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Introduction

Warning! This book is not for the faint- hearted Christian, neither is it for the Christian who is happy with staying just as they are, and don't want to grow spiritually in the things of God. This book has been written to help take the reader on to the next level of faith and to bring the reader into a life of victory in Christ Jesus. To win means, "To be victorious, to gain, to reach, and to attain." In this book you will discover the Biblical principles that will help you to reach for the highest, and to attain a standard of excellence that will lead you into a lifestyle of winning.

Chapter 1

Winning is God's will for your life

Deuteronomy 28:13.

And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath.

If, under the Old Covenant, God's people were meant to be the head and not the tail, and if they were meant to be above only and not beneath; how much more should we

who are living under a “New and better Covenant”, be the head and not the tail and above only and not beneath?

Notice that it says, “**ABOVE ONLY,**” in other words we should never be beneath. There is no situation in which you might find yourself where you should be beneath the problem, you ask some Christians how they are and they answer you by saying, “Not bad under the circumstance” Well get out from under the circumstance! You are not meant to be under the circumstance, you are meant to be above it. The Moffatt translation says of this verse, “You shall be always rising, never falling.” Did you get that? Never falling! Thank God that we can always rise up to higher heights in Jesus, and we do not have to fall, but we can rise up and surmount any problem or difficulty. In Christ we can win in every test or trial, because we have the greater one living on the inside of us. Don't settle for anything less than being the **HEAD** and being **ABOVE**, don't every give up and quit, always remember this, “**WINNERS NEVER QUIT AND QUITTERS NEVER WIN.**”

It is the will of God for you to be the winner in life, the victory that Jesus won over Satan was not for Himself, but it was for you and I. We need to remember that we are fighting from a position of victory, and we have already overcome all of life's problems because we are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:37

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

There are several things that I want you to see from this verse. First, notice that it says, “More than conquerors”, now if it just said “conquerors” that would have been great, but it says that we are “More than conquerors.” We are not just conquerors but we are more than conquerors. Lets look at it in the Amplified Bible.

Romans 8:37. Amp

Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him who loved us.

According to the Amplified translation we, “Gain a surpassing victory” in the midst of all tests and trials, this should do away with the defeatist attitude that so many Christians have. Begin to have a right mental attitude, begin to see yourself as a victor and not as a victim, see yourself as the winner and not the loser, begin to shout the victory instead of crying like a baby. Jesus has brought for you a surpassing victory over **all** your enemies, so you don't need to be defeated anymore, you can live in **victory** every day of your life!

The second thing that I want you to see is that we are “More than conquerors” through Jesus. This verse says, “Through him.” We do not overcome the storms of life by our own strength, but we overcome them through the strength of Jesus, it is His strength and ability that we have to trust in and not our own. Jesus said that we could do nothing without Him, and that is true, but thank God we are not without Him, He lives in us and he will put us over in the storms of life.

Philippians 4:13 Amplified.

I have strength for all things in Christ, who empowers me-I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, [that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency.

Notice what Paul said, “I have strength for all things.” How many things? **ALL !** We could also say it like this; “I have strength in all things.” In the KJV it says, “I can do

all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” So we conclude then that we have strength for all things and in all things. Notice also, that Paul said he was, “Ready for anything and equal to anything.” Is that your confession? If not then it should be!

The third thing that I want you to see is that we are “More than conquerors” because Jesus loves us and wants us to be winners. We are conquerors through Him that loved us. It is because of God’s great love for us, that Jesus fought the devil on our behalf and won a surpassing victory. Jesus fought the battle and won that made Him a conqueror; we received the spoils of victory without ever having to fight; now that makes us **MORE THAN CONQUERORS!**

2 Corinthians 2:14.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

Let me ask you a question. What does always mean? Always means always, right? Then according to this verse we should never be defeated, we should always be on the winning side of life. Why? Because God **ALWAYS CAUSES YOU TO TRIUMPH!** From this time forth begin to thank God for your victory, it is not a matter of sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. No, thank God we always **WIN!**

Romans 8:31.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

With God on our side we need never fail or be defeated, for He will always cause you to triumph. If God is for us, and He is, then there is not anybody who can successfully be against us. The devil and his cohorts are already defeated, man cannot overcome the power of God, so the only way that you can be overcome and defeated is by your own negative thinking and speaking. You may say, “You just don't understand the problems that I have to face every day, you're not living in the real world, it is just not realistic to live victoriously in today's world.” I am not saying that there are not real issues that we have to face every day, but we must believe what the Word of God has to say on the subject. Let us see what Jesus had to say on this matter.

John 16:33.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world

John 16:33. Amplified

I have told you these things so that in me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer-take courage, be confident, certain, undaunted-for I have overcome the world. -I have deprived it of power to harm, have conquered it [for you].

We see some very illuminating truths in what Jesus said from this portion of Scripture, the first thing that we see, is that, we can have peace in a troubled world. Jesus has given to us a legacy of peace, let us see what He said about it in the gospel of John.

John 14:27.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jesus left us His peace when He ascended back up to heaven, it was His legacy to the Body of Christ; a legacy of peace, and not just any old peace, but the peace of Jesus, the very same peace that Jesus possessed, a peace that gives you absolute confidence towards God in a troubled world, this is a priceless gift that we should cherish and be thankful for. Notice how we get this peace, “I have told you these things.” We receive

this peace through the Word of God, having peace in a troubled world comes by hearing the Word, hearing and receiving the Word of God connects you with your legacy of peace.

The second thing that we see, is that, in this world there is tribulation, we do not deny that there is tribulation in the world, but we do deny it the right to affect us. Just because there is tribulation in the world does not mean that we have to tribulate, that is all some Christians want to do, tribulate, tribulate and then tribulate some more! The third thing that we see, is that, we should be of “Good cheer.” We should be rejoicing Christians. A joyful attitude will help you overcome any trial or test, so many times Christians are tempted to have pity parties that end up more like a wake, but if you would be of GOOD CHEER instead, you will rise up above all the tribulations and live in victory like a winner.

The fourth thing that we see, is that, Jesus has already overcome the world for us! In the Amplified translation it says, “I have overcome the world-I have deprived it of power to harm, have conquered it for you.” The world has been deprived of its power to harm the child of God, Jesus has conquered the world and all that is in the world. The world with all of its sin, sickness and poverty and with all of its tribulations has lost its power to hurt the Body of Christ. Now that makes you a WINNER!

1 John 4:3-4.

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Ye are of God, little children, and HAVE OVERCOME THEM: because GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

Who are the ones that we have overcome? Demons and evil spirits that's who! Notice that it says, “Have overcome them.” We are not trying to overcome, we have already overcome them, and there is a reason why we have already overcome them, and that is because “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” We have the greater one living on the inside of us and He will put us over in the trials and tests that we may have to face. The greater one who lives on the inside of you is greater than any demon or evil spirit, He is greater than any sickness or disease, He is greater than any circumstance that you may have to deal with, and He is bigger than any mountain that you may have to remove.

1 John 5:4.

For whatsoever is born of God OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: and this is the VICTORY that OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, even our FAITH.

Ephesians 6:16.

Above all, taking the SHIELD OF FAITH, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Notice that it says, “Whatsoever (Whosoever) is born of God OVERCOMETH THE WORLD.” If you are a born again child of God then you have overcome the world and all the evil that is in it. It is not a case of trying to overcome; you have already through the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit overcome the devil and the world.

Now let us see what enables us to be overcomers, “And this is the VICTORY that OVERCOMETH THE WORLD even our FAITH.” It is by faith that we are

overcomers, faith is the victory that overcomes the world, the devil, sin, sickness, poverty, fear and oppression. That is why the devil is trying his best to steal your faith, there has been more opposition to the message of faith than there has been towards any other topic in the Bible, why? Because Satan knows that it is by your faith that you overcome him and all his cohorts, that is why he is trying to separate you from your faith, without faith you are like a gun without bullets. Faith is a mighty weapon against Satan, so it stands to reason that he will do his utmost to rob you of your faith. One way that Satan will do that is by causing you to become offended at the message of faith, if he's unable to get people offended then he will blind their eyes to the message of faith, one way or another, Satan will try to keep you from being a faith person, but you must not allow that to happen, you must purpose in your heart to be a person of the Word and of faith.

Remember what Ephesians 6:16 said? "Above all taking the SHIELD OF FAITH, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Notice that it says, "ABOVE ALL" Above all means that everything else must come second. "ABOVE ALL" What? "Taking the SHIELD OF FAITH." Our first priority in spiritual warfare is to take the shield of faith; it is only the shield of faith that can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. What are those fiery darts? Anything that Satan aims at you to harm and hurt you, they may be darts of sickness, or of fear, or of financial lack and debt, whatever they may be it is only faith, Bible faith that can stop those darts from hitting you and doing you some harm. God wants you to win in life that is why he has given you His armour, so that having done all to stand you will be left standing victoriously when the fight is over.

Chapter 2

Ending the cycle of defeat.

Do you ever feel like you are a born loser? Does it seem like everything that you try to do just fails? Do you have the opposite to the Midas Touch, instead of everything you touch turning to gold they turn to dust? Yes? Then you need to end the cycle of defeat in your life! You may be asking yourself how? Well, the first thing that you must do is to begin to see yourself as a Born-Again winner and not as a born loser. The Bible says that you are, "God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus" God has not created you as a loser, there are no failures in Christ Jesus, we have already seen in the previous chapter that we are, "More than conquerors." You need to start agreeing with the Word of God and not going by how you feel, I am not asking you do you feel like a conqueror, I am telling you by the authority of the Word, that you are a CONQUEROR!

Proverbs 23:7.

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

This verse is saying that as a man thinks, that is what he becomes. If you think like a loser then you will be a loser, but on the other hand, if you think like a winner then you will be a winner, you must renew your mind to what the Word has to say about you as an overcomer.

CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE.

Your attitude to life will determine your performance in life and your performance determines whether you succeed or not. I have said for many years now, “Your attitude determines your altitude.” Your attitude can either keep you grounded or it can make you soar like an eagle. Most Christians think that their attitude is just a part of their make up, they think some were born with a positive attitude while others were born with a negative one. This kind of thinking has robbed so many from reaching their full potential in life and in their Christian walk.

