

THE NEED FOR VICTORY IN THE CHURCH

Romans 6:11-20

Our passage of scripture talks of being dead to this thing called sin. It says that it shall NOT HAVE DOMINION over us, yet there are many of us that sin has its way with whenever it wants.

The Bible says it shall not have dominion over us if we yield ourselves as servants of righteousness instead of servants of unrighteousness. It says that we are the servants of whomever and whatever we yield ourselves to.

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. NIV

Our passage speaks to us of this morning of victory, victory in the body of Christ, in the local assembly.

Why is it then that we are seeing so little apparent victory?

There will never be victory in the church until first the need is realized. When there is complacency and self-satisfaction, there must follow a spiritual and moral degeneration.

The Word of God warns us, "*Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

Let us look at some reasons why we need victory in our church this morning.

THERE IS NEED FOR VICTORY BECAUSE OF:

I. THE AGGRESSIVE BELIGERENCE OF SATAN

A. I believe in a personal devil

1 John 3:8

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV

B. I believe he is aggressive

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. NIV

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

C. I believe his is back of every anti-christian movement

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| 1. Crime | 4. Cults | 7. Interest in psychics |
| 2. Terrorism | 5. Atheism | 8. Horoscope |
| 3. Modernism | 6. Stay at homism | 9. Occult interest |

Ephesians 2:2

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. NIV

II. THE INCREASE OF WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

A. There is too much compromise with the world.

James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. NIV

- 1. When the Word is preached, people say they are scolded and resent it.
 - 2. Some in the church would compromise the truth to gain the friendship of the world.
- B. People need to understand that the preaching of the Cross is offensive to the world. Points out that they are sinners b/4 God.
- C. Godly living will bring persecution from the world.

2 Timothy 3:12

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, NIV

III. THE PREVALENCE OF INDIFFERENCE IN THE CHURCH

- A. It is becoming more and more difficult to move people with the preaching of the Word.

2 Timothy 3:5-8

having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth,- men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. NIV

2 Timothy 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction.

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. NIV

- B. It is more difficult to get people to stand for God and His way.
 - 1. Moses & Israel **Exodus 32:26** “*Who is on the Lord’s side?*”
 - 2. Elijah on Mt. Carmel

1 Kings 18:21

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing. NIV

Note 3 things:

- a. Didn’t oppose program of revival
- b. Made no statement in favor of idolatry
- c. Stood unconcerned, not willing to take a stand for God.

IV. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF SPIRITUAL DEFEAT

- A. Believers slaves of worldly habits
Puppets of evil lusts, sensual desires

We are to mortify our members – the flesh
Mortify - to make dead

- B. Believers poisoned by jealousy, retaining grievances, unforgiving spirits

Ephesians 4:30-32

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. NIV

- C. We need a victory over the flesh that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

Galatians 5:16

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. NIV

V. BECAUSE OF THE ALARMING DEGREE OF FRUITLESSNESS AMONG CHRISTIANS

- A. Every Christian should be able to say “I have witnessed, prayed, and cried for souls”.
- B. We are saved not just to fill a pew, but to be a channel through which the Holy Spirit can win others to Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. NIV

- C. True we are living in the days of evil apostasy, but I believe that many sinners can say as David when chased by Saul “**No man careth for my soul**”.

CONCLUSION:

Do you have personal victory. Victory in the church comes when individuals start experiencing it in their own lives.