

BATTLE



EMPOWERED BY FAITH



Battle: Empowered by Faith
©2024 Mt. Bethel Church, Marietta, GA. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

Week 1 The Battle - Spiritual Warfare is Real By: Dr. Jody Ray	1
Week 2 Armor Up! Equip for Battle By: Dr. John Freeland	25
Week 3 The Battle of the Mind By: Dr. John Freeland	49
Week 4 Overcoming Temptation By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly	73
Week 5 Pressing On and Persevering By: Dr. John Freeland	97
Week 6 Victory in Jesus By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly	121

WEEK 6
Victory in Jesus
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly



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

INTRODUCTION

Today we begin talking about the outcome of all our Battling! The true VICTORY IS and IN JESUS. Be encouraged and embrace our identity as conquerors in Christ and to live each day with confidence, courage, and joy. Together, let us discover what it means to have victory in and through Jesus and to choose to live in the fullness of His triumph.

At the heart of our Christian faith lies the life altering truth of Jesus Christ's victory over sin, death, and the powers of darkness. Through His sacrificial death on the cross and triumphant resurrection, Jesus accomplished the ultimate victory, securing salvation and eternal life for all who believe and place their faith in Him. As believers, we are invited to share in this victory and to experience the transformative power of Christ's redemption in our lives, to live in VICTORY from HIS victory.

It does us little good to just have head knowledge about victory in Jesus, and not to embody it in our thoughts, words, and actions. To live our lives from Christ's victory and not believing the lie that we need do good works to earn Christ's victory or salvation on our own is true victory.

Throughout this week's study we will learn and apply what it truly means to live victoriously in Jesus while still living in this world. We do not have to live in fear and afraid of this time in history that God appointed us to live. We will explore the practical aspects of why faith, obedience, prayer, and having a community is essential components of experiencing victory in Jesus.

We get to walk out the truth that He who is in us is greater than who is in this world (1 John 4:4). As we face battles, how do we live from Christ's victory? He won the battle of sin, death, and the grave by going to the cross taking all our sins, paying the price that was on us. As we remain in this world we live from HIS victory. But how? Let us journey together to learn how to.

DAY 1 | WEEK 6
Victory in Jesus
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly

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

VICTORY IN JESUS

DAY 1 | WEEK 6

What a wonderful place to begin relishing Victory in Jesus, 1 Corinthians 15:57. Paul is bursting forth in thanksgiving, declaring that victory is a gift from God, offered to all through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Take one second and go back and read the verse again, this time out loud. AMEN!

This verse highlights the central role of Christ in securing our victory and we, like Paul cannot keep the gratitude and praise for His saving grace inside us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, Christ has conquered sin and death, securing our redemption and eternal life. Paul's exclamation reflects the triumphant reality that believers possess through their union with Christ. Thanks be to God; he does indeed give us victory through Jesus!

Allow the truth of 1 Corinthians 15:57 to penetrate. Be strengthened and encouraged by the victory we have in Jesus Christ. From the deepest part of us we know that Jesus paid the ultimate price and took our place. Bursting with gratitude is the most natural response. In expressing gratitude, we unapologetically acknowledge it's all because of what God did through Jesus, and testify to his unending love and faithfulness to each one of us.

Living in victory means choosing. With the free will God has given us we get to choose. We learn that surrendering to God's will, allowing His Spirit to transform our hearts and minds, and walking in obedience to His commands guided by the promised Holy Spirit guides us to live in victory. Living in victory is not a passive experience but requires choosing to be with God, listening, growing in understanding, and application of His word and fellowship with other believers.

What We Believe

We believe that through Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross and His victorious resurrection, Jesus has provided the ultimate solution to humanity's greatest need—the need for deliverance from sin and death. “For by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift from God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

As we studied earlier in this BATTLE series, the victory we have in Jesus extends to every aspect of our lives, including our struggle against sin. Through His death, Christ bore the penalty for our sins, setting us free from its power. As we trust in Him and yield to the work of the Holy Spirit, we experience victory over sin's grip in our lives.

Jesus' resurrection not only guarantees our forgiveness and justification but also ensures our future resurrection and eternal life. Death has been defeated, and all can have the assurance of life beyond the grave. Victorious living begins the moment we place our faith in Christ and by his grace are saved, set free, and set apart. This victory over death gives us hope and confidence in the face of mortality, knowing that we will one day be raised imperishable, united with Christ in glory.

Through His triumph over sin and death, Jesus has also conquered the powers of darkness, including Satan and his forces. As followers of Christ, we are no longer slaves to fear or oppression but are empowered to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. We don't go around looking to pick a fight with the enemy, but we are equipped when we are attacked. Our victory in Jesus enables us to resist temptation, overcome spiritual attacks, and live as more than conquerors in Him.