You must choose to eliminate the negative and hold fast to the positive! You can make the choice, you can choose to be negative or you can choose to be positive. It has nothing to do with your make up; it is just a matter of choice. The Bible says that you can choose your thoughts.

Philippians 4:8.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS.

This Scripture clearly tells us that we can choose our thoughts, and it also tells us what are the best things to think about. One of the things that I want you to pay particular attention to is, “Whatsoever things are of GOOD REPORT.” Negative things are not of “GOOD REPORT” If something is of good report then it is positive. I don't listen to bad reports; I will not allow negative things to shape the way that I think. We are also told to think on, “Whatsoever things TRUE.” Well the Word of God is true isn't it? Then think on what the Word has to say rather than what the circumstance might be saying to you.

You need to spend more time focusing on the positive and less time thinking on the negative! Positive thoughts produce positive results, while negative thoughts produce negative results. Your body responds to negative thoughts and that in turn can lead to sickness and disease. The British Medical Association now recognise that the healthiest people are those who have a positive outlook on life. Happy people are healthy people. That is what the Bible has said for thousands of years, it is only now that science is catching up with the Bible.

Proverbs 17: 22.

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

Proverbs 12:25.

Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop; but a good word maketh it glad.

Proverbs 13:12.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

Notice that a merry or a happy heart does “Good like a MEDICINE,” but Proverbs 12:25 says, “Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop.” A happy or merry heart is a positive one, while a heavy heart is a negative one, but notice what this verse goes on to say, “A GOOD WORD MAKETH IT GLAD.” Speaking positively will make your heart (Spirit) glad, positive words will have a positive affect upon your life, but by the same token negative words will have a negative affect upon your life.

Here is a statement that might be radical to some of you, but none the less it is true. How you think and what you think about will determine what you believe, what you believe will determine what you speak, and what you speak will determine what you have in life. Jesus said in Mark 11:23, that we can have whatever we say.

We are living in an age where there seems to be no hope, but we Christians need to be like Abraham who “Against hope believed in hope.” (Romans 4:18) When you have no hope then you have no positive outlook on life, everything seems hopeless and dark, every small problem becomes like a huge mountain to you, but thank God we have hope through the Living Word of God, the Word of God will dispel the clouds of doom and it will bring the light of the glorious gospel into your situation. The book of Psalms says, “The entrance of thy words giveth light.” The Word of God will banish the darkness and it will restore hope to you and it will change your negative attitude into a positive one. Negative thinking has to be treated like an illness or an addiction, and it has to be broken. Like any other habit it can be broken by replacing it with something else, so start training yourself to think positively by meditating on the Word.

It’s time to get of Satan’s merry- go-round!

Are you serious about ending the cycle of defeat in your life? If so, then you must make a decision to get off Satan’s merry-go-round. If you don't he will have you chasing your tail from now until the day that you leave this planet. You must make a decision and then stand firm on it. Put your faith in the Word and in the power of God and the Holy Spirit will bring you through to victory.

Romans 8:2.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The law of the Spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. Every negative thing that you can think of is under the law of sin and death. When you begin to operate in the law of the Spirit of life instead of the law of sin and death, you begin the process of getting off Satan’s merry-go-round. The law of sin and death is Satan’s way of keeping you in his cycle of defeat, if you live under the law of sin and death then Satan will keep you from having the victory that is rightfully yours in Christ Jesus. Although the law of the Spirit of life in Christ belongs to all Christians, not every Christian is taking advantage of it; some are still, through ignorance living under the law of sin and death. Let me show to you what constitutes the law of sin and death. I have already stated that everything that is negative comes under the law of sin and death, but let me be more exact, the law of sin and death is that by which Satan rules and controls the world's system today and it consists of, sin, sickness, fear, poverty, hatred, lust, greed, unforgiveness, doubt and unbelief, wrath, strife, murder and every evil that you see in the world today. All these things will rob you of your victory and they will keep you in a lifestyle of defeat. In contrast the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is the opposite to all of the aforesaid. The law of the Spirit of life is, righteousness, peace, joy, faith, prosperity, love, forgiveness, healing and health, and all that is good.

Now you have to choose which law you are going to walk in, the law of death and defeat or the law of life and victory; there is no other choice, it is one or the other. One will keep you in the cycle of defeat the other will break that cycle of defeat for you!

TODAY IS D-DAY! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

That means that today is decision day! You must make a decision whether to live in defeat or victory, whether to fail or be a success, whether to be a winner or a loser. The decisions that you make today will determine your future. Don't make excuses, make a quality decision! It is not which side of the tracks that you were born on that matters, it is who you have been born-again into that counts, and you have been born-again into Christ Jesus.

Many Christians make excuses about their present failures on past mistakes, or on their past life, many of them are just looking for someone to sympathise with them, to get into the ditch and have a pity party with them. Many Christians are just attention seekers, they like to tell everyone what so and so did to them, they will tell you why they can't forgive sister or brother so and so, they will tell you how they were hurt by someone before they came to Christ, they like to focus in on their past, but in Christ Jesus we are a brand new creation, old things have passed away and all things are of God.

2 Corinthians 5;17-18.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ.

If you are in Christ then you are a new creation or a new creature, old things have passed away and all things are new, and they are of God. Your past life has been done away with, so whatever happened in your past has no bearing on your life today, the only power that it can have over you is what you give it by holding on to it, and making excuses for your present circumstances based on your past life. So many Christians are victims of the past, they have a victim mentality they allow their past hurt or mistakes to dictate their future. Many have been abused sexually, mentally and physically, and instead of rising up to who they are in Christ, they allow their past abuse to keep them from living a victorious life today.

Don't allow your past to win twice!

Please understand that what I am about to say, I am saying it in love, this statement that I am going to make is not to put anyone down, but rather it is to help you get the victory in your life; if you have been hurt in your past life or if you have been abused in any way, **IT IS TIME TO GET OVER IT!** Quit using it as an excuse to fail in life, don't let your past win twice, refuse to allow the hurt or the abuse that you suffered to make you it's victim again, don't give Satan the satisfaction of beating you twice. When you hold on to the past the only person that you are hurting is yourself, when you refuse to forgive someone you are not hurting them, you are hurting yourself and you are hindering your faith from working.

You need to remember that God has recreated you in Christ Jesus, what you were in the past does not exist any more, the blood of Jesus has washed away all your past mistakes, hurts and abuses. To hold on to your past and to use it as an excuse for your present failure is a denial of Calvary, what you are saying is that your past mistakes, hurts and abuses are greater than Calvary, greater than the blood of Jesus, you are putting more trust and faith in your past than you are in what Christ has done for you on Calvary. There are Ministers today who teach that you have to regress back into your mother's womb and deal with some hurt that you may have suffered while you were in there before you can be delivered, or they may tell you that you have to regress back to the time that you were abused or raped and forgive that person before you can be healed, some even tell you to imagine Jesus standing by you while you were being abused or raped and to try to feel His peace, my question would be, "Why don't you help me Jesus, instead of just watching?" That would be a fair question, I mean if Jesus was standing right there why wouldn't He help me. No, that is not God, that kind of teaching is a denial of Calvary! When Jesus died on Calvary He

dealt with everything; He dealt with sin and sickness, He provided for your deliverance; He made you completely whole!

Colossians 2:9-10.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the godhead bodily.

And ye are COMPLETE IN HIM, which is the head of all principality and power.

You are complete in Christ, He has made you whole, in Him you have come to fullness. All that was needed to be done for your salvation, healing and deliverance was done on Calvary, so don't get trapped by the teaching of regression, you don't need to regress you need to progress. Your past life is over, Jesus has given you abundant life, a life full of joy, peace and health, a life with purpose and a destiny of winning.

Colossians 3:1-3.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are DEAD, and your life is HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

You are dead! Your past life or the life that you had before you were born-again is now dead, you were crucified with Christ. Listen to how Paul put it in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 2:20.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the LIFE which I now LIVE in the flesh I LIVE by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Your old life is over and it is buried with Christ, but you have been raised up by the power of the Holy Spirit to a new life in Christ Jesus. The life that you now live you live by the faith of the Son of God, for it is He that is living in you. Your life is now hid with Christ in God. But you must walk out the reality of it every day by faith.

Ephesians 4:24.

And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

You have got to make a decision every day to put on the new man, your past life with all of its pain and hurt and abuses is dead and buried, Calvary provided for you a new and winning lifestyle.

Learn to get over it!

As I have already said, if you have been hurt or abused in your past, don't use it as an excuse for your present circumstance or as a reason why God won't heal you or answer your prayers. It is time to get over it. Forgive that person who did you wrong, begin to love them and let all that pent up hatred go, if you don't it will only hurt you, why let that person win twice? Now you may think that I am being hard and unkind, but I am not. What would be unkind would be for me to sympathise with you and to join with you in a pity party, the reason why that would be unkind is because it will not help you to let go of your past and to get over it. You need to know the truth so that the truth can set you

free, and I must speak the truth in love, maybe this is your wake up call, maybe the Holy Spirit is saying to you right now, “Get over it.”

If you don't take authority over your past, then your past will take authority over you! Consign your past to the **past**, get over it and then you can move forward in God.

Philippians 3:13-14.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, and REACHING FORTH unto those things which are before, I PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul is saying here that if you only get one revelation, let it be this, “Forgetting those things which are behind.” You have got to forget the past before you can reach for the future. Don't let your past stop you from pressing toward the mark or your God given goal in life. In the Amplified Bible it says, “*I press on toward the GOAL to WIN the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.*” There is a goal to win, a prize to be gained, and a high calling to be fulfilled, but you will never attain to it, if you don't let go of and get over your past. Don't let your past, which is dead and buried with Christ try to dictate your future. Your future is secure in Christ, your past is finished, so you need to learn to enjoy today, embrace the life that God has for you without the specter of your past haunting you.

