

Pursuing A Victorious Life – April 2018

We sometimes speak of living a victorious life, but do we really understand what that means? Living or ***pursuing a victorious life*** does not mean living a life free of trials or troubles, but rather it means that *even with* challenges, concerns and issues of life, we continue to press forward, placing our hope and trust in Jesus Christ. It also does not mean that we sit around doing nothing—helpless and powerless; rather, we continue to pray and prepare during our trials.

From time to time, we all face trials. The Bible tells us that we should expect them. That's not to say that we eagerly anticipate or welcome them, but simply that we must understand that—at *some point*—they will come. And, when they do come, we must not allow them to 'take us out'. If you ask those who have experienced trials and tribulations, they will tell you that after the rain, comes the rainbow. They will share with you that after the storm, they came out on the other side better, stronger, trusting and loving God even more. Oftentimes, our history or experiences help get us through our present and future. Because of our 'history' with God, we understand and appreciate that 'if God got me through that, He can get me through this'...whatever THIS is!

Pursuing a victorious life doesn't mean that each day you bounce out of bed happily and with childlike expectancy, but it does mean that you wake up grateful, that you seek God prayerfully for guidance and strength, and that you embrace the hope we have in Christ. In other words, we know and understand that while we can't control all of life's circumstances, we can stand on the promises of God. The Word of God tells us that "He will never leave or forsake us." It reminds us that "we can do all things through Him who gives us strength." It also tells us that "God loves us with an everlasting love," and that His plans for our future are to "prosper us, not hurt us." We know that "weeping may endure for a time, but that joy comes in the morning!"

The Bible isn't just a book of heroes and villains, parables and commandments, it's a roadmap to help us navigate life's journey; it provides us with direction and promises to not only cope with the issues of life, but a life that is victorious! It helps us understand people, grief, love, sin, and its consequences. God's Word is unchanging. It's as relevant and true today as it was when it was written.

I encourage you to walk with a sense of honor and integrity, even if or when you feel inadequate. Lift up your head and allow God to show you a new path, so that you can walk boldly in victory. Don't allow your circumstances to dictate how your day—or *your life*—goes! Understand that we are kings and queens—a CHOSEN generation. Know that God loves you, no matter what. Don't just dabble with the notion of religion, but seek a closer and deeper relationship with Christ. Talk with Him *and listen* to Him. Live out what you know about Him. These are some of the keys to *pursuing a victorious life*.

Peace and power,

Pastor Marriner