

# Victorious In Spite Of Circumstances!

BIBLE LESSON: VICTORIOUS IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES!

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

REMEMBER - Ideal circumstances do not guarantee victory and an overcoming lifestyle. FAITH in God brings VICTORY IN EVERY SITUATION!

SCRIPTURE READING:

ROMANS 8:38,39 "I am persuaded... nothing shall separate us from the love of God."

GENESIS 50:20 "You meant it for evil... God meant it for good..."

JOHN 16:33 - "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but BE OF GOOD CHEER, I have overcome the world."

LOOK AT WHAT WE FACE AS A CHILD OF GOD: NOT A LIFE OF EASE---

1. Life is a STRUGGLE--Matt.11:12 - "violent take it by force..."
2. Life is a RACE--I Cor.9:24 - "...all run in a race..one receives the prize..."
3. Life is a WAR--I Tim.1:18 - "...war a good warfare.."(faith, good conscience)

I. SOMETHING A CHILD OF GOD NEEDS TO AVOID IS THE "IF ONLY SYNDROME."

- "If only I had more money, I would be happy."

- "If only I did not have to work with the kind of people I work with, I

could be victorious."

HOWEVER, whimsical desires to remove opposing circumstances does not lead to victorious Christian living; but LEARNING TO TRUST THE ALL-SUFFICIENT GRACE OF GOD WILL LEAD TO VICTORY!!!

\*\*\*READ: II COR. 12:9\*\*\*

## II. IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT THE ANSWER

Paradise? Utopia? Camelot? Places in man's dreams which promise a tranquil and carefree environment to their inhabitants.

IS SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT CRUCIAL TO OUR SUCCESS? MUST WE HAVE A PLACE WITH NO PROBLEMS?

IMPORTANT: WE ARE GIVEN MANY OCCASIONS IN THE BIBLE WHICH NULLIFY THE THOUGHT THAT A LIFE OF VICTORY IS DEPENDANT UPON IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES!!!

1. LUCIFER - Satan's name before his fall from heaven. Isa.14:12-17

\*\*\*He had the ability to create beautiful music. Eze. 28:13

HE LIVE IN HEAVEN!

\*\*\*BUT, DESPITE ALL THIS, LUCIFER WAS TEMPTED TO REBELLION! HIS POSITION DID NOT KEEP HIM FROM TEMPTATION!!!

NOTE: Pride sometimes arises when a person's circumstances are close to ideal. When we begin to think that what we have is through the labor of our own hands, or that we deserve it, we are on a fast train to destruction!

\*\*PRIDE IN ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TALENTS, SKILLS, LEADS US AWAY FROM A DEPENDENCY ON GOD.

\*\*\*READ: PROVERBS 30:8.9\*\*\*

2. ADAM - Adam was in paradise, the GARDEN OF EDEN. Adam had everything!

\*\* Adam was given food in abundance -- (Genesis 2:16).

\*\* Adam was given authority -- (Genesis 2:15).

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING THAT WAS WITHHELD FROM ADAM, AND THAT'S  
WHAT HE  
WANTED!

\*\*\* A PROBLEM WITH IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES IS THAT MAN ALWAYS WANTS  
THAT  
SINGLE ITEM WHICH IS FORBIDDEN; IT BECOMES THE OBJECT OF ATTRACTION,  
AFFECTION!

NOTE: King Ahab desired the vineyard of Naboth, though he owned every  
other vineyard around.

- He was unable to enjoy what he had because of what he did NOT have! (I  
KINGS 21)

\*\* SOMETIMES, CHILDREN WHO ARE GIVEN MANY EARTHLY POSSESSIONS ARE  
NOT  
GIVEN THE LOVE AND AFFECTION THEY NEED, SO THEY SEEK THIS AFFECTION  
THROUGH SIN & PROMISCUOUS WAYS, DRUGS, UNBRIDLED PASSIONS, ETC!!!

SO, THE ABUNDANCE OF GOOD THINGS ARE FORGOTTEN IN THE SEARCH FOR  
THAT  
WHICH THEY WERE DEPRIVED.

3. JUDAS, AMONG THE TWELVE - Judas was the treasurer of the disciples --  
(John 12:29). Judas used his position to steal money from the treasury -  
(John 12:6)

NOTE: While the other disciples grew in knowledge & power with God, Judas became more devious!

\*\* When Mary anointed the feet of Jesus, JUDAS objected because of the cost of the alabaster ointment --- John 12:5-6

PASTORAL NOTE: Judas' reasoning was not motivated by care for the poor, but his greed for money!

-- When making financial decisions for the church, don't let your decision be based upon your unwillingness to give more money to the work of God.

SAD ENDING - Judas lost his apostleship, his life, and his hope for eternal life! (Acts 1:25)

### III. VICTORY IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Joseph had a dream. There was jealousy in the hear of his own brothers!!

READ: Genesis 37:3.

REMEMBER, though, ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE  
GOD! (Romans 8:28).

JOSEPH WAS: -Sold by his brothers.

-Servant in Potifer's house.

-Potifer's wife lied on him.

-Placed in prison.

-Interpreted Pharaoh's dream.

-Became ruler in Egypt!!!

\*\*\* JOSEPH ACCEPTED THE DIFFICULTIES AS PART OF THE DREAM COMING TO PASS. HIS ATTITUDE THROUGH IT ALL SAVED HIM!!! READ: GENESIS 50:20

2. JOHN ON THE ISLE OF PATMOS -- On the Lord's Day, in spite of his circumstances and environment, John was "...IN THE SPIRIT..."

\*\*\* SOME PEOPLE CAN'T GET IN THE SPIRIT UNLESS THE MUSIC, OR SONG, OR MESSAGE IS JUST RIGHT!!!

#### IV. THE ATTITUDE OF THE CONQUEROR

There is an attitude of faith which stems from a trust in the love of God.

-- Paul said, "I AM PERSUADED..."

\*\* We must be PERSUADED before the trial ever comes! Then we don't have to worry about making up our minds, OUR MIND IS ALREADY MADE UP!!!

NOTE: WE MUST NOT CHASTENING AS "JUDGEMENT OF GOD," but as a signal of the LOVE OF GOD!!

- "FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH, HE CHASTENETH..."

- CHASTENING IS PROOF OF OUR SONSHIP --- Hebrews 12:7-8

\*\*\*WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS IN SPITE OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES!\*\*\*