1 Corinthians 14:10.

There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

There are many voices in this world, some will encourage you others will discourage you, some will edify you while others will put you down, but the most devastating voice of all is the voice of your past! That voice will condemn you, it will tell you, “Look at what you did back then, remember that you have been abused who could love somebody like you, you will never be healed, you will never be delivered, God could never answer your prayers, you're a nobody,” and on and on that voice will speak to you, unless you stop it. You may ask how do I stop it? By forgetting those things that are behind!

DON'T LET THE VOICE OF THE PAST SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!

Forget your past with all of its hurts and abuses, quit using it as an excuse to fail. Don't let the devil win again, begin to see yourself with a glorious future with you winning instead of the devil. It is true you may have been hurt in the past, you may even have been abused, but now you are a “New Creation” in Christ, it is time to get over it. Can you understand what I am saying? Yes? Good, then let me say it one more time, GET OVER IT, GET OVER IT, GET OVER IT!

Let me summarize for you what we have covered in this chapter.

We saw that to end the cycle of defeat. #1 There must be a change of attitude. #2 You must make a decision to get of Satan's merry-go-round. #3 Don't let your past win twice. #4 You are dead to your old self. #5 You are a New Creation in Christ. #6 Quit making

excuses for not winning. #7 It is time to get over your past. #8 Reach forth for the things which are before you.

Chapter 3

Start the cycle of winning.

Part 1.

There is certain criterion that must be met before you can enjoy the blessings of a winning lifestyle. We have already seen in our previous chapters, that God's will for you in life is to win, and that you must make a decision to break Satan's cycle of defeat. Once you have broken the cycle of defeat you must start the cycle of winning. To win in life you must take the eight steps that I will show to you in this chapter, and walk out each step in faith.

Romans 10:9.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9a Amplified.

Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord.

Step #1. Make Jesus the Lord of your life.

The first step to winning in life is to make Jesus the Lord of your life, that means that to win in life you must be born-again, you must acknowledge and confess with your mouth the Lordship of Jesus over your life. Making Jesus the Lord of your life is the number one priority, to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour is God's best for your life; if you have never made Jesus the Lord of your life, then there is no time like the present to do so, all you have to do is believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead, then confess with your mouth that Jesus is now your Lord and the Bible says that you are now saved or you might say born-again. If you have just taken that step then let me welcome you to the family of God.

There is a saying that we often say in the Church and that is, "Either He is Lord of all or not at all." And that is so true, Jesus must be the Lord of your whole life, the part of your life that Jesus is not Lord of then you will find that something or someone else is. For instance, God may have told you to go somewhere and do something for Him, but because your spouse has told you that he or she won't be happy with you if go, you decide to keep your spouse happy, so you disobey God, now in that situation your spouse is the Lord of your life and not the Lord Jesus Christ. Can you understand that?

Before we can exercise spiritual authority we need to be under authority, we need to be under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There are too many mavericks in the Body of Christ, too many people trying to do their own thing without having received any instructions from the Head of the Church, Jesus. We must wait until our Lord and Commander in Chief gives us our marching orders and then we must follow them to the letter. We must bow our knee to the Lord Jesus Christ before we can make our enemies bow their knees before us; we must be submitted to the authority of Jesus, so that we can make our enemies subject to us through the Name of Jesus.

When we got born-again Jesus became the Lord of our recreated spirits, our spirit man is subject to the authority of God, however our minds (souls) and our bodies are not, they still

want to think and act like they always did. When we became a New Creation in Christ we did not get a new mind or a new body, that is why we are told to “Renew our minds”, and to “Keep our bodies under”, or put the flesh to death. We must make Jesus the Lord of our minds and our bodies. The mind that is your soul is made up of your will and your emotions, Jesus must become the Lord of your will, in other words your will must become conformed to His will, this is the way that Jesus lived and walked when He was on earth, He said, “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me.” Jesus was totally subject to the authority of His Father and in the same way we should be totally submitted to the will of Jesus our Lord. We must also make Jesus the Lord of our emotions, if we don't then our emotions will dictate how we feel and how we perform in our day to day lives. You may be asking yourself, how do I make Jesus the Lord of my emotions? The answer is, the same way that you make Him the Lord of your mind, by submitting your mind to the Word of God, by renewing your mind to the Word. By submitting to the Word you are submitting to His will because His will and His Word are one.

There are other areas in your life where you need to make Jesus the Lord in order to be a winner in life; areas like your marriage or in your relationship with other people; the friends you choose or the partner that you choose to be your husband or wife, in all these areas you need to make a decision based upon the Lordship of Christ.

Another important area where Jesus must be Lord is in the area of finances. Many people want to enjoy the benefits of prosperity without meeting the conditions that are laid down in the Word. Now you can't truly win in life if can't pay your bills and if you are in debt up to your ears. When I talk about winning in life, I'm talking about the whole package, total victory for the total man, spirit, soul and body.

3 John 2.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2. Amplified Bible.

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers.

John who made this statement is the same John that also said, that we should not pray amiss but that we should pray according to the will of God. So what John prayed here must be the will of God for us! What did he pray? He prayed that we might “Prosper in EVERY WAY.” And that we might “Be in HEALTH, even as thy soul prospereth.” John prayed that we might prosper in spirit, soul and body, and also that we would prosper in our finances. Prospering in “EVERY WAY” is truly winning in life, if you are not prospering in every way then you are not winning in life. God wants you to WIN in EVERY WAY.

To enjoy the benefits of prosperity you must be a giver, this is the main condition set down in the Word. If you are not a giver then Jesus is not the Lord of your finances. You can always tell the people who possess money and the ones that are possessed by it. The ones who give, possess their money; the ones possessed by it, never or hardly ever give. It is all right to have money, but money should never have you. Lets see what the Word has to say about giving and receiving, and paying our tithes.

Malachi 3:8-11.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

This is a very strong portion of Scripture, here God is telling His people that they are a bunch of thieves, God is telling them that they have robbed Him, but they want to know how have they robbed God, so they ask God the question, “Wherein have we robbed thee?” God gives them their answer, He said, “In tithes and offerings.” The Word of God is very plain here, if we don't pay our tithes and give offerings then we rob God. There are many thieves in the Body of Christ today, they are not paying tithes or giving offerings so they are robbing God of what is rightfully His, but here is another thought for you to consider, not only are you robbing God if you don't pay your tithes, but you are robbing your fellow Christians, especially those who you attend Church with. According to studies that have been done, only twenty percent of the Church are paying tithes, that means that eighty percent of the Church are being carried by the other twenty percent. Everyone in the local Church gets the same benefits as any other member gets, but only twenty out of every hundred are paying their way, the other eighty who are getting the same benefits, hearing the same Word, getting the same attention from the pastor are not paying their way, in fact they are robbing the other twenty that are paying their way. If you want to start to enjoy the benefits of prosperity you are going to have to stop being a thief and repent before God for stealing from Him and from your brothers and sisters in Christ, then start to pay your tithes and give offerings. Now you are meeting the conditions laid down in the Word of God, so now you can look forward to enjoying prosperity.

Luke 6:38.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Jesus said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” Giving is such an important part of God’s plan for your life. In fact if you want to win in the realm of finances you must be a giver, this is God’s way of blessing you with finances, but Jesus did not just talk about giving He also spoke about receiving, “It shall be GIVEN UNTO YOU.” The spiritual law of release will activate the law of increase! This is a spiritual law that will work for anyone, now notice how it shall be given back to you, “Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.” In other words ABUNDANTLY!

Let’s look at some other Scriptures on this subject.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

Proverbs 11:24-25.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

These verses are a little blind to us in the King James Version, so let's read them in the Amplified Bible.

Proverbs 11:24-25 Amplified.

There are those who [generously] scatter abroad, and yet increase more; there are those who withhold more than is fitting or what is justly due, but it tends only to want. The liberal person shall be enriched, and he who waters, shall himself be watered.

The amount of seed that you sow will determine the size of your harvest, it is you and not God who decides how much prosperity that you have, now that may be a radical statement to some of you, but nevertheless it is true. Proverbs says that if you scatter or sow generously you shall increase, but if you withhold it leads to poverty, Paul said in Second Corinthians, "He which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly." Over the years the Church has been big on the "Giving" part but has failed to teach on or believe the "Receiving" part, but you can't have one without the other. The Bible says, "That as long as the earth remains there shall be seedtime and harvest." (See Genesis 8:22) Did you get that? "Seedtime AND HARVEST! Not just seedtime or giving but harvest or receiving also.

God wants you to prosper so that He can establish His Covenant with you, let's see what God said about it in His Word.

Deuteronomy 8:18.

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God; for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

If prosperity were wrong, why would God give us the power to get WEALTH? If, as some are teaching, prosperity is anti-Christian, then it stands to reason that God must be anti-Christian seeing that it is He who gives us the power to get wealth. No the truth of the matter is God has no problem with prosperity, it is just the religious minded Christians who have a problem with it, they have been religiously brainwashed instead of New Testament taught. In fact God takes great delight in the prosperity of his people, you may be asking, how do I know? Because God says so in His Word.

Psalms 35:27.

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

According to this verse prosperity is one of God's "RIGHTEOUS" causes, and we are to be glad about it not mad about it like some are. Notice some very important truths in this verse. Firstly, we are to shout for **JOY** about prosperity. Secondly, we are to be **GLAD** about prosperity. Thirdly, we are to, **SAY CONTINUALLY**,

"Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." We should constantly confess that God has pleasure in our prosperity. Fourthly, God takes **PLEASURE** in our prosperity.

The Hebrew Word that is translated "Pleasure" in this verse can also be translated as, Favour, Delight, Desire and pleased. We can see that God is pleased to prosper us, He delights in our prosperity, He favours us with prosperity, He desires for us to prosper and when we do prosper it gives Him great pleasure. God wants us to prosper in Spirit, soul

and body, He has prosperity for the whole man, He wants us to be a success in life, He plans for you to be a winner in life and to reign as a King, but for all of this to happen you must make Jesus the Lord of your whole life.

STEP # 2. Desire to Win.

