

## TRUTH #12 “I’ve Been Commissioned”

**God can take our CHAINS and forge them into SWORDS.**

**James 5:20** “You can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.”

How many of you have people in your life who need brought back from wandering? You’ve been commissioned to help bring them back. Your chains have potential to become your greatest weapon against the enemy.

This series of classes was designed for our PERSONAL sanctification, freedom, and growth. There’s no official graduation... disciplines/truths to live by. Our whole being is sanctified, through and through again.

**1 Thess 5:23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sanctification is an ONGOING, refining process making us look more like Christ. You can go back to any of these truths at any point in time and apply them. These 12 TRUTHS become a lifestyle...

1. “I am called higher” : My Identity is in Christ alone and heaven has a plan for me
2. “I am Loved” : God loves me deeply and unconditionally. I can rest in His love and grow and serve from that place.
3. “The Enemy Needs Exposed” : I choose to stay in the light and not allow darkness to have a foothold in any shape or form. If am in sin, I will quickly bring it into the light.
4. “Striving Won’t Cut It” : If my own efforts were enough, I would not need the Cross of Jesus, so I will not try to strive; I will choose a surrendered life.
5. “There’s Power in the Blood” : If I do not have the power, what does? Jesus’ blood paid the price for my whole person: body, mind, and spirit.
6. “I Am the Problem” : I choose to ask God to search my own heart instead of always pointing the finger at others. What needs sifted from me that does not look like you, God?
7. “Unforgiveness is a Scam” : The tormenters and mountains in my life are connected to me hanging on to unforgiveness. I must actively choose to forgive.
8. “Deliverance is Needed” : I choose to not be naive about the doors that I have opened to the enemy. I will ask for discernment and close those doors and cut off those ties.
9. “It’s a Daily Dying” : I will crucify the flesh daily, so that the Spirit may come alive in me! This looks like daily picking up my cross and submitting my life to Jesus’ Lordship.
10. “Reconciliation is My Responsibility” : God has given me the ministry of reconciliation, so I can look for ways to honor and make peace with others.
11. “Abiding Will Sustain Me” : The fruits of the Spirit will come out of a life that is connected to the Source of life, Jesus Christ. I will intentionally make room to live with God.

These twelve truths become a LIFE-STYLE keeping you steady and consistent in your walk, with the goal of COMMISSIONING you.

Tonight, end with **Truth #12 “I’ve Been Commissioned...”** and we are going look at

- **Commissioned Life:** Sent out life, VICTORIOUS life, outward focused life. All about the King’s mission to GO and make disciples.
- Spiritual enrichment is incredibly important, but if our only focus is on our own growth and getting ministered to, we will become needy, LIFE-SUCKERS.

Jesus died for you to live victoriously AND to help OTHERS live victoriously...

### MICAH 2:13

“The Breaker, the Messiah, who opens the way, shall go up before them liberating them.

They will break out, pass through the gate and go out;

So their King goes on before them, The Lord at their head.”

Jesus was anointed to be the first “BREAKER...” Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you and I now have the BREAKER’S ANOINTING...

We can say Isaiah 61 for ourselves... The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me; He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captive, and release from darkness the prisoners

We’ve been commissioned. Tonight we are going look at **TWO MINDSETS (filters)**...one of these mindsets will send you right back into a place of bondage, unfruitfulness, wilderness living. The other mindset will launch you into a commissioned, purpose-filled, sent life.

We are going to look at the story of the Israelites; their deliverance out of Egypt and then their almost entrance in the Promise Land, and see what kept them from entering. Then we will look at when they finally do enter.

**We can PARALLEL the Israelites’ literal journey with our spiritual walk.**

- Exodus out of Egypt = SALVATION (Galatians 5:1)
- Slaves to Pharaoh = Slaves to SIN (Romans 6:16)
- Moses = JESUS (Hebrews 3:1-6)
- Red Sea = WATER BAPTISM (1 Corinthians 10:1-5, Romans 6:3-4)
- Mt. Sinai = DISCIPLESHIP (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Promise Land = VICTORIOUS Christian Life (Colossians 1:12-13; 1 John 5:4)
- Jordan River = HOLY SPIRIT Baptism(John 7:38-39)

Jordan River... that thing that separates the Israelites from wilderness living to Promise Land living, can be compared to the Holy Spirit Baptism, or Baptism in the Holy Spirit (this is why I think there are so many dry Christians... they don’t get in that River)....