Applying God's Word

One important step of living out our victory in Jesus is gratitude. Paul is a great example here in Corinthians 15:57, when he declares, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Notice the exclamation mark! He is grateful, thanking God, choosing to praise, and choosing gratitude over all the circumstances he could grumble about.

Choose to be grateful. Choose gratitude over complaining or finding flaws and faults. One giant step for some of us if being thankful is not something we easily do. Making the choice to find and be grateful may take practice. Steps like taking the time to count your blessings or journaling each day what you are thankful for. Begin the spiritual habit of thanking God and take a step in your life to truly live victoriously in Jesus.

Our victory in Jesus comes through faith and trust in Him. In moments of doubt or struggle, cling to the promises of God's Word, believing that He can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

As recipients of God's victory, we are called to live as victorious people. This involves actively resisting sin, pursuing holiness, and sharing the good news of Jesus' victory with others. Allow the reality of Christ's triumph to shape every aspect of your life, knowing that you are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you (Romans 8:37).

Questions for further reflection:

1. Write down 3 things that you are grateful for. (Nothing is too small or insignificant. Beginning our thanks with the fact we are alive and breathing is a LOT to be thankful for!) Pray to God thanking Him for the 3 things that you listed.

2. After you pray, answer this, did you have more than 3 things you are grateful for? If not, don't be concerned as we practice gratitude, we all get better at doing so.

3. Does the truth of victory in Jesus impact your perspective on life's challenges and struggles? How so?

DAY 2 | WEEK 6
Finding Peace Amidst Troubles
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly

“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.”
(John 16:33)

FINDING PEACE AMIDST TROUBLES DAY 2 | WEEK 6

In John 16, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His impending departure and the challenges they will face. He assures them that though He will soon leave them physically, He will not leave them alone.

This statement from Jesus comes at the culmination of His farewell with them in the Upper Room before he goes to the cross. (John 13-17) He acknowledges the reality of trouble and hardship in the world but offers His disciples—and us—assurance and hope during it. Jesus speaks with authority, declaring His victory over the world and promising peace to those who remain in Him.

As we reflect on John 16:33 and embrace the reality of victory in Jesus, it is tough to have His peace in our hearts and minds, but that is exactly where he guides us to. He proclaims that He will send the counselor, the comforter, the advocate, the promised HOLY SPIRIT, who will guard our hearts and minds, enabling us to navigate life's troubles with unwavering faith and hope.

What We Believe

We believe in the sovereignty and lordship of Jesus Christ. We trust and operate in the fact that Jesus' victory over the world is not merely a future hope but a present reality for those who trust in Him. This victory encompasses spiritual, emotional, and physical realms, offering us peace and assurance in every circumstance. It is not toxic positivity, it is TRUTH. This isn't just seeing the glass as half full, it is TRUTH. This isn't just pull yourself up by your bootstraps, it is TRUTH.

Jesus' assurance of victory over the world gives us freedom from fear. We find refuge and security in the unshakable person of Christ Jesus. Our confidence in Him and His victory causes fear and anxiety to flee, enabling us to face circumstances with courage and peace, reminding us of what God said first in 1 Kings 8:57 and quoted in Hebrews 13:5, that "I will never leave you or forsake you".

As we choose His victory, we are free from the bondage of sin and empowered to live holy lives. We leave the unlocked jail cells of bondage behind. We walk out of the captivity, dropping the shackles of believing the lie that we can't be or are not forgiven and are out of the reach of God's mercy and grace. We

are free, because of Jesus. He paid our debt and set us free.

Jesus' victory extends beyond the confines of this earthly life to conquer death itself. Through His resurrection, He demonstrated His power over death, coming to pay the price for our salvation here and now and to all eternity to be with Him. The assurance of resurrection and life beyond the grave fills us with confidence and joy, knowing that death has been defeated and that this world is not our home.

Applying God's Word

Choosing to abide in Christ is how we begin to live in victory daily. When there is no illness in our bodies, when our children are behaving and when the job is secure, AND abiding in Him when the opposite is occurring. Jesus emphasizes the importance of abiding in Him, (John 15) as the source of peace and victory. Through prayer, reading, studying, knowing the Word, and intimate fellowship with Him, we cultivate a deeper relationship with Christ, experiencing His peace that surpasses understanding.