Mark 11:24.

Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

The greatest motivation that you will ever have is desire. If you desire something strongly enough then you will be highly motivated. A young woman comes home from work and after her tea her mother says to her, "Honey don't forget it's your turn to do the washing up tonight," to which she replies, "Could you do it for me tonight mum? I'm bushwhacked, I will do it tomorrow." So her mother agrees, a few moments after the washing up has been done the phone rings, the young woman rushes to answer it, her mother overhears her saying, "Oh yes I would love to come, see you in about half an hour." It was this young woman's new boy friend. Her mother says to her, "I thought you were too tired to do the washing up, now you are off out with your boy friend." The young woman says, "I feel much better now." And off she goes to get ready.

What has happened here? The young woman's fatigue was overcome by her intense desire to see her new boy friend, her desire motivated her to get up and get herself ready despite feeling tired and weary. This story proves that if you have a strong enough desire you can be motivated to do anything you want to do. To win in life you must first desire to win and to be a winner, you need to desire it until your whole being craves for it.

Those who always succeed and win in life are those who made plans to do so. If you fail to prepare to win then you are preparing to fail. You don't win in life by accident, first you desire it, then you make preparation for it, it is easy to be a loser, just don't do anything and your sure to fail! Have you ever noticed that it is the ones with the get up and go attitude that actually get up and go? Many Christians want to win and to succeed in life, but they are not willing to put in the work that it takes to make them a winner. You may be asking yourself what work is he talking about? Well I'm glad that you asked, so let me tell you what I'm talking about, I'm talking about reading and studying the Word of God, I'm talking about making the effort to go to the Bible Study even when you have come home from a hard days work and your tired, I'm talking about spending time in prayer and fellowship with God, I'm talking about praying in tongues and getting the wisdom and mind of God so, that He can show you the right steps that you have to take, so that you can be a winner instead of a loser all your life, I'm talking about confessing the Word and talking faith and victory instead of fear and defeat, this is the work that I'm talking about, let us see how Paul said it in the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 6:13-14a

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore,

Now let's read it in the Amplified translation of the Bible.

Ephesians 6:13-14a..Amplified.

Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and HAVING DONE ALL [the crisis demands], to STAND [firmly in your place].

STAND THEREFORE- HOLD YOUR GROUND...

If you really desire to win then you will be willing to do all that it takes to win! Paul through the Holy Spirit said, "Having done all the crisis demands, stand and stand therefore holding your ground." You have got to hold your ground against Satan and the world which are both against you, they are trying to stop you from winning in life. Why? Because Satan himself is a loser and he hates it when Christians win and succeed in life.

You must do all that it takes to stand and to end up as the winner. Never let go of your faith in God and in His Word, the Bible say, that you must, "Hold fast to your confession of faith." To hold fast means not to let go off, to keep a tight grip on something, and that is what you have to do with your faith, never turn loose of it.

Another enemy that will stop you from winning in life is complacency, the Lord spoke to my brother Rev. Alan Hales one time and said to him, "Complacency is a robber." And that is so true, complacency will rob you of the blessings of God, it will cheat you out of victory and stop you from winning in life. So what is the remedy for complacency? Vision, purpose and desire, if you have all these three then you will be a highly motivated individual, how do you get vision, purpose and desire? From reading, hearing and meditating the Word of God.

Do you want to start the cycle of winning in your life? Yes? Then you must have an intense desire to win, it is no good having a come day go day attitude, you need to have an attitude of a winner. I want you to pay close attention to the next statement I'm about to make! Your attitude will determine your altitude. Did you get that? Ok, here is another very important statement that I want to make. Your attitude will determine your performance, and your performance will determine whether you succeed and win in life or not. You must change your attitude from that of a loser to that of a winner. You need to stay in the Word of God to maintain a positive and a winning attitude. If you have a positive attitude then your performance will be positive, however if you have a negative or defeatist attitude then your performance will be negative and defeatist.

An unquenchable desire to win is of the utmost importance, you must have such an intense desire to win that you will not be denied. This desire must consume your whole being, spirit, soul and body. Your thought life has to be possessed with this one unquenchable desire; the desire to win!

The Apostle Paul had such an intense desire to win that he said, "I press toward the mark for the prize." Philippians 3:13. He also said in 1 Corinthians 9:24, that "He was running his race to win the prize." Paul was a winner, that is how he lived his life and why he was able to say that in all things he was "More than a conqueror." Romans 8:37.

Let me show you an Old Testament character that had such an intense desire to win that he wouldn't quit.

2 Samuel 23:11-12.

And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. But he stood in the midst of the ground and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the Lord wrought a great victory.

Shammah was one of David's "Mighty men" along with, Adino and Eleazar whom we will look at in a moment. Shammah had an unquenchable desire to win, so much so that he defended a lentil patch with all of his might, now I do not know why he wanted to defend it,

but what I do know is that he was unwilling to concede defeat. He made a stand and was willing to do all that it would take to keep on standing! Isn't that what Paul was talking about in the book of Ephesians? "Having done all to stand-stand therefore." You must make a quality decision that no matter how hard the going gets you will not quit. Notice that when Shammah made a stand against the enemy that the Lord gave him a "Great Victory." If you would make a stand and defend your health or your finances or indeed your family and ministry against your enemy, Satan, you too would enjoy a "Great Victory." Faith is not passive, it is active, it is alive and full of power, so if you want to be a winner in life then you must not be passive or indifferent about it, and you must desire victory above anything else. So stand your ground and enjoy the reward of winning!

Now let us take a look at another of David's mighty men, this time we shall look at Eleazar the son of Dodo.

2 Samuel 23:9-10.

And after him, was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

He arose, and smote the philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the Lord wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

Just like Shammah, Eleazar was not a quitter; he too possessed an unquenchable desire to win. I want you to notice that Eleazar defied the enemies of Israel, that is what you and I must do if we are to enjoy the victory in our lives. We have to look Satan right in the eye and say, I resist you Satan in the Name of Jesus Christ, I forbid you to put that upon me! Stand your ground and defy the enemy, and you will enjoy the sweet smell of success. Oh, it's good to win! I hate to lose at anything and I mean anything. Why? Because just like you I was born to win, the heart of a quitter isn't in me, God gave you and me the heart of a champion, a redoubtable spirit that will not capitulate easily.

I also want you to notice how long Eleazar stood for. Many times people want to know how long they will have to stand for, I always tell them, "Until you win." Eleazar fought until, "His hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword." Eleazar had to overcome weariness and fatigue, he held on to his sword until he held it so tight that he could not let go of it. The Amplified Bible says, "His hand was weary and clung to the sword." He had fought so long and so hard that he could not let go of his sword, but notice what happened, "And the Lord wrought a great victory that day." Let's see what the Bible says about not being weary.

Galatians 6:9.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9a. Amplified.

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint.....

Proverbs 24:10.

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

We have to realise that we are in a spiritual warfare and many times we become battled fatigued, but Galatians tells us, "Not to be weary" or as the Amplified says, "Let us not lose heart and grow weary." In your battles of life don't lose heart and grow weary because if you do then you will faint or you will quit, but here is a wonderful truth; if you don't quit you can't lose. Proverbs says, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." If you quit or faint in the day of trouble then your strength is weak and Satan will run you ragged and defeat you.

In the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians we are told how to combat fatigue and spiritual weakness. The Word always has an answer for every situation and problem that we may face. Let's see what Ephesians says.

Ephesians 6:10-11.

Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

We combat fatigue and spiritual weakness by making ourselves "Strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." There are many ways in which we can make ourselves strong in the Lord. Perhaps the most obvious one is to study and meditate the Word of God. The Word is to our spirits what food is to our bodies, it gives us strength and nourishment, and it is faith food for our spirit man. In the Acts of the Apostles, Paul said to the Church at Ephesus in his farewell address, that he commended them to the Word of God, which would build them up.

Acts 20:32,

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Paul said, that the Word has the ability to build us up, and to give us our inheritance, which belongs to us in Christ Jesus. So we overcome weakness and fatigue by the Living Word of God. Another way that we can make ourselves strong in the Lord is by praying in other tongues, this is a spiritual exercise that is designed to build up your inner man, let us see what the Word has to say on this matter.

1 Corinthians 14:4.

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

The Greek word here for "Edifieth" means "To build" So we see that speaking in tongues builds us up, it super charges our spirits with the Divine Power of the Holy Spirit. In the book of Isaiah speaking in other tongues is called a "Refreshing." When you are refreshed you feel like your batteries have been recharged so to speak, you feel built up and strong, and you are ready to get up and go and face the devil and all of life's problems with a new determination and renewed vigour.

Jude in his epistle has something to say on this matter as well. The Bible says, "Let every word be established by two or three witnesses." We have already seen one witness, so let us look at a second witness in the book Jude.

Jude v 20.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

You build up yourself in your faith when you pray in the Holy Ghost, so what does it mean to pray in the Holy Ghost? Praying in the Holy Ghost is praying in tongues! When you pray in tongues your faith is built up and you are made strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might.

If we faint in the day of adversity then our strength is small, and as we have already seen from the Word, we are, “Not to be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Now you can ask any athlete where do they become weary first, and they will tell you it is in their minds, they quit in their minds before their bodies quit, but if they can battle their minds and push beyond that barrier they will get what they call their second wind. This is what the Bible says; it tells us that before we quit in our spirits or our bodies we have to quit in our minds.

Hebrews 12:3.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Where does this verse say that you faint? In your mind, right? That is why Peter tells us to, “Gird up the loins of your mind.” (1 Peter 1:13). What does it mean to “Gird up the loins of your mind?” It means to strengthen your thinking, to have a determined attitude and to renew your minds with the Word of God so that it becomes an anchor to your soul. When your mind is girded up, you will have a fresh resolve not to give in or submit to the weariness of your mind. How do you keep your mind strong? By keeping it fixed on Jesus and His Word, also by keeping it fixed on your intense desire to win in life. Your intense desire will keep you focused on winning in life, and if you won’t quit then you are assured of winning!

Chapter 4.

Start the cycle of winning.