**MAP** Back story...after 400 years in slavery to the Egyptians, God raises up Moses to go and deliver the Israelites out of slavery. After seeing the hand of God move for them in a mighty, miraculous way, they are now out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and in the wilderness getting ready to cross into the Promise Land. While

camped on the southern border of the Promise Land, at a place called Kadesh, and Moses picks a man from each of the 12 Tribes to go scope out the Promise Land for 40 days, then bring back their findings...

**The VICTIM Mindset:** will keep you stuck in WILDERNESS living, and never moving into a life that's commissioned.

### **NUMBERS 13:25-33 and NUMBERS 14:1-32**

**25** When the 12 spies returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, **26** they came to Moses and Aaron and to all of Israel at Kadesh; and they brought back word and showed them the fruit of the land (verse 23 tells us that two men had to carry the cluster of grapes on a pole). **27** They reported, "We came into the land where you sent us, and it certainly does flow with milk and honey (oh, God was telling the truth), and this is its fruit. **28** Nevertheless (bondage mindset), the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large. And indeed, we saw the descendants of Anak there! **30** Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will certainly prevail over it." **31** But the men who had gone up with Caleb said, "We are not able to go up against the people, because they are too strong for us." **32** So they brought a bad report saying, (listen to how they start exaggerating) "The land through which we have gone to spy out is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in the land are of *great* stature. **33** We also saw the Nephilim there; and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Let's jump to the next chapter to see how the other 600,000 men of Israel respond. Chapter 14...

**1** Then all the congregation raised their voices, cried out, and wept loudly through the night. **2** All of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron saying, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or *even* if we had died in this wilderness! **3** Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder! Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" **4** So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and return to Egypt!" **5** Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of the congregation. **6** And Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes; **7** and they spoke saying, "The land is exceedingly good. **8** If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us. **9** Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection is gone from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." **10** But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the sons of Israel. (Dad shows up...)

Vs 11-23, Moses-God exchange words. God allows Moses to speak and remind God of His reputation.

**28** The Lord tells Moses, "Say to them, 'Just as you have spoken, so I will do to you; **29** your dead bodies will fall in this wilderness, anyone twenty years old and up, who have grumbled against Me. **30** By no means will you come into the land where I swore to settle you, except for Caleb and Joshua. **31** Your children, however, whom you said would become plunder—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. **32** But as for you, your dead bodies will fall in this wilderness."

A harsh story with a harsh warning. God forgives but their victim mindset breeds CONSEQUENCES.

- Many Believers get delivered, get saved, get some discipleship, but remain in a victim mindset, never crossing into the Promise Land. They are sinners, not saints. Slaves, not sons. Victims, not victors.

### 6 Aspects of the THE VICTIM MINDSET...

1. ***Is more IMPRESSED with the enemy than God.*** Notice, they show the basketball sized grapes, then toss them off to the side and completely ignore the fruit and begin talking about how impressive the cities and enemy are. They completely ignore the miraculous signs and wonders God did for them and rave about the enemy. Then you have Caleb who tries to interrupt to say, “we shall surely prevail!” How can two people see/experience the same thing, have two completely different perspectives on it and attitudes towards it...one is more impressed with the enemy, the other God.

We all have faith in something. The victim-mindset will put its faith in how big and scary the enemy is and will actively believe the promises of FEAR.

Fear promises you a lot: Ex “things won’t work out, enemy will win, miracles aren’t for today. I will always be like this. It won’t change. It’s really bad.” **Litmus Test:** Observe what you TALK about most.

Do you talk more about darkness or light? Sickness or healing? Your mental illness, your traumatic past, your addictions, others addiction...or God’s saving power and promise to deliver. The victim will talk about and focus on the enemy.