In moments of trouble and uncertainty, we cling to the promises of God's Word. Jesus assures us of His victory over the world, and His words are trustworthy and true. It is necessary to ground our faith in His faithfulness, knowing that He has overcome every obstacle we may face. Choose to believe Him even when we cannot see what He is doing; that is faith. To trust and allow these times to build your faith.

Questions for further reflection:

1. How does Jesus' assurance of victory over the world bring you peace during your challenges?

2. In what areas of your life do you want and need to trust more fully in Jesus' victory and sovereignty?

3. Do you preach the good news of the gospel to yourself daily? What would you say? Are you willing to begin tomorrow morning?

4. Write down what you could and would say to the person who stares back at you when you brush your teeth.

DAY 3 | WEEK 6
Embracing Our Identity as
More Than Conquerors
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.”
(Romans 8:37)

EMBRACING OUR IDENTITY AS MORE THAN CONQUERORS DAY 3 | WEEK 6

In the beautiful chapter from Romans 8, the Apostle Paul explores the depth of God's love, and the security believers have in Christ. He assures them that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39). In verse 37, Paul boldly declares, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

This powerful statement declares the victorious position of believers in Christ. Despite facing trials, tribulations, and opposition, we are not merely conquerors but "more than conquerors" through the love of Christ. Our victory is not dependent on our own strength or abilities but on the unfailing love and power of Jesus Christ.

As we study Romans 8:37 and embrace the reality of victory in Jesus, His love and power invites us to live as more than conquerors, overcoming every obstacle and walking in triumph through Him who loved us.

What We Believe

The transformative power of God's grace and the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation is what we place our faith in. We believe that through Christ's love and sacrifice, believers are empowered

to overcome every obstacle and experience victory in every circumstance.

Just because we are followers of Jesus does not mean we will not have trials. In fact, Christ Jesus himself said that "in this world you will have troubles but take heart I have overcome the world." John 16:33 His statement does not say, "IF" but, "you will". What do we do with that?

Applying God's Word

Do not be misled to think that 'now that I am a Christian, I will be safe, happy and no harm will ever cross my path.' That is not true or what Jesus himself warned. He said, "In this life you will have troubles...".

When troubles come, we are less surprised and more equipped to begin with praying and not think of praying as a last resort.

Remind ourselves that Jesus told us we would have trouble AND he instructed us all, "... but take heart, I have overcome the world".

Even though we don't see it working out, we trust the one who promises us it will. (Romans 8:28)

We choose to remember and rely on Christ's finished work of the Cross to be our assurance and hope. Jesus' victory over death through His resurrection guarantees our own resurrection and eternal life. Death has been conquered, and believers have the assurance of life beyond the grave.

To cling to the truth that this world is not all there is. Our hope of resurrection transforms our perspective on mortality and enables us to face death with confidence and peace.

Questions for further reflection:

1. What does being “more than conquerors” in Christ look like in your life?

2. In what areas of your life do you need to experience greater victory through Him who loves you?

DAY 4 | WEEK 6
Our Victory Over Sin and Darkness
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”
(Colossians 2:15)

OUR VICTORY OVER SIN AND DARKNESS

DAY 4 | WEEK 6

In Colossians 2, the Apostle Paul addresses the Colossian church, warning them against deceptive philosophies and false teachings that undermine the supremacy of Christ. He emphasizes the believers' union with Christ and the sufficiency of His work on the cross for their salvation and spiritual growth. In verse 15, Paul declares, "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Colossians 2:15 underscores the absolute victory that Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection. He disarmed the powers and authorities, exposing their defeat and making a public spectacle of them through the cross. His triumph over the forces of evil is a source of hope and assurance for us who believe, assuring us of our own victory in Him and inspiring us to live in the freedom and power that He has secured for us.

As we read and study Colossians 2:15 push yourself to cling to the reality of triumph in Christ, so that we can walk in the freedom and victory that He has secured for us through His death and resurrection.

What We Believe

We stand on the power of the cross where Christ's atoning work took place and His victory over sin and Satan. We believe that through His death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered the powers of darkness, enabling believers to live in victory and freedom.

Jesus' triumph on the cross has broken the power of sin in our lives. Through His death, He bore the penalty for our sins, offering forgiveness and redemption to all who believe. We are liberated from the bondage of sin and empowered to live righteous and holy lives.

Jesus' victory over the powers and authorities includes His triumph over Satan and his demonic forces. By His death and resurrection, Jesus has defeated the prince of darkness, disarming him of his weapons and authority. Believers are no longer under Satan's dominion but can resist his schemes and attacks through the power of Christ.

How to Apply God's Word

Begin by acknowledging and celebrating the victory won by Jesus Christ on the cross. Reflect on the significance of His death and resurrection in defeating sin and Satan and thank God for the freedom and victory He has secured for us.