Part 2.

Do you really, really, really want to be a winner in life? Do you really, really, really want to end your cycle of defeat? If your answer is yes, then you have probably already taken the first two steps that we have discussed in the previous chapter. So let us go on now to the next important step.

Step # 3. Put the Word first place in your life, and let it have the final Authority.

John 15:7.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

The key to winning in life is found in this verse! Abiding in Christ and His Word abiding in you, that is the key. All of the success that you will ever have in your Christian life comes from abiding in Christ and the Word abiding in you. The Word of God is your winning formula, you can’t win if the Word is not living in you, but if the Living Word is alive within you and you work the Word then the Word will work for you. You may ask what do you mean work the Word? When I say work the Word, I mean to believe it in your heart and to confess it with your mouth, when you do this you are working the Word and God is watching over His Word to perform it!

1 John 2:14b.

I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

We are strong because the Word of God abides in us, and because the Word abides in us, we have overcome the devil and all that he brings against us. If we have overcome the devil then that means that we are winning in life.

It is of immense importance that you give the Word first place in your life. Let us see from the Scriptures how high a value God places on His Word.

Psalm 138:2b.
For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Psalm 138:2b. Amp.
For you have exalted above all else Your name and Your word, and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!

Why has God magnified His Word above His Name? The answer to that is simple. If His Word is no good then His Name is no good. You are only as good as your word! God values His Word so highly that he has exalted it above all else, even above His mighty Name. In other words God gives first place to His Word, well if God gives the Word first place then surely we must give it first place in our lives. Not only does God give priority to His Word but He fully intends to fulfil it.

Psalm 89:34.
My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Jeremiah 1:12.
Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

The Amplified translation of Jeremiah 1:12 says, "For I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it." Every time that you stand on the Word in faith, God will watch over it to hasten and perform it for you. But for God to perform His Word for you, you must first have given it first place in your life. Now let us look at two powerful Scriptures, one in the Old Testament and the other one in the New Testament.

Psalm 119:89.
For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:89. N.I.V.
Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

The Hebrew word for settled is "Natsab" which means, "To be set up," and "Established." It also means to "Stand fast or firm," and "Appointed."

The Word of God has been forever established in heaven, it is settled and stands firm, that why you can trust it and put it first place in your life. You have to establish the Word in your own life, the Word must settle every issue and answer every question that you may have, the Word must have the final say in every situation that you face in life. You can depend on the Word of God because it has been set up and appointed by God so that all that will believe and confess it will not be disappointed.

Matthew 24:35.
Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will never pass away, it stands as firm as ever, and whatever God has said in his Word, He will do it. When you face a crisis in your life put the Word first, so many people when they get sick go to the first aid box

first, but we should go to the Living Word of God first, so many people put all their faith in what the doctor has said, and what he said may be true from the natural stand point, but the Word of God supersedes what man has to say, because what man has to say is natural but what God says is supernatural. We see this revealed to us in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 in the Amplified Bible.

1 Thessalonians 2:13. Amp.

And we also [especially] thank God continually for this, that when you received the message of God [which you heard] from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men but as what it truly is, the Word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe--exercising its [superhuman] power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it.

When you believe the Word of God and stand on it in faith, confessing that you have what it has promised you, then it will work effectually in you and for you, exercising its SUPERHUMAN POWER! You see the word of man is natural or mere human, but the Word of God is SUPERHUMAN, it transcends the word of man, that is why you have to give it first place in your life, man can lie or he can be wrong, but it is impossible for God to lie and he can never be wrong, He has already said that He would not alter the thing that has gone out of His mouth, neither would he break His covenant Word.

Numbers 23:19.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Romans 3:3-4a.

For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.

God is not a man that he should lie, what He has said in His Word He will fulfil; if He has spoken it He will make it good in your life when you believe and confess it. Numbers 23:19 says, "Hath he said it, and shall he not do it?" If God has said it, then He will do it, and my brother and sister you can count on that! God will always back up His Word with actions when you believe it in faith, remember God is watching over His Word to perform it. Anything that is opposite to the Word of God is a lie, no matter how plausible it may seem. The Bible says, "Let God be true and every man (that is he who opposes the Word) be a liar." At the end of the day what it boils down to is who's report are you going to believe, man's report or God's report. Man's word or God's Word! Remember it is impossible for God to tell a lie.

Hebrews 6:18.

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

Hebrews 6:18 Amplified.

This was so that by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath], in which it is impossible for God ever to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before [us].

God has given to us His promise and His oath, and these two are unchangeable, and in His promise and oath it was impossible for God to lie or to deceive us, and because of this we have a strong consolation.

The Amplified Bible says, “Strong encouragement.” The Greek word for consolation “Paraklesis” means encouragement and it also means comfort. Because of God’s promises to us and since He confirmed them with an oath we can have comfort and be encouraged and lay hold and hold fast to the hope that is set before us. Now because God has wanted you and I to have such confidence in His Word and promises, He confirmed them with an oath, putting an end to all debate and argument. Let’s see what the Scriptures have to say about this.

Hebrews 6:16-17.

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.

When men swear an oath it puts an end to all strife and argument, there is no more debate the issue is settled once and for all. The Amplified Bible says, “The oath taken for confirmation is FINAL -ending strife.” Accordingly God wanted to give us an anchor for the soul and a strong basis for faith confirmed His Word with an oath and since He could not find anyone greater, He swore by Himself, and that puts an end to all strife because God’s Word is FINAL. The Word of God must have first place in your life and it has to have the final say and be the final authority. All the promises of God have to be the AMEN [So be it] in your life.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

The Word of God has to be the Amen in your life, that is to say the Word must be the final authority, when you find a verse that covers any situation that you may be facing, that Word must be the Amen in your situation, the word Amen means, “So be it” so whatever the Word says is final! For instance if you are sick the Bible says, “By whose stripes ye were healed.” Now the word “Were” is past tense, as far as God is concerned you were healed when Jesus hung on the cross, so that Word must have the final say regarding the sickness. According to God’s Word you are healed, so let the Word be the final authority in your circumstances. The Word must have first place and be the final authority in your life!

Step # 4. Eliminate all the negative from your thinking. (Renew your mind with the Word.)

When you were a child did your parents ever say to you, “You’d better change your attitude?” Perhaps your boss at work may have said it to you, or something similar. Well, that is what God is saying to the Church today, He is saying that we have to change our way of thinking so that we begin to think like he thinks, we are going to have to change our attitudes if we are to win in life! If you want to win in life then you are going to have to think like a winner and have the attitude of a winner, that means

that your mind will have to be renewed to the way that God wants you to think, God is saying to you right now, “Change your attitude.” Instead of thinking like a loser start to think like a winner, and instead of having the attitude of a loser change your attitude to that of a winner.

YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR ALTITUDE! How high do you want to fly in Christ? Do you want to soar like an eagle or run around like a chicken? Your attitude will determine your altitude, in other words if you have a positive attitude that comes from knowing what the Bible says, then you will soar like an eagle, but if you have a negative attitude based on what you can see and feel, you will always be running around like a chicken. The question is do you want to stay grounded all of your life or do you want to get airborne? If you want to get airborne then you are going to have to change your attitude from a defeatist one to one of a winner. Here is another very important statement that I want to make, ***YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR PERFORMANCE AND YOUR PERFORMANCE DETERMINES WHETHER YOU WIN AND SUCCEED IN LIFE OR NOT!*** If you have a negative attitude then your performance will reflect that, on the other hand if you have a positive attitude then your performance will reflect that instead. It all comes down to ATTITUDE! Do you need to change your attitude? Yes? Then change it. How? Is what you might be asking yourself, so let me tell you how. By renewing your mind with the Word of God, the Word will not only renew your mind but it will also change your attitude and the way that you think.

The way that you renew your mind with the Word is to meditate it day and night, that is what we are told to do in Joshua 1:8, when we do that we will have prosperity and good success, or you could say that we will win in life.

Romans 12:2.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

A renewed mind will also give you a change of attitude. You can't have your mind renewed with the Word and know what Jesus has provided for you in the New Covenant and still have a negative and defeatist attitude. The renewed mind makes you to know and understand what is the good, and the acceptable and the perfect will of God. The “Good will of God,” is that you have victories in your life, the “Acceptable will of God,” is that you experience an abundance of victories in your life, but the “Perfect will of God,” is that you enjoy victory every moment of your life!

Let me give you some practical teaching that will cause you to enjoy the victory in every situation and win every battle in life. First you must make a decision to, ***Eliminate the negative and to hold fast to the positive.*** This has to be a choice that you make for yourself, and if you make this choice there will be some hard decisions that you will have to make along the way. The first decision that you are going to have to make is to avoid associating with people who tend to be negative! Have you ever noticed something about negative people? Their negativism is contagious. In fact the Bible says, that the people that you associate with is the kind of person that you will become, now whether you like it or not that is a spiritual law.

Proverbs 13:20.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:20. Amplified Bible.

He who walks [as a companion] with wise men shall be wise, but he who associates with [self-confident] fools will [be a fool himself and] shall smart for it.

1 Corinthians 15:33. Amplified Bible.

Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships, (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

There is a spiritual law of increase or decrease by association, and these two verses show that to us. If you associate with wise people you will become wise, if you associate with fools you will become a fool, if you associate with corrupt people you will be corrupted, if you associate with people of faith you will become a person of faith, if you associate with unbelieving believers you will become an unbelieving believer, if you associate with doubters you will become a doubter, if you associate with negative people you will become negative yourself, if you associate with joyful people you will be full of joy. Are you beginning to see what I'm getting at? If you want to be successful then associate with successful people, if you want to be upbeat and positive then associate with upbeat and positive people. The world has a saying; "Birds of a feather flock together." That is so true, if you pay close attention you will notice that negative people attract other negative people; but if you want to succeed and win in life you must disassociate yourself from those kinds of people. Don't, hang around small thinkers, and hang around those who have big dreams and even bigger plans.