*Ask: “Do I dwell on fear and negativity rather than the faithfulness and goodness of God?”*

2. ***Focuses on human ability, instead of the SUPERNATURAL.*** In vs 31 the 10 spies argue and say “they are too strong for US...” It is true that in the natural, the enemy is too strong for them. The drug, suicide, and mental illness epidemic is too big for us in our own human strength. The giants you are facing are too strong for you. Did you think to call on your God who drowned the Egyptian army less than a year ago?

The victim will only look at their LACK and own strength, and will not demand HS to show up.

*Ask: “Do I dwell on all of my past failures, my insecurities, and worldly statistics rather than miraculous stories of breakthrough and what God can do in and through me?”*

3. ***EXAGGERATES in order to get the attention it is looking for Vs 32-33*** As I pointed out, the 10 spies start exaggerating their report to the point where the land devours its people and they are only grasshoppers. If the first report doesn’t get the response the victim is looking for, it will exaggerate until it does.

The victim mindset will even make up stuff about God to give an EXCUSE to stay scared and stuck... (*Num 14:3*). They are trying to make excuses of their fear, so they start making up stuff about God. Do we do this? Do we try to make excuses of our struggles to the point we make up stuff about God...God gave me this giant/struggle to teach me a lesson. Quit blaming God! Remember who the enemy is!

Ask: *“When someone is not impressed with my pain and suffering, do I feel the need to exaggerate in order to get a response I want?”*

4. **Links up with ENABLERS...** They will find people who will give them the response they are looking for. These 10 men were able to convince 600,000 men.

Those who want to remain as victims will want to make sure they are JUSTIFIED; they will find others to agree with them. That’s exactly what these 10 men accomplished. The entire congregation is now wailing over something that has NOT happened and is contrary to what God has done for them up to this point.

Ask: *“Do I try to find others who are fearful of the same things as me and call it support? Do I try to find others who will justify my unbelief and unwillingness to change?”*

5. **Falls back to what is FAMILIAR when risk is involved.** Notice, that the Israelites moved forward and crossed the Red Sea without any arguments because they were being chased... they were forced to take steps forward. Once they are being challenged to advance and take a risk, they want to go back to what is familiar. “Let’s return to Egypt...”

They are willing to move forward when there is no other option; they will make a change from a DEFENSIVE stance. I see this a lot with people who come wanting help because they are pinned in a corner. They are willing to move forward because there’s no other option. They will change some things, but only from a defensive stance. Always reactionary to the enemy, letting him call the shots. But once things are hard outside of that corner, they want to go right back.

Ask: *“When things get difficult do I assume the new way or path isn’t going to work?”*

6. **Is OFFENDED by big faith (Num 14:10).** Have you ever gotten offended by someone not giving your lack of faith the response you were hoping for? Someone is not impressed with your struggle, your sickness, your experience... and this ticks you off? You go find someone else who will “understand.” I’m not saying we don’t have compassion for the hurt and the struggles... Compassion is what drove Jesus’ miracles. But He also did not give any regard to unbelief, to those who were not desperate to change.

The victim mindset will set “boundaries” with people who CHALLENGE them to change.

Ask *“Do I move on to a new person when I am challenged to grow and change; do I use the excuse that ‘they don’t understand.’?”*

**The Victim Mentality will lead to dying in a DRY PLACE. Death becomes your DELIVERER.**

Out of the abundance of your heart, the mouth speaks... *“Just as you have spoken, so I will do to you; your dead bodies will fall in this wilderness.”*... They received their salvation from Egypt, but they didn’t take possession of their promise, which led to them dying in a dry place. Knew with heads. Saw/experienced, YET they kept that victim mentality, so were delivered and saved just to die in a dry place.

*The wilderness is NOT your intended purpose and destination on this side of eternity; there’s a river to cross and a land to take possession of.*

**THE VICTOR MINDSET:** will commission you, drive you, fill you with purpose and power, **POSITION** you in the Promise Land.

Let's jump ahead 40 years, when the unbelieving generation had died off. And now they are faced with the opportunity to cross into the Promise Land and THIS TIME! This time! They crossed! We are crossing today!

We are going to look at Joshua chapters 1, 2, and 3. I'll read chunks and also summarize to pull it all together into a cohesive story. And this time, we will be look at the Victor's Mindset.

