

Ten Steps to Victory

Does a life of true Christian victory seem unattainable to you?

Have you lost the joy and sense of victory you once had after being saved?

Do certain sins seem to doggedly pursue and overcome you in spite of a sincere heart's desire to be pleasing to God?

Are you confused about the source of trials or difficulties occurring in your life, and wondering what to do about them?

STEP 1: Recognize the source of your persecution, trial or oppression as Satan, the World or your Flesh (Sin Nature).

Contrast God and Satan:

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (KJV abundantly)

1John 3:8 The reason the son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (KJV For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.)

Acts 10:38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Luke 9:55, 56 (KJV) But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

James 1:16,17 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

John 10:8-10 (NIV) Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father living in me, who is doing his work."

Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the Prince of Demons: Mark 3:23-25 How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

Discussion:

- a. people confuse the deeds of God and Satan
- b. sickness, death, "acts of God"
- c. "God is trying to teach me something"
- d. some denominations would have you believe that God and Satan have switched roles!
- e. God wants you to succeed in EVERY AREA of your life. God is a GOOD God.
- f. If you want GOOD things from God, you must first understand BEYOND ANY DOUBT that God wants GOOD things for you.
- g. It is wrong thinking, wrong believing and wrong confessing that defeats us, NOT the devil.

Satan is "God of this World":

2Cor 4:3,4 (KJV) But if our gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Luke 4:5-6 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Gen 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Eph 6:10-17 (KJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle (war, struggle) not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

STEP 2: Be sure you know the promises of God (Scriptures) that cover your area of need.

2Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises (his WORD), so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Discussion:

- a. Unless you know what God's will is concerning your need, you cannot have faith to ask him for it.
- b. Yet, without faith, you cannot please or approach God. You are "double-minded", and cannot expect to receive anything from him.
- c. How do you get faith? From hearing (and believing) the Word.
- d. What is God's will? It is his Word.
- e. God will only act in line with his word.
- f. Before you pray, ask yourself: What are the scriptures I'm standing on? Do I have a basis for my faith? Do the same before praying for others.

Hebrews 11:6,1-2 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

Romans 4:17-25 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed---the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead---since he was about a hundred years old---and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness---for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Note:

- a. If Abraham had not believed, the promise would not have come to pass.
- b. He counted it done before it was manifested.
- c. He walked not by "sight".
- d. He based his faith on God's WORD.
- e. This story is given to us as an EXAMPLE. The same principles apply today---for WHATEVER we need or want from God.

John 1:1-3,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him (the Word-Jesus) all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. The word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 10:6-10,16-17 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That is you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (KJV--So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.)

Note:

- a. In the same way, we can hear the message and not believe, and never receive the benefit. We may believe the Salvation message, but not the rest of the Gospel!!!
- b. God WANTS you to have ALL his goodness.....we have to apply the rules to get them.
- c. Million-dollar bank account example

STEP 3: Be sure you are not living in sin---out of fellowship with God.

Discussion:

- a. You CANNOT have strong faith and live in sin (out of fellowship with God) at the same time---it is impossible.
- b. If you don't have faith, you will be double-minded, and it will be IMPOSSIBLE to receive from God based on his promises.
- c. After we are born again, there are 3 forces at work against us:
 1. The World (System--Satan's Kingdom)
 2. The Flesh (Sin Nature)
 3. Satan & his followers (Demons)
- d. We need to learn to discern which of these forces is responsible for any particular problems we might be having. Satan will work through the Flesh and World System to try to take us captive.
- e. We need a "check-up from the neck up to prevent hardening of the attitudes".
- f. Thoughts in themselves are not sin---it depends on what we do with them. Thoughts not put into word or action die unborn.
- g. BUT, if we persist in sin, sooner or later we will get into trouble.

Psalm 66:18 (KJV) If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

1Cor 11:31-32 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

1John 3:18-22,24 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us.

For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (we will ask according to the word)

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. +v5---

James 4:7,8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

1Cor 5:1-5 LOOK UP

2Cor 2:2-11 LOOK UP

Rom 6:11-12,14 ...count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

2Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?

STEP 4: Be sure you allow NO doubt or unbelief regarding the promises of God.

Daniel 10:12- Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before you God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

1Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Faith will work in your heart with doubt in your head!!

Mark 11:22-26 And Jesus, answering, saith unto them Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, Whatever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have anything against any, that your Father also, who is in heaven, may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father, who is in heaven, forgive your trespasses.

Job 3:25-26 "What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil."

2 Tim 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

James 4:7,8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you.