We get to live in the reality of Christ's victory over sin and darkness, now in this life and forevermore in our eternal lives. Here and now, we must reject the lies and temptations of the enemy, knowing that we have been set free by the power of Christ and have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead sealed in us, the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14) Walk in obedience to God's Word, confident in His ability to keep you secure in His love even when you don't see it, choose to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Although Jesus has already won the ultimate victory, believers are still engaged in spiritual warfare against the forces of evil. Remember to arm yourself with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18), pray fervently, and stand firm in faith, knowing that the victory is already yours in Christ.

Questions for further reflection:

1. Does knowing that Jesus has triumphed over sin and Satan impact your daily walk with God? List the ways it does and how you would like it to in areas where it does not currently.

2. In what areas of your life do you need to appropriate Christ's victory more fully?

DAY 5 | WEEK 6
TRIUMPH THROUGH HIS BLOOD AND TESTIMONY
By: Pastor Gaylyn Kelly

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
(Revelation 12:11)

TRIUMPH THROUGH HIS BLOOD AND TESTIMONY

DAY 5 | WEEK 6

In Revelation 12, John describes a vision of a great cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil. The dragon, representing Satan, seeks to devour the woman and her child, symbolizing the persecution of God's people and the attempt to thwart God's redemptive plan. In verse 11, John writes, "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

This verse portrays the ultimate victory of believers over the enemy, Satan. This is achieved through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ (the Lamb) and the faithful testimony of believers. By embracing the atoning work of Christ and boldly proclaiming their allegiance to Him, believers overcome the schemes and attacks of the enemy, in the face of persecution and death.

As we study and meditate on Revelation 12:11 we choose to hold onto the reality of victory in Jesus. By His blood and emboldened by our testimony to overcome every obstacle we stand victorious against the forces of darkness.

What We Believe

Again, Jesus did it all. We are to participate, be transformed and live victoriously in Christ Jesus. This verse reiterates that it is Christ's atoning sacrifice but includes the power of believers' testimony in overcoming the enemy. We believe that through the blood of Jesus and the faithful witness of His followers, victory over the forces of darkness is assured.

The blood of Jesus shed on the cross is the foundation of our victory over sin, Satan, and death. Through His death, Jesus atoned for our sins and secured our redemption. By trusting in that, we are cleansed, forgiven, and empowered to overcome the enemy's accusations and attacks.

The testimony of each of us plays a crucial role in the spiritual battle against the enemy. By boldly proclaiming our faith in Jesus Christ and the transforming power of His Gospel, we overcome the lies and deception of the enemy. Our testimonies of God's faithfulness, grace, and deliverance serve as a powerful weapon against the forces of darkness.

Applying God's Word

Victory in Jesus begins with a personal relationship with Him and a deep appreciation for His giving of himself on the cross. Each time we reflect on the significance of Jesus' blood shed for our sins and the freedom and victory it brings, we are reminded of the costly gift we have been given. Take the time to do this often. From that truth we then live each day in gratitude for the redemption and victory secured for us through His blood.

When we testify, it is a powerful tool in the spiritual battle against the enemy. Share with others how Jesus has transformed your life, brought you victory over sin and despair, and filled you with hope and purpose. Don't be afraid to speak out about your faith, even in the face of opposition or persecution. No one can refute your testimony.

Like the believers described in Revelation 12:11, we are called to live with unwavering faith and courage. Oh, that we would let go of the fear of death and worldly concerns, and instead, focus on faithfully following Christ and fulfilling His purposes for our lives. Trust in His promise of eternal life, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love. That is Victory in Jesus and that is what he desires for each of His children.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. How does the victory achieved through the sacrifice of Jesus impact your understanding of salvation and redemption?

2. In what ways have you experienced victory through sharing your testimony of God's work in your life?

3. This is very important, please take the time, right now, and write down your personal testimony. Here are some suggestions of how to get started writing and recording your personal testimony.

- How did you come to know Christ as your Savior?
- Was there a time when you knew he was present with you? Write about that knowing that you had.
- Do you have an experience of seeing that He was with you once you were through the situation? Write about your 20/20 hindsight vision experience.

Your testimony is often how we have and continue to live victoriously in Jesus and share with others so that might be able to also.

Visit us online: mtbethel.org
Connect with us:



OUR MISSION

To lead people to trade the pursuit of more for a life worth pursuing in Jesus Christ.



Mt. Bethel Church
4385 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta, GA
770.971.2880

Visit us at: mtbethel.org

© 2024 Mt. Bethel Church, Marietta, GA. All rights reserved.