### Joshua Chapter 1

**1** Now after the death of Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying to him, **2** "Moses My servant is dead; so now arise, cross this Jordan, you and all the people, to the land which I am giving to you. **3** Every place on which the sole of your foot steps, I have given it to you. 5-7 Then God starts commanding Joshua to be strong and courageous 3 times and reassures Joshua that God will be with him.

**7** Joshua, be careful to do according to all the Law; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may achieve success wherever you go. **8** The Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may carefully do all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

**10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, **11** "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you are going to cross this Jordan and take possession of the land which the Lord your God is giving you.'" (It's time).

**Joshua Chapter 2** Then we jump to Chapter 2...Joshua sends 2 spies to scope out the land, primarily Jericho... you may think, "no don't do that again" but it's a good thing to have a strategy/aware of enemy's tactics.

Summary of the first 7 verses... These two spies go in to the land to scope things out, and they hide out at a prostitute house, whose name was Rahab. Rahab fears God and hides the spies and lies for them, sending the enemy another direction to look for them. God honors Rahab's reverence/faith and not only spares her life, she is then enfolded into the people of God, and is part of Jesus' lineage.

**8** Now before the spies lay down, Rahab came up to them on the roof, **9** and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land; the terror of you has fallen on us; all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you. **10** For we have HEARD how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** When we heard *these reports*, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below."

**23** Then the two men returned and came to Joshua. They reported all that had happened, **24** and they said, "The Lord has indeed handed over to us all the land; furthermore, all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of us." The faith is getting fanned...

### Joshua Chapter 3

**1** Then Joshua and the sons of Israel got up early in the morning, and headed to the banks of the Jordan. **2** At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp; **3** and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then (only then) you shall set out from your place and go after it.

**Verse 5** Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do miracles among you.”

**JUMP TO 10** The next morning, Joshua said to the congregation, “By this you will know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly drive out all your enemies. **11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan. **13** And when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and they will stand in one heap.” And so it happened, **15** when the feet of the priests carrying the ark stepped down into the edge of the water, **16** the waters stood *and* rose up in one heap... So the people crossed opposite Jericho. **17** And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

## 6 Aspects of the THE VICTOR MINDSET

- 1. Takes action instead of waiting to be REACTIONARY ...** Verse 2 of the first chapter, God says, “Moses my servant is dead...Now arise.” They mourned the proper amount of time, 30 days, for Moses, then it was time to arise. Don’t hesitate...Faith takes action. It takes advantage of the moment at hand... Does a change need to happen in your life? Do you need a healing? Do not hesitate...ACT...Do not look back... ACT. Faith will have you taking steps, and what does God tell Joshua...

“Every place you STEP will be yours...but you have to step.” They could only possess that which they claimed, which they put their foot on. This time, they weren’t running from the enemy, they were running towards, going into the enemy territory. Offensive, not reactionary. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus tells us that the gates of hell will not prevail the church...think about what He is saying. That’s an offensive, attacking, advancement statement...The Church storms hell; takes back what was lost in the fall! So let me ask you, are you only reactionary to the enemy’s attacks, where you pray or seek God when something bad has happened, to counteract the evil, OR, are you reactionary to the Spirit of God inside you, making you a force the devil has to reckon with?

Ask: “*Am I taking action or waiting around for something to happen?*”

- 2. Speaks, believes, and acts on the Word of God regardless the CIRCUMSTANCES...** God tells Joshua to not let the word depart from his mouth, to meditate on it, and to do everything it says, then he won’t fail

The Word of God keeps you GROUNDED, it’s an anchor/plumb line, while lies and confusion swirl. Joshua was about to enter a land with giants and enemies and scary things that could impress him. God is saying, be impressed with my Word, my promises! Do not depart from it, you WILL be unstoppable!

Ask: “*Am I speaking, believing, and acting on the Word that I read each day?*”

- 3. Ignores the enemy’s INTIMIDATIONS and clings to victory stories.** ...those Jericho walls were 6 feet thick and 40 feet high...intimidating, seemingly impossible to penetrate, but Rahab tells us, that inside

those strongholds, past the illusions and lies, there's an enemy who knows he's been defeated. In Numbers 13, unbelief gave its report, paralyzing an entire generation with fear...but now the report of God's might and miracles is speaking louder...the report that He rescues, He delivers, strikes fear among the enemy!

