

July 22

1 John 5:4 (NIV) ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Biddy Bridget Mason was born into slavery. She was given to a Mormon couple in Missouri as a wedding gift. In 1874, at the age of 32, she was forced to march from Ohio to Utah tending the cattle of her master. Four years later, she was taken to San Bernardino, CA. Biddy learned that slavery was illegal in California and sought her freedom. Her “master” tried to flee the state but was stopped. Biddy, for the first time in her life, was free. Never losing her faith, Biddy and her daughters moved to Los Angeles, where she worked and saved enough money to purchase a house. She used part of her land as a temporary resting place for horses and carriages. Instead of her former life making her bitter, it inspired Biddy to open her home to the poor, hungry, and homeless. She worked hard and made investments, amassing a fortune. Again, instead of using it for herself, she built schools, hospitals, and churches. Biddy also founded the First AME Church in California.

We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. For a long time, I struggled with that because it seemed the church was losing ground every day. Today, we are bombarded with news that threatens the very foundation of Jesus Christ. We have been given spiritual armor and weapons and told to fight the good fight of faith. In that truth lies the key. We fight the good fight of FAITH. When we read of Abraham, Esther, Mary, Peter, and Biddy, we find that the key to their being more than conquerors was their faith. That faith allowed them to see beyond the present to a future accessible by faith. Too many put their faith in the world. When the world changes, so does their faith. Our faith, however, is in the unchanging Word of God and in His Son Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, our faith should never waver or wane. Our victory over the world is our faith which is rooted in the cornerstone that cannot be shaken. No matter what the world proclaims or offers, our faith in Jesus Christ will bring us the victory.