You must eliminate all that is negative from your life, and that includes associations that you have formed with people that will pull you down with their negative attitudes rather than build you up with positive attitudes. I have said all this for your spiritual welfare, and not to make you an unsociable Christian, you must remember that you are in a spiritual warfare and the devil will use any person, even Christians, to bring you down, so the first decision that you have to make is to avoid associating with negative people especially negative Christians.

The second decision that you will have to make is to choose what you think about. You make the choices of what to think about and no one else, the devil can't control your thoughts, now he will try to, but you are the one who has authority over what to think or not to think, and you must make the choice to think positive thoughts and not negative ones. Now thank God the Bible says that you can choose what you think about, and if you have any spiritual sense about you, you will spend your time thinking on the Word of God. As you think on the Word and meditate on it day and night your mind will become renewed and there will be a change of attitude in your life, the end product of the renewed mind is change!

Now it is your choice what you are going to think about, but if you will allow the Holy Spirit to lead you He will always lead you to think good thoughts, Bible thoughts, God's thoughts. When you think on the Word then you are thinking like God thinks, and your thoughts have become God's thoughts.

Philippians 4:8.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

The Amplified Bible says, “Think on and weigh and take account of these things-FIX YOUR MINDS ON THEM.” You have got to fix your mind on things that are true, well what could be more true than the Word of God? So fix and keep your mind fixed on the Living Word of God. We are also told in the Word to keep our minds stayed on God, and when we do He will keep it in perfect peace. So the Bible not only tells us that we can control our own thoughts, but it also tells us what we should think about, and how to go about it, and the way that we go about it is to meditate the Word of God until our minds have become renewed by it. So start to meditate the Word today and stay with it until you have been transformed by the renewing of your mind, and until you have a change of attitude.

A leading psychologist said that he believed, “The source of every life threatening illness is negative thinking.” He also said that the cure was to, *Spend more time focusing on the positive and to spend less time thinking on the negative, and that we should try to enjoy each and every moment of our lives.* This statement agrees perfectly with what the Bible has to say on the subject, the Bible says in the book of Proverbs that, “As a man thinks in his heart, so he is. ”What you think is what you become in life, think like a loser and you will be a loser, think like a winner and you will be a winner. People precondition their lives by doing three things: Number one, by what they think; Number two, by what they believe; Number three, by what they speak. What you think will determine what you believe, what you believe will determine what you say, speak or confess. Let me show you that from the Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 4:13.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken, we also believe, and therefore speak.

Matthew 12:34.

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

According to these verses, what you believe in your heart you will speak with your mouth, so what you believe will determine what you speak. This is how you can locate where people are in faith; their words will give them away! Now what you say will determine what you have in life, Jesus said it this way Mark 11:23, “He shall have whatsoever he saith.” The words that you speak will reflect your mental and spiritual attitudes, if your attitude is a negative one, then you will speak negatively, however, if you have a positive faith attitude, then you will speak faith and positive things that are full of faith. So what you have in life is determined by what you think, believe and say.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS! NEGATIVE THOUGHTS PRODUCE NEGATIVE RESULTS!

You must learn to train your mind to think positive thoughts, and to eliminate negative ones. ***NEGATIVE THINKING HAS TO BE TREATED LIKE AN ILLNESS OR AN ADDICTION, AND IT HAS TO BE BROKEN!***

Come up to a higher way of thinking.

Romans 12:2 Amplified Bible.

Do not be conformed to this world-this age, fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs. But be transformed (changed) by the (entire) renewal

Step # 5. Maintain a positive confession at all times.

1 Timothy 6:12. Amplified.

Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold of the eternal life to which you were summoned, and confessed the good confession [of faith] before many witnesses.

As I have already mentioned in step four, we precondition our lives by what we think, what we believe and what we say, therefore it is imperative that we maintain a “Good Confession” at all times. Notice that the verse in 1 Timothy 6:12 says, “Confessed the GOOD CONFESION.” Our confession should be a positive confession. A good confession is not a negative confession; a good confession is a confession of faith, and not a confession of doubt. The Bible says, that we should be, “Calling things that be not as though they were.” (Romans 4:17) There is no virtue or power in calling things that are as though they are; the principle of faith is that you call things the way that you want them to be! If you want Joe to come to you, then quit calling for Mary, don't get mad at Joe because he didn't come to you, if you had called his name he would have gladly come to you, but you didn't call his name you called for Mary so Mary came instead. Don't get mad at God when healing doesn't come, check your confession, what did you call for? You wanted healing but you called yourself sick, you didn't call for healing so healing didn't come. No, if you want healing you are going to have to call for it. Someone will say, “Well I'm not going to say that I'm healed when I'm not,” that's the reason why you have to call for it! If you had it manifested in your body already, then you wouldn't need to call for it in faith, because you could see it and feel, but when it is not manifested in your body and you can't see it or feel it, then that is the time to call for it in faith, and you maintain a good bold positive confession of faith until healing is manifested in your body. If you want to win in life then you must have a good confession, a bad or negative confession will hold you back and it will hinder you from receiving God's best in life, that is what happened to Israel, when they believed the bad report that was brought back by ten of the twelve spies that were sent to spy out the promised land. Let us look at that account in Numbers chapter thirteen.

Numbers 13:25-33.

And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Nevertheless, the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Israel believed the “Evil report” that the ten spies brought back concerning the land that God had promised to give to them. They began their report by agreeing with what God had said concerning the land, they even had the evidence to prove that the land was all that God had said that it would be, but then they allowed fear and doubt to overrule the Word that God had spoken to them. What is an “Evil report?” An evil report is a report of doubt and unbelief; it is saying the exact opposite to what God has already said in His Word. Caleb agreed with God and said, “Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it,” but the other ten spies said, “We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.”

Notice that those who said they couldn't didn't, but those who said that they could, did! Jesus said in Mark 11:23, “He shall have whatsoever he saith.” In other words, we have what we say, that is exactly what happened to the ten spies; out of the twelve spies who went out, only two of them, Joshua and Caleb, entered into the promised land, and because Israel believed the majority report they failed to enter the promised land as well. Now lets see what God had to say to them.

Numbers 14:28.

Say unto them , As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you.

God is telling the children of Israel, what you said about this situation is how it is going to be. It was their negative confession that kept them out of the Promised Land. Can you see now why it is so important that you maintain a positive confession at all times? The Amplified translation makes this verse even more clear.

Numbers 14:28. Amplified Bible.

Tell them, As I live, says the Lord, what you have said in My hearing I will do to you.

Israel got exactly what she believed for, and what she said. The Bible says in Romans 10:10, “With the HEART man believeth... and with the MOUTH CONFESSION is made unto.” Now the children of Israel got what they believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth, they believed that they couldn't, they said that they couldn't, and they didn't. On the other hand, Joshua and Caleb believed that they could, they said that they could, and they did! Now there was something different about Joshua and Caleb. What was it that made them different to the rest of the people? They had a bold faith and a positive confession, their faith was so strong that it got the attention of God, and God made this statement concerning Caleb.

Numbers 14:24.

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it.

What was the other spirit that Caleb had? God said that he had another spirit, so he must have had one. But what was it? Well let us turn to the Scriptures to find out.

2 Corinthians 4:13.

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.

Caleb had a “Spirit of faith”, the very name Caleb in the Hebrew means “Bold”. Caleb had a bold faith, it was a Spirit of faith or you could say an attitude of faith. This attitude of faith came from a deep inner conviction that what God had promised; He was both able and willing to do. When Caleb said, “Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able,” he was speaking from his heart, it was his faith that was talking, he believed in his heart and confessed with his mouth, and forty five years latter he went in and possessed his inheritance. I want you to see for yourselves what Caleb said about his part in all that we have discussed.

Joshua 14:7-8.

Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

First, I want you to notice that Caleb spoke what was in his heart, did you ever wonder what was in his heart? Well it wasn't what he saw with his physical sight otherwise he too would have brought back an evil report, so what was it then that was in his heart? It was the Word of God! The other spies went by what they saw, but Caleb believed the Word that God had already spoken on the matter, and that is what he confessed. He did not deny that there were giants in the land, but he knew that God had already given the land to them, so he just spoke what God had already spoken about it. That is what faith does, it believes what the Bible says, and it speaks what the Bible says. If God has already said that you are a winner, then faith confesses “I am a winner!” If God says that you are healed, then faith agrees with God, and confesses “By his stripes I am healed.” **Caleb spoke what was in his heart, and because he did he entered into his inheritance!**

The second thing that I want you to notice is that Caleb said, that he, “Wholly followed the Lord my God.” Implying that the other ten spies didn't. How do you wholly follow the Lord? By agreeing with what He has said in His Word, and by saying the same thing that God has said. That is how Caleb followed the Lord wholly; he confessed that he was well able to go up and possess the land, which God had promised to give unto them. The other ten spies disagreed with the Word that God had spoken, and gave a negative report (Confession), God said that they could, but they said that they couldn't. Well Jesus said that we can have whatever we say, Caleb got what he confessed and the other ten spies got what they confessed. This is a scriptural law, what you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth you will have. Jairus in chapter five of Mark's gospel, got what he said, and so too did the woman with the issue of blood. Jairus said to Jesus, “Come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and SHE SHALL LIVE.” Well we know that his daughter died, but when he received the bad news, Jesus said unto him, “Be not afraid, ONLY BELIEVE.” Only believe what? Only believe what you have already said in faith, “SHE SHALL LIVE.” Jairus held on to his confession of faith, and his daughter was raised to life again by Jesus. Let us now take a look at the woman with the issue of blood who received her healing from Jesus.

Mark 5:25-34.

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, when she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If

I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of the plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

There are several things that I want to point out to you from this portion of Scripture, the first thing that I want you to see, is that the woman and not Jesus decided the timing of her healing. The woman decided that when she touched the clothes of Jesus, that it was then that she would be healed. The second thing that you should see is that she confessed her faith, “For SHE SAID.” We know that what she said was her faith speaking, because Jesus said to her, “daughter, THY FAITH HATH MADE THEE WHOLE.” She not only decided when she was going to be healed, and she did not only confess a good confession of faith, but she acted on what she believed and on what she confessed. This woman got what she said!

