

Living in Victory

Session #2: God Has Equipped and Empowered Us

God, in His Love, has given us everything we need to live in victory

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5

But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:57

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have *tribulation*; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33

1. *God has given us dominion over the earth*

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:26-28

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority— the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Psalm 8:3-8

Dominion is the Hebrew word – Radah: to rule, dominate, tread down, subjugate. God has given man dominion and authority over the earth and everything in it – except other people. In so doing, He has limited Himself, by His own Word, by giving man the responsibility of rulership. He has set up spiritual laws that He will not violate. Therefore, if anything is going to happen on the earth, man, whom He made ‘ruler’ of the earth, has to cause it to happen.

Unfortunately, too much of the Body of Christ takes a passive attitude toward life and how they pray. They think that God is in control of everything going on in the world and that they need to get God to act on our behalf. Based on the Word, He is waiting on us to use the authority that He has given us. It is our responsibility to use that dominion to enforce the will and the word of God in our spheres of influence.

2. *Authority over our Circumstances*

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Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Deut 30:19-20

Our choices determine what we experience in life. Our lives are not to be like a ball in a pinball machine. Neither are our circumstances being controlled by a cold, distant God. Instead, our warm, loving Father has set up His Kingdom so that our words and our action – our choices – largely determine what we experience in life.

3. Authority over the enemy

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Luke 10:19

Submit yourselves therefore to God. *Resist the devil*, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Matt 10:1

Both authority and power in the above verses are the Greek word exousia, which means:

Power of choice, freedom – we can choose to resist the devil

The power of authority

The power of rule (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

We can choose the blessing and resist the curse. We don't need to ask God to deliver us.

Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3:16

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7

Unfortunately, through our thoughts, words and actions, we allow the enemy into our lives. When we yield to thoughts of the curse or lies of the enemy, we allow his influence into our lives. When we yield to the flesh through strife, envy, hatred, fear, lust, or gossip we allow the influence of the enemy into our lives.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:4

So when we recognize a lack of peace in our heart, we need to quickly deal with it. Often that means repenting and then resisting (casting out) whatever spirit we may have allowed into our lives.

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4. *The Blood of Jesus*

In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” Ephesians 1:7

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”(Romans 5:6-9).

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and *the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:7-10).

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, *having made peace through the blood of His cross*. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled” (Colossians 1:19-21).

Therefore Jesus also, *that He might sanctify the people with His own blood*, suffered outside the gate” (Hebrews 13:12).

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off *have been brought near by the blood of Christ* (Ephesians 2:13).

And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Rev 12:11

The blood of Jesus (and our faith in it) is what gives us legal right to access God and His promises for our life. Through the blood of Jesus we have the legal right to utilize the authority, tools, and weapons that God has provided for our victory.

5. *The Name of Jesus*

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phillipians 2:9-11

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover. Mark 16:17-18

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And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. Acts 3:16

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. Prov 18:10

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 2Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24

By using the name of Jesus, in faith, we are:

Reminding God of the covenant we have through Jesus

Reminding the enemy of the covenant we have through Jesus

Reminding ourselves of the covenant we have through Jesus

Pronouncing our Covenant with God and informing everyone in the spirit realm that the power and authority backing up the name of Jesus is now backing our words and actions. We are informing everyone in the spirit realm that everything that Jesus has is ours – we are joint heirs. Sickness must bow its knee, lack must bow its knee, fear must bow its knee. The enemy and the curse must bow its knee when we use the name of Jesus – in faith.

6. God's Word

God's Word Equips: All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

God's Word is essential in equipping us for our victory.

God's Word Creates: By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Hebrews 11:3

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. John 6:63

God's Word is essential in creating the reality of the plan that God has for us.

God's Word Causes Change: So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:29

..in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; Romans 4:17

Even Our Words Cause Change: So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the

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sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Mark 11:23?

From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.
21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. Prov 18:20,21

God's Word, spoken through our mouths, has the power to change our circumstances – when spoken in faith. Even our spoken words have power to change things – either negatively or positively. When our words are based on God's written or revealed Word to us, they can create positive change.

7. Holy Spirit – Power

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, Eph 3:16

*In these verses, the word for power and might is the Greek word *Dunamis*, which means:*

Strength, power, ability

- *inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth*
- *Power for performing miracles*

The most amazing aspect of God equipping us is that he gives us His power, His ability, His anointing, His miracle working might to completely overwhelm the enemy, our circumstances, and anything or anyone that comes against us.

8. Holy Spirit – Guide

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. 13However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. 15All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you. John 16:12-15

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 1 John 2:27

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Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom 8:26

Arguably the most important 'tool' that God provides us with is His wisdom (wisdom is the principle thing, Prov 4:7). It's His Instruction Manual, showing us how to use everything that He has given us to achieve victory.

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. Heb 13:20-21

9. Main point: God is good, he wants to bless you, and he has equipped you with everything you need to overwhelm what comes against you and live in victory.
10. Reference Articles
 - a. Wake up the mighty men