

THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

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Victorious - The biblical definition is the advantage or superiority gained over spiritual enemies, over passions and appetites, or over temptations or in any struggles or competition.

Synonyms: Successful, triumphant.

The Greek word for church is *ekklesia* - where the word is made up of two segments: "ek", meaning "out of", and a verb, "kaleo", signifying "to call" - together, literally, "to call out".

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 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. 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 8:35-39, NLT)

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57, NIV)

Why the Church?

"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my Church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18, NLT)

1. The church is _____. Ephesians 5: 25 "...Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her"
2. The _____ is God's instrument for change (examples such as abolition of slavery - Wilberforce was a christian convert under John Wesley, establishing universities and advances in medicine). Ephesians 3:10-12
3. The Christian church is growing at currently twice the size of _____ so don't let anyone tell you that the church is dying. The church is thriving.
4. Ultimately, when everything _____, the church will be only thing that will be left standing. 2 Peter 3:10

So as A Church How Do We Gain Our Victory?

1. Victory may not always be packaged as we expect. Victory is when we are in God's plan.
2. Keep trusting God for our breakthrough even when it is delayed. Delay is not denial. 1 Samuel 1:6-7 and 1 Samuel 1:9-11
3. A united church is a victorious church.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3, NIV)

Psalm 133

"With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies." (Psalm 60:12, NIV)

We cannot find true victory outside of our local church where God has planted us. Church is not perfect it's made up of imperfect people like us. There are many valid reasons why the church of Jesus Christ continues to triumph. It's a hospital for the wounded and hurting. It's a family for the lonely, and ultimately a place of refuge where we find our victory.