Discussion:

- a. Stand up for what is yours. When you know what your rights are, it'll be easy!!
- b. Refuse to accept doubt, fear, sickness, depression, or temptation. They are not yours!
- c. The world's largest ocean cannot sink a small ship unless some of the water gets inside.
- d. We wouldn't let a PIG into our house, yet we'll let Satan in!
- e. Faith always has a good report

Poem: Guard well the portals of your mind;
Let no discouragement seep through,
let doubt no lodgment find.
More than's been done can still be done;
Think this, and in thinking, then believe;
Go on, think right, work hard, achieve!!

STEP 5: Sincerely DESIRE the benefit you have asked God for.

earnestly
Amos 3:3

Mark 11:24 Therefore, I say unto you, Whatever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Magnify it in your mind and heart by visualizing yourself with the objective.

STEP 6: Ask God in faith, nothing wavering, believing that what is asked IS yours.

Prayer should be a statement of FAITH. Prayer is NOT a statement of the problem but a statement of the solution!

Mark 11:24---You don't pray, Oh Lord, here's this big mountain in front of me!

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Isaiah 55:7-13 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without

watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.

Psalm 107:20 He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Isaiah 1:18-20 Come now, let us reason together." says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 43:25-26 I, even I, am he who blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you....

STEP 7: Do not tolerate even for a moment any thought or confession to the contrary that the promise is yours.

Proverbs 4:20-24 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (KJV--- Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession (Lit. confession of the hope) of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised,

Mark 11:22-26 And Jesus, answering, saith unto them Have faith in (of) God. For verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he saith. Therefore, I say unto you, Whatever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have anything against any, that your Father also, who is in heaven, may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father, who is in heaven, forgive your trespasses.

Luke 6:45 A good man, out of the good treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man, out of the evil treasure of his heart, bringeth forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

an evil report

Faith always has a GOOD REPORT. It says what God says.

Romans 4:17-25 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed---the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Isaiah 55 My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways.

NOTE: Our faith is to be like God's: 1. We believe in our heart, 2. say with our mouth what we believe in our heart, and 3. it comes to pass!! It WORKS---good or bad.

STEP 8: Count the thing that you have asked for as DONE.

Hebrews 11:1

I will watch over my word to perform it

STEP 9: Give glory to God even before it comes into manifestation.

Romans 4:18-21 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead---since he was about a hundred years old---and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. An the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

When the thought of the prayer or any doubt comes up, thank God for the answer! Quote the word you are standing on. Read the verses to the Devil.

STEP 10: ACT as though you HAVE RECEIVED what you asked for.

Matthew 7:24-27 " Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds belw and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

SUMMARY:

a. Disabilities are more in people's heads than in their bodies:

1. Franklin Roosevelt had infantile paralysis, and yet became the only president of the U.S. to be elected 4 terms.
2. Glenn Cunningham, as a child of 3, suffered severe burns to his legs in a schoolhouse fire. Doctors said he would never walk again. Yet, through courage, hard work, and a dogged determination, he set the world's record in 1934 for running a mile in 4 minutes, 6.8 seconds.
3. Bill Wilson was called a "hopeless alcoholic", and yet later overcame his addiction and founded Alcoholics Anonymous.
4. Winston Churchill flunked 6th grade and was called dull and hopeless as a child, yet arose to lead Great Britain to victory in a great World War.

b. The moment you wonder why God has not answered, or you look around for some reason why He did not hear your prayer, or you begin to accept the delay in the answer as the will of God for you not to have what you have asked, YOU ARE DEFEATED!

c. People should be just as willing to fight for things spiritually as they are in the natural. Example: Suppose you owned your house & had the title to it. Someone came along and said, "You are going to have to move out...I want this house." You would FIGHT...get a lawyer if you had to. Do the same for your spiritual promises! (God's word is a legal document)

d. It depends much more on YOU than on God whether you receive answers to your prayer.....God has already done all he needs to do.

e. Keeping negative thought or speaking negative things of oneself is like poisoning your own drinking water. It is suicide. It plants a seed in your heart that will take root and produce a crop. Poison that is on the outside can't hurt us, but once inside, it will kill us or make us sick. Even the largest ocean cannot sink the smallest ship unless some of the water gets inside.

f. Say it, Do it, Receive it, Tell it.

g. The law of perspective (magnification).....example of line of different telephone poles into the distance. Example of binoculars.....use our binoculars on the unimportant things to minimize them, and the important things to maximize them. The things (thoughts) we dwell on in our minds are magnified, but the things put out of mind are minimized. (Speck in your brother's eye).

h. Anyone can shout the victory when everything is going well--but we should do it when things in the natural don't look so well. Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!

i. REMEMBER: You don't have to be a spiritual giant to start receiving from God immediately--only begin to operate and act in the light of the word you do have.

j. The natural man, carnal man, and spiritual man.

k. I bargained with life for a penny, only to find dismayed,
that anything I would have asked of life, life would have gladly paid.