If you want to win in life then you are going to have to maintain a good positive confession at all times, even when the going gets tough. The times when it seems like your confession of faith is not working, you must hold on to your confession and never let go until what you are confessing for comes to pass.

Hebrews 4:14.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession, (Confession)

Hebrews 10:23.

Let us hold fast the profession (confession) of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

The Word clearly tells us that we are going to have to hold fast to our confession of faith if we are going to receive from God. The two Scriptures that we have just read show to us two great reasons why we can hold on to our confessions, first, because we have a “Great high priest,” Jesus the Son of God. In Hebrews 3:1, we are told that Jesus is the “High priest of our confession.” Jesus as your high priest makes sure that when you confess the Word of God that it comes to pass. He mediates your confession before the throne of God, and adds His agreement to it, and you end up with having what you said. The second reason is that God who promised is faithful to keep his Word. You can depend on the living Word of God, what God has said He will do, **He WILL DO!** Because of these two good reasons you can maintain a positive confession at all times, and be a winner in life. Victory, success, prosperity and healing are all yours to enjoy today in Christ Jesus!

Step # 6. Resist the devil at all times, and give him no place.

James 4:7.

Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The number one key to successfully resisting the devil is to submit yourself to God. If you are totally submitted to the Lord then you are impervious to the attacks of Satan, now that does not mean that Satan will not attack you, but what it does mean is that you will be impenetrable to his attacks. The reason why so many of God’s people are

sick and defeated in life is because they have not submitted themselves to God or to His Word. Most Christians today don't like the word **submit**, because they want to do their own thing and have their own way, but if you are to resist the devil then you are going to have to be submitted to God.

Very few Christians know how to resist the devil and how to stand their ground, that is why there are so many defeated Christians in our Churches today. Some Christians do not even try to resist because they just can't be bothered to, and let me tell you, that is why they are losing in life instead of winning the way that God wants them to. Resistance is a choice; you have to make a decision to resist, and to resist with all that you can muster. Resist Satan with, prayer, with your confession of faith, and with the Word of God! Resist him at all times.

1 Peter 5:8-9a.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith.

1 Peter 5:8-9a. Amplified.

Be well-balanced-temperate, sober-minded; be vigilant and cautious at all times, for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset], rooted, established, strong, immovable and determined.

The Amplified Bible says, "Withstand him; be firm in faith." So we can see that to resist the devil we have to be firm in faith. One translation says, "Who resist steadfast in your faith." Faith is the thing that we need to resist and overcome Satan, it is our faith that gives us the victory!

1 John 5:4.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Our faith is what gives us the victory over the world, Satan and demons! If you have been born of God then you are a world overcomer, but it is your faith that gives action to the promises of God's Word; so to overcome the world you must exercise your faith. **The victory is your faith! Without faith there is no victory!** So resist the devil by faith, then stand firm in your faith and watch him flee from you.

The Greek word for "Resist" found in James 4:7, and 1 Peter 5:9, along with the word "Withstand" in Ephesians 6:13, is "Anthistemi" which means, "To set over against", "To stand against." The Hebrew New Testament defines the word as, "To resist perpetually rather than occasionally." Lenski says, "The tense as well as the verb implies that we can successfully withstand the devil." The word "Antihistemi" denotes more than the occasional resistance, it implies making a covenant to resist! When you take the decision to stand against the devil with your faith, then you are making a covenant of resistance; it is a covenant that says **NO SURRENDER!** You stand, withstand, and then stand some more until you have run the devil off. Once you made a covenant of resistance, defeat is not an option. Winning is the only thing that counts, and because you have covenanted to resist, you will do all that the crisis demands so that you will be able to stand and withstand the enemy. What will be the result of your covenant of resistance? Well, the Word says that the devil will flee from you. The New English translation says, "Stand up to the devil and he will turn and run." I like that! That's the way it is with most bullies; if you stand up to them they will turn and run. So stand up to the devil and watch him turn and run. The Expositors Greek Testament says, "If you resist him he will be vanquished and will flee from you

disgraced.” Another translation says, “Run off as quickly as possible.” Are you beginning to see that Satan is afraid of you as a Child of God, and that you don't have to fear him? Yes? Good, that's what I want you to see.

Satan is no match for the Spirit filled, Word confessing, born again Child of God. Speaking the Word of God in faith is another key to resisting the devil; in fact it is the number one way in which we fight him. Let us take Jesus as our example in resisting the devil and let's copy Him.

Luke 4:1-13.

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Notice that Jesus defeated the devil by speaking the Word of God, the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit, it is part of the “Armour of God” that we read about in the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 6:13-17.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

All the pieces of the “Armour of God” are for defensive purposes, except for the “Sword of the Spirit,” which is the offensive piece of the armour. It is with this piece of the armour that we engage the spiritual forces of darkness. This is how Jesus overcame the devil, and it is the way in which we must overcome him as well. By speaking the Word in faith you will put the devil on the run every single time! Notice what the outcome was when Jesus spoke the Word in faith to Satan

Matthew 4:11.

Then the devil leaveth him, and behold angels came and ministered unto him.

When Jesus resisted him with the Word, the devil left Jesus, or you could say, that Satan fled from Jesus, just like it says he would in James 4:7, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” We are also told that we should not give place to the devil in our lives.

Ephesians 4:27.
Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27. Amplified.
Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil - give no opportunity to him.

One way that you give the devil a foothold in your life is by speaking negatively. Speaking words of doubt and unbelief, or confessing with your mouth the fears that Satan has put on you, will open the door to Satan. Fear is one way in which you can open the door to Satan, fear is the opposite of faith, faith activates God while fear activates the devil. Job said, “I Feared a fear, and it came upon me.” Fear gives place to the devil, so to resist the devil you must resist fear. So many times Christians wonder what they are supposed to resist when they are resisting the devil. Well, anything that does not come from God must come from the enemy. So what comes from God? Anything that is good! In fact if it’s not good then it’s not God. Sickness is not good so it can not be from God, so resist sickness and you will be resisting the devil. Resist poverty and lack, resist fear and doubt, resist sickness and disease, resist sin and disobedience, resist speaking negatively and always having a bad report; and if you will resist all of these things then you will be resisting the devil.

Remember resist the devil and he will flee from you. And give no place to him so that he can’t gain a stronghold in your life!

Step # 7. Make yourself strong in the Lord.

To win in life you have to be strong, but our strength is not in our own selves it is in the Lord, He is the strength of our lives, we are strong in Him even when we are weak in our own selves. The greater one lives within us, but we have to make ourselves strong in Him, that means that we must begin to live from the inside out. Most Christians are living from the outside or in the realm of the soul (Mind), but we should be living out of our reborn spirit man that has Christ living in him.

Ephesians 6:10.
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

In the Greek this verse literally means to, “Make yourself strong in the Lord.” In other words this is something that you have to do for yourself. The first thing that you must do is pray for yourself the prayer that Paul prayed in Ephesians chapter three.

Ephesians 3:16.
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

Notice that we should pray that we would be “Strengthened with might,” by His Spirit, and that we should be strengthened in our “Inner man,” not in our bodies or in our minds. Now when we have been strengthened by “His might,” in our inner man, then it will have an affect on our outward man and in our minds. Paul prayed this prayer for the saints at Ephesus, but we can pray it for our own selves as well, and when we do we will begin to make ourselves strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

We also make our self-strong in the Lord by putting on the armour of God. When we have God's armour on, then we are clothed with the power of God, and are strengthened with God's strength. The armour of God gives unto us the power and the ability of God, we are told to "Put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (see) Ephesians 6:11. The word "Able" in the Greek means, "To have the ability of God," so we have the ability of God that is able to make us strong so that we can withstand the attacks of Satan. You see, you don't have to be strong in your own self, because in your own self you are no match for the devil, but when you have made yourself strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, then the devil is no match for you, Praise God! When you are fully clothed in the armour of God you can successfully withstand the onslaught of the devil and overcome him every time. Remember, God's armour fits you perfectly, He tailor made it just for you, so take it and put it on and begin to stand strong in the Lord's power.

Ephesians 6:13-14a.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand, stand therefore.

There are some very important truths that I want you to see from this portion of Scripture. First, you are supposed to take unto yourself the, "Whole armour of God." Some Christians like to pick and choose what part of the armour it is that they want to put on, some don't like that "Faith business," so they never take the "Shield of faith," and they don't like that "Confessing the Word stuff," so they never take the "Sword of the Spirit," but they do like salvation, so they will put on the, "Helmet of salvation," but they are so humble that they would never think that they were righteous, so they would never put on the, "Breastplate of righteousness." No, you don't choose what part of the armour it is that you want to put on, or what part of it that you like or dislike, you are told to put on the "Whole armour." Secondly, if you only put on the parts that you like then you are not fully clothed in God's armour and therefore will not be able, or will not have the "Ability of God to withstand," in the evil day. You need to be clothed in the "Whole armour of God," to be able to withstand and resist the devil. Thirdly, you must do all that it takes to stand, this verse says, "Having done all to stand." Let us look at it in the Amplified translation.

Ephesians 6:13. Amplified.

Therefore put on God's complete armour, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day of danger, and HAVING DONE ALL THE CRISIS DEMANDS, to stand firmly in your place.

Did you get that? "Having done all that the crisis demands." You will never be strong in the Lord if you don't withstand the attacks of the devil; it is only when you withstand the devil that you prove the armour of God. You can make yourself strong in the Lord by, **doing all that the crisis demands**, so that you can stand in that day of crisis. With every victory that you gain over the devil you will become stronger and stronger and more and more confident in the power and the ability of God that is on the inside of you. You make yourself strong in the Lord by standing firm in faith, and by doing all that it takes to win in life. If you don't all that the crisis demands, then the chances are that you will never have the victory.

Another way that you can make yourself strong in the Lord is by praying in the Holy Spirit, or you could say, by praying in other tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:4.

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.

