

22Y04 Victory in Faith

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. For those of you who do not know me. I am one of the directors of PUNLA Christian Ministries. My name is Kip Wehrman. I'm just like you. I have struggled in my life at times. But because of Jesus I have found victory.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father, thank you. Thank you so much for what you have done for me, for all of us. You are the king of kings and Lord of lords. And I know that that means you are in control of everything. I know that you are with me always, just like you promised. Lord please use me today to share the message you want me to share. And even if I misspeak or speak poorly, help everyone to only hear your message and remember only the things you want them to remember. I am so thankful Lord for the opportunity to share today with these students. I'm so thankful for the technology that makes this possible. Thank you, Lord. I pray for each person listening that they may hear you clearly in the words I use. I pray that each person has had moments when they could see you clearly in the events, the speakers, the volunteers. As we all share of ourselves in obedience to God. And I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

During this event we have been sharing the importance of faith in God. That we trust God, believe in God. The topic I was asked to share about today is "The victory of faith in the life of Christians.

Victory.

How many of you feel like you have victory?

Do you act like you have victory?

Do you talk like you have victory?

We are followers of Jesus. Jesus is king of kings and lord of lords. As a follower of Jesus, we have been adopted into the family of God. We are Children of God.

So, why don't we feel victorious? Children of God should not fear anything. Children of God should have victory over everything. But I know I do not always feel like it. I don't always feel very victorious.

Let me read 1 John 5:1-5 (NLT) *¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Every child of God has defeated the world, we have achieved victory through our faith. So why don't we act like it? God says we are victorious, we have defeated the evil of this world. Yet, we struggle and face hardships.

Jesus told us all we need to know about our victory in faith here in John 16:33 (NLT) ³³*have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*"

What we face in life is the same all people face, Christian or non-Christian. We have different trials yes, but others face the same trials as we do. Some more and harsher trials, some less. Everyone who lives faces difficult times in life. That's just life. But our God is faithful. He promises not to tempt us beyond our ability to withstand. No matter what you are facing you can endure. You can make it through. God is faithful.

But how do we get to feel this victory. I hope we can understand that we have victory, we have a "happily ever after" secured in Jesus. But how do we feel victorious now?

Jesus explains this in many ways in the bible but I really love what Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT) ²⁸*Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."*

Don't miss what Jesus is telling us. Everyone has is tired and has burdens. Life is hard for everyone. Jesus says He will give you rest from these burdens. This is surrendering all we have to Jesus. Jesus is the only one who can actually carry the burdens and troubles of this life. Jesus promises to guide us and teach us and give us rest. But don't miss the end. Jesus gives us a burden, but it is light and easy to bear through faith in Jesus.

Our Victory is a "happily ever after" with Jesus. But we can experience victory now through are faith in Jesus by surrendering everything to Jesus. He is really in control anyway. All we are doing is acknowledging He is God and we are not.

Sounds easy doesn't it. But it's not. It takes practice. Faith is more than I believe, then it's good from that point on. We have to practice are faith in Jesus. We have to continually surrender control of our situations to Jesus. This is the only way to feel victory now. And yes, it has to be intentional and we will all fail at times. But we pray to God to give us what we need to trust Him and surrender to Him, in every situation.

I want to read you a story from the gospel of Mark. Jesus had sent the disciples out to preach and teach and heal. Then this happens in Mark 9:17-24 (NKJV) ¹⁷*Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." ¹⁹He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." ²⁰Then they brought him*

to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. ²¹So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²²And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

I love this story. “I believe. Lord but please help my unbelief. Help me Jesus to believe. I want to believe. I want to trust you. I want to feel victorious. Help me Jesus to believe. Every time we are feeling anxious, worried, we are being tempted or prosecuted. When troubles, trials and sorrows come. And they well. Give it to Jesus, surrender the outcomes to the only one who can actually help you carry that burden. And when we struggle to let go. Pray Lord I believe, help my unbelief.

I want to read a poem to you today by Robert Burdette called Broken Dreams.

As children bring their broken toys
With tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
Because He was my friend.

But then instead of leaving Him
In peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
With ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried,
“How could you be so slow”
“My child,” He said, “What could I do?
You never did let go.”

We often think we know better than God. If God would just do this or that. If God would give me this or that. Then everything would be perfect. I think God knows better than me. We have to learn to trust that God loves us and knows exactly what is best for us

in every situation. Pray for your desires, okay but always end if it be your will Lord and if not help me to be a peace with your plan Lord. I am yours; I trust you Jesus Amen.

Let me read you one last scripture, from a Psalm of David. Psalm 118:6 (NIV) *The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*

If we are truly followers of Jesus. If we are truly children of God, then what can mere people do to us. No matter what you are facing. God is faithful. We can trust Jesus. We have victory through our faith in Jesus because we can trust Jesus. What can mere people do to us.

Let's pray. Father God. We know You alone are God. You are in control of everything. We can trust you. We do trust you. I am so thankful for this opportunity to share with so many from the other side of the planet. Only you can make something like this possible. I thank you for everyone who has listened. I thank you Lord for the mighty works you are doing in the lives of everyone listening. Help us not to miss it. Help us to see you at work in our lives and in our situations. We do believe Lord, but please help our unbelief. Help us to follow you and do what you want us to do, so we can live the victorious, abundantly satisfying life of service to you our Lord and King. King Jesus. And I pray this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Let me leave you with this today. Everyone gets discouraged. Everyone faces trials and sorrows in this life. Christian and non-Christian, we all live here on earth and face troubles. But as a follower of Jesus. Or what the used to refer to as being a follower of "the way". We live our lives in a different way. The way of Jesus. No matter what is happening around us or to us, we live like we have already won the victory. We have victory, a "happily ever after" waiting for us. But we also have victory right now. We can experience victory every day in every situation. It's our choice to surrender it all to God and trust He knows best.

I lose my job, praise Jesus. I trust God has a better plan for me. I get sick, praise Jesus. I have faith God had a better plan for me. Even if I die, praise Jesus. I know God will take care of my loved ones, I know my death and life have meaning. And I get to spend eternity with Jesus. Amen.

If we follow Jesus and do what he is asking us to do, then victory is certain. Let's start living our lives like we know it. Act like it. Show it in your words, actions and even our attitudes. Yes, smile even when there appears to be nothing to smile about. The world will notice. You have victory. Be joyful when everything appears to be horrible, joy is contagious. The world will notice. You have victory.

Live the abundantly satisfying life God has planned for you. Not a different life, your life. Just live it like you know God is in control. Live it like you know there is a happily ever after. Victory through faith and trust in Jesus. Surrender it all, then sleep like a baby trusting in God's plan no matter what. Amen.