we don't have to earn God's love. It's a gift.

- Then, we learned that the price for our freedom has already been paid.
- Last week, we saw that our purpose is already in us. That's right, you were created *on purpose, for a purpose*.
- Today we're talking about ultimate victory.
- Because Jesus already won the victory, you don't actually have to fight for it.

### **SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)**

- About 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to Christians in Rome who were being persecuted.
- Some were losing their homes, their families, even their lives because of their faith.

***<sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39 – NLT)***

- Paul wrote this to Christians in Rome who were genuinely suffering. And in the middle of all that suffering, Paul says “*overwhelming victory is ours.*”
- It's based on what Jesus had already **done**.
- Look at verses 38 and 39. It's like Paul knew we'd try to find exceptions. So, he went out of his way to close every door.
  - Death? Can't separate you. Life? Can't separate you. Angels? Demons? Your fears? Your worries? The powers of hell? None of it can separate you from God's love.
- The battle may be real. The struggle may be difficult. The suffering may be intense. But the outcome? It's already decided.
- Nothing can take away what Jesus has already won for you.

***<sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. (John 16:33 – NLT)***

- Jesus spoke these words on His final night with His disciples. In a matter of hours, He would be betrayed, arrested, and killed.
- Knowing all of that, He looked at His friends and told them to take heart. Because from where He stood, the outcome was already certain.
- In the middle of that suffering, He also promised what no one else could, “Take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
  - Past tense. ***I have overcome***. Not “will overcome someday.” Not “might overcome if things go well.” It was already **done**.
- That’s why, even when the Roman Christians were suffering, the Apostle Paul could promise that “*overwhelming victory is ours*.”
- You might be going through the most difficult season of your life right now. But the victory is still already yours. Because it’s not based on how you’re doing, how you’re feeling, or what you’re experiencing. It’s based on what Jesus has already **done**.
- He’s already won. And if you’re in Christ, His victory is your victory.
- It’s **done**.

### **INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)**

#### **1. Jesus’ victory means we can rest.**

- If the outcome is already decided, that means we don't have to carry the weight of making it happen.
- “Rest” can sound *passive*, like you're just supposed to sit back and do nothing. But that's not what this means.
- Rest doesn't mean you stop living. It means you stop *striving*. You stop fighting battles that have *already* been won.
  - When you're tempted to prove yourself, you remember you don't have to.
  - When you're fighting for approval, you remember you already have it.
  - When you're exhausted from trying to earn God's love and forgiveness, you remember they're already yours.
- The victory isn't something you achieve. It's something you receive.

#### **2. Jesus’ victory redirects our fight.**

- We're no longer fighting **for** victory. We're fighting **from** victory. And that's a completely different idea.
- It's the fight to actually *believe* what's already true. To live like the victory is real... even when our feelings, our circumstances, or the voices in our heads are telling us otherwise.
- You don't fight these voices by *trying harder*—you fight them by *remembering* what's already been **done**.
- We're not fighting to win. We're learning to live like someone who already has.

### 3. Jesus' victory gives us hope on difficult days.

- There will be days when it doesn't *feel* like victory.
- Feelings are real, but they're not always reliable. They have a way of convincing us that one bad day means everything is falling apart.
- Truth doesn't shift. Even when you don't feel like it, the price is still paid. You're still loved. The outcome is still secure.
- That's where **hope** comes in. Hope isn't just pretending things are fine even though they're not. It's holding onto what's already been done, especially on those days when you can't see the way forward.
- You don't have to earn God's love. It's a gift. The price for your freedom has been paid. Your purpose is already in you, because you were created on purpose, for a purpose. And the victory has already been won.

### **ACTION (How could we live this out?)**

#### 1. Remind yourself of what's already done.

- We've created an easy way for you to remember the key truths that we've learned over the past few weeks.
- We want you to remember these four key truths:
  - **GIFT:** I don't have to earn what's already mine.
  - **PAID:** The price for my freedom is already paid.
  - **PURPOSE:** I was created on purpose, for a purpose.
  - **VICTORY:** I'm fighting *from* victory, not *for* victory.

- At some point this week, you're going to feel like you have to *earn* something you already have or you'll feel like you have to *prove yourself*, like you have to fight for approval or acceptance.
- When this happens, make a point to remind yourself that because of Jesus' sacrifice, the fight is already **done**.

## 2. Practice resting when the pressure hits.

- This week, instead of letting the pressure you're experiencing cause you to ramp things up, actually try slowing down—if even for just a few seconds.
- Maybe you realize that you're really stressed about what grade you're going to get on a test. Instead of spiraling...
  - **Pause. Take a breath. Then, ask:** “Am I fighting to prove I'm smart enough? Or am I resting in the fact that God created me on purpose with purpose?”
- Or maybe you're worried about what someone thinks of you. Instead of allowing yourself to be consumed with worry...
  - **Pause. Take a breath. Then, ask:** “Am I fighting for the approval of others? Or am I resting in the fact that God's love is already mine?”
- Or it's possible you feel guilty about something you said or a decision you made. Instead of becoming overwhelmed with guilt...
  - **Pause. Take a breath. Then, ask:** “Am I fighting to pay off a debt I don't actually owe? Or am I resting in the fact that the price has already been paid?”
- This is about learning to rest in what's already **done** instead of letting our circumstances convince us that we need to keep fighting for what we already have.

## 3. Write a “Because it's Done” prayer.

- Sometime this week, find a quiet place, and write a prayer that starts with these words: “God, because it's done...”
- Instead of finishing it with something generic, try to be as specific as you can by finishing that sentence with something that's meaningful and true for your life.

*“God, because it’s done, I don’t have to keep trying to earn my parents’ approval. Because it’s done, I don’t have to carry the guilt from that poor decision I made last week. Because it’s done, I don’t have to figure out my entire future right now. Because it’s done, I don’t have to be afraid of what other people think when I talk about my faith. Thank you that the victory is already won. Please help me live like I believe that to be true. Amen.”*

- Write your own, but don’t rush through it.
- If you find that praying like this, by writing your prayers, is helpful, then maybe you could start a specific journal where you continue to thank God for what He’s done for you.