The word “Edifieth,” in the Greek means to “Charge up” or to “Build up.” Just like you would charge up the battery on your car, so it is that when you pray in tongues you are charging up your spirit man in the same way. You also build yourself up by praying in the Holy Spirit, and by praying in other tongues. Let us see what the book of Jude has to say on this subject.

Jude 20.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

Jude 20. Amplified.

But you, beloved, build yourselves up, founded on your most holy faith- make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher - praying in the Holy Spirit.

You build yourself up in your faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, in other words, you make yourself strong in the Lord by praying in the Holy Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is praying in other tongues, the Bible says, that when you pray in tongues it is your spirit that is praying, so it stands to reason that when you pray in tongues you are building up your inner man (spirit).

The Amplified Bible says, **“Build yourselves up...make progress, rise up like an edifice higher and higher - praying in the Holy Spirit.”** When you pray in the Holy Spirit, you begin to rise like a great building higher and higher, and you get stronger and stronger, and stronger and stronger, Glory to God!

There is another way that the Word says that you can build yourself up and make yourself strong in the Lord. That way is through the Word itself, the Word of God is able to build you up and make you strong in the Lord.

Acts 20:32.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Paul commends the Christians at Ephesus, to God, and to the Word of His grace. Why? Because it is the Word that is able to build us up, the Word makes us strong in God, and in the power of His might. The Word is to our spirits what food is to our bodies; it gives us strength and spiritual vitality. It is up to you to make yourself strong in the Lord, and if you will do all that we have seen from the Word, then you will be strong, and you will be a winner in life.

Step # 8. Keep praising God.

Have you ever noticed that it is the happy, positive people that excel in life? And what do you think the reason for it is? Well one thing that is a sure fact, a happy, positive attitude leads to a happy and positive disposition, which in turn will be transmitted to others, and a happy, positive person draws people unto them, but a sad and negative person repels people. So there is something about a positive attitude that attracts good things to it, and it causes one to excel and win in life. So what does this have to do with praising God? Everything! Praising God keeps you in a happy and positive frame of mind, your outlook on life is a positive one, praise makes the promises of God seem so real to you, that you can't stop yourself from praising Him more and more. An attitude of gratitude will cause good things to come to you, and a praising heart believes that all

things are possible! Praise gives thrust to your faith, and without praise your faith will never lift off. There is victory in praise, there is power in praise, there is healing and deliverance in praise, and there is just something about praise that causes you to win in the battles of life. Praising God makes you a winner! In the crisis of life, and in your darkest hour when all hope seems to have gone, praise can and will give you the victory. Praise always gets heaven's attention. Let me tell you that in the darkest hours of my life and ministry, it has always been my praise to God that has brought me out of certain defeat and into victory. Time and time again it was praising God that brought me through, praise helped me to see the answer, and it kept my mind stayed on the Lord instead of on the problem. Do you want to be a winner in life? Yes? Then you are going to have to look at life's problems in a different way, instead of always seeing doom and gloom begin to thank God for His goodness and begin to praise Him for the way out of your situation, and your praise will make a way where there seemed to be no way, Glory to God! Praising the Lord magnifies Him and makes the problem seem like a molehill. Praise will also change your disposition, you will begin to attract people to you rather than repel them, and just like a magnet praise will draw positive things unto itself, it will draw victory and health and it will draw all the other good things that God has in store for you.

As I have already stated, praise will cause you to have the victory in every situation that you face in life; it does not matter how hard or how impossible it may seem, praise will always bring you through to victory. Let us look at an example from the book of Acts, where Paul and Silas praised their way to victory.

Acts 16:23-26.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

This is a very powerful portion of Scripture; it shows to us the positive aspects of praise and the effects that praise can have upon people and situations. There is a real power behind praise, and it does not matter how hard or difficult the circumstances may seem, you can always praise your way out of them. That is what Paul and Silas did; they were in a bleak situation, not only were they in prison but they had been thrust into the inner prison and their feet were put in stocks, it seemed like a no win situation, but the Bible says that at midnight they prayed and **SANG PRAISES** to God. Now it was actually midnight when they prayed and sang praises to God, but the midnight hour can also refer to the darkest moments that you have to face up to in life, in other words the midnight hour can be your darkest hour, so what should you do in that dark hour? First, you pray, but you don't stop with prayer, you have to go on to the second thing that you must do which is to **PRAISE GOD**. Notice also that when Paul and Silas praised God the other prisoners heard them, this with not one of those religious silent praises; people say all the time, "I praise God in my heart silently," but that can not be so, because the Bible says, "Let the voice of praise be heard." Jesus said, that whatever is in your heart will come out of your mouth, for "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." So praise must be voiced and be expressed.

You must let your praise be heard, Paul and Silas were bold with their praises, they did not care who was listening or who heard them, they were caught up with the glory of God, they were not looking at the circumstances, they were looking at the promises of God. You can be sure that when they prayed, they prayed for deliverance, and then they began to praise God for it! Did God deliver them? **Yes!** Praise moved God to act supernaturally on their behalf; praise will always cause God to come on the scene. Someone once said, "Praise is the highest form of faith." If you can praise the Lord when all hell has broken loose round about you then you really are in faith, because it takes faith to be able to praise God for the victory before you ever see it.

Now as a result of Paul and Silas praising the Lord and because of God's supernatural intervention look what happened, "Suddenly there was a great earthquake...and immediately all the doors were opened." Do you realise that the prison doors are open for you today? That's right! Jesus has opened the prison house doors so that you can walk free, all that you have to do is begin to praise Him for it and walk out in faith. If the prison door is open then why are so many Christians still in the prison house of suffering? One reason is that they have never praised the Lord for their victory, and they just sit there in doubt and unbelief hoping that one day they will be rewarded for carrying their cross in life. Let me tell you, that way of thinking will stop you from winning in life. Just start to praise God and rise up in faith and walk right on out of that prison house, shouting GLORY as you go. Never be ashamed of praising the Lord, for there is victory in praise, and besides that God is worthy to be praised, He is worthy to receive your praise; but there is real power in praise. In some of my meeting's people have been healed of all kinds of things during our time of praise and worship, people have experienced deliverance from satanic oppression as a result of praising God. Praise is the meeting place where God meets with His people.

Psalm 22:

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

God met with Paul and Silas when they began to praise Him, and as a result of this meeting, "Every one's bands were loosed." when we begin to give God the praise that is due Him, our bands will be loosed too!

It would be true to say that Paul and Silas came out of their darkest hour as **winners**. What caused them to win? **Praise!** Praise is a major key to winning in life.

Praise stills the hand of the avenger.

Psalm 8:2.

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Matthew 21:16.

And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

In the eighth Psalm it says, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength," Jesus quoting this same passage of Scripture in the book of Matthew says, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." What happens when praise comes out of the mouth? And why has God ordained or perfected praise? "That thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger." Praises stills the enemy of your

life, and it stops the avenger. Look at this verse in Psalm eight in the New International Version of the Bible.

Psalm 8:2 N.I.V.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise, because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Praise will silence the foes in your life, and when the enemy tries to torment you mind with thoughts of doubt and fear just begin to praise the Lord and the devil will soon shut up. Praise will also stop Satan right in his tracks, it will hinder him from operating in your life, and it will cause him to flee from you. Praise will always give you the victory no matter what the circumstances are or how fierce the attack may appear to be.

If you are going to win in life then you must make a quality decision to praise the Lord in every circumstance that you may find yourself in, and to rejoice in the Lord always. True praise comes from a positive spirit or a faith filled heart. Many times in the Bible God's people were delivered from the hand of the enemy when they began to praise God and give Him the glory.

2 Chronicles 20:15-22 & 24-25.

And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them; for the Lord will be with you.

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever. And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten..... Verses 24-25. And when Judah came toward the watchtower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they

*stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away:
and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so
much.*

Here we see a great victory for Jehoshaphat and for the people of God, this was a supernatural victory for the armies of Jehoshaphat did not go in to battle, this battle was won by praising the Lord. Praise is a major key to winning in life's battles, in fact without praise you are not going to win the battle, and without praise you are not going to be able to sustain the victory. Most Christians are at their weakest after they have had a major victory in their lives. Why? Because there is a tendency to relax after a hard fought victory, but once you have won the victory, that is the time to be the most vigilant, Satan wants to get back the ground that you have taken away from him and he waits for any slacking in your faith and in your praise to God, and if you do slacken in your faith and praise, then Satan will immediately try to put back on you whatever is was that you got the victory over. That is why Jesus told us in the book of Revelation to, "Hold fast that which thou hast." Satan wants to take back your healing or your deliverance or your prosperity or anything else that you have regained from him, he is a thief and he wants to steal back your joy and your peace and above all your victory. But if you keep the switch of faith turned on and you keep praising God for His goodness and for His mercy and for the victory that is your in Christ Jesus, you will maintain all that you have received of the Lord, and it will be impossible for the devil to put anything back on you. So faith and praise will win the battle for you, and they will help you to maintain the victory and keep Satan at bay.

It says in verse 19 of 2 Chronicles 20, that the Levites, "Stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high." Notice that it says that they, "**Praised God with a loud voice.**" As I have already said, praise is not silent and loud praise makes the devil nervous, it also makes some Christians nervous but it shouldn't.

Did you notice that Jehoshaphat appointed singers unto the Lord and not warriors? What was the purpose of these singers? That they should **PRAISE** as they went out before the army! As they went out to face the enemy the only weapon that God would allow them to use was the weapon of praise, now notice what happened when they, "Began to sing and to praise." "The Lord set ambushments...and they were (the enemy) smitten." God gave to His people a great victory when they began to sing and to praise Him. Praise will cause all of your enemies to be smitten too!

Praise gave to all of the people of God a wonderful victory, or you could say it this way, praise helped them to win in life. Now there is winning and there is **WINNING!** When the Lord gives you the victory He gives unto you the spoils of the victory too. Jehoshaphat and the people of God were three days in gathering up the spoils, it says that there was, "Abundance of riches...and precious jewels." That is total victory, you defeat the enemy and then you take him for all he's got, Glory to God.

***So if you want to be a winner in life you must keep praising God, because
praise is your key to winning in life!***