The enemy will POSE as a threat, but in reality he is a shaking, quaking. Those Jericho walls posed, but inside was a shaking, quaking enemy, and those walls would crumble as God's children advanced.

Ask: "*Am I listening to testimonies of victory and hope?*" Ask: "Am I listening to testimonies of victory and hope?"

4. **Prioritizes the LEADING of the Presence.** Joshua 3:3...when you see the Ark of the Lord, then and only then, set out...Remember, 40 years prior, the enemy was too strong for them, and the same is true a generation later. The difference is, what strength are they relying on. They understood this was not going to be a military battle, this was a Spiritual one.

A victor mindset sees the battle as SPIRITUAL; it knows better than to rely on human strength/ability. Not by might, not by strength, but by thy Spirit. The Presence calls the shots. If I'm only doing things in my own human ability, than I've stepped outside of God's will and there will be no power and effect behind what I do. What are we doing that demands the Spirit of God to show up? If I function in my own strength, talents, abilities, never doing anything that requires the supernatural, I won't advance.

Ask: "*Am I having the Spirit call the shots and lead the way?*"

5. **Diligently PURSUES a set apart life...** (3:5) Consecrate yourself for tomorrow the Lord your God will do miracles among you. Set yourself apart, live purely and you WILL see the hand of God move in power!

"The pure in heart SEE God...I only do what I SEE my Father doing"... Purity of heart allows us to SEE into heaven and the miracle needed. We are meant to operate in the fruits and the gifts. There are 9 of each...the fruits allow for pure living and the gifts allow for powerful living. They are meant to go together. Don't fool yourself, so what you have the gift of tongues, you slander and grumble in English. Maybe stick to speaking in tongues. Consecrate yourself! Lay yourself on the alter, so the impurities can be burned away, then you will get up with the fire and power of God and you will see miracles. They go hand in hand!

Ask: "*Am I living set apart in a way that will consecrate me for a greater work?*"

6. **Confidently knows God has MY BACK.** Joshua didn't know the water was going to stand in a heap. God didn't reveal that part of the plan. God just told Joshua to have the priest go before the people with the Ark and to stand in the banks of the Jordan. Joshua then declares to all the people what they were about to witness. He was bold. He didn't need to know every detail to be confident in his God, and Joshua was also so confident in his call that he knew God would back him up. (Sun stand still...Joshua 10)

Because I am set apart, called, and in alignment with God, I am confident He will come through for me. It is His REPUTATION on the line, not mine.

Ask: "*Am I so confident in my standing with God that I know whatever I put my hand to will be blessed by Him?*"

This is the mindset of a commissioned person, a Victor...someone who is done with the wilderness living! Done with circling and grumbling and being a victim... The person who is not only saved, not only water baptized, but baptized in the Holy Spirit!

Living commissioned does not mean you won't have struggles... on the contrary, their will be giants and mountains and fortified cities to come against, but the commissioned woman and man, know their God is bigger than all those things!

**Life was hard in Egypt. Life was hard in the wilderness. Life was hard in the Promise Land.  
Choose your hard!**

I am done with my hard being because I'm a slave to darkness or waiting on it to overtake me. My hard is now to be one that is gaining ground, one that is fighting against the forces of darkness. Pulling others out of the pit!

PRAYER of EMPOWERMENT and COMMISSION...

James and Joi Davis's ...

Have led...

Marvin Sap (singer song writer...)

Fred Hammond (asked Joi to sing for him..)

James has written 100 songs (Varen Thomas...Bobby Jones gospel)

- Akron University Gospel Choir (200 voice) ... wrote songs
- Ashland University ...
- Pentecostal Assemblies of the World ... over 200 churches N.E. to National Choir
- International Young People ... music department
- Multi-Cultural ... pulling from all over and working with Jeremy Shrimplin.

Sampling of someones ... Ed pulls from all over ...