



VICTORY IN VOLATILE TIMES

John 16:25-33

Jesus - *"I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will ask in My name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father Himself loves you dearly because you love Me and believe that I came from God. Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father. Then His disciples said, "At last You are speaking plainly and not figuratively. Now we understand that You know everything, and there's no need to question You. From this we believe that You came from God." Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe? But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving Me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."* (John 16:25-33)

- **What types of "troubles" am I dealing with, and how have they impacted my life?**
- **Everybody wants to experience tranquility rather than trouble in their lives, but trouble will always be a part of our lives.**
- **Sometimes our troubles are caused by problems, by "problem people," or by personal choices we make.**
- Jesus - *"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
- **We must not allow our troubles to cause us to become discouraged, disappointed or defeated so that we pull away from God or get bitter towards Him.**
- *"Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."* (Hebrews 12:15)
- **Jesus said although we will experience trouble while we're here on Planet Earth, we can still have peace and victory in our lives.**
- **What steps can we take to overcome the "troubles" we're dealing with right now, and the troubles we will deal with in the future?**

Experiencing “Victory In Volatile” Times Requires:

REALIZING WE ARE LOVED BY OUR CREATOR

- Jesus - *“Then you will ask in My name. I’m not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father Himself loves you dearly because you love Me and believe that I came from God.”* (John 16:26-27)
- **When we go through trials and sorrows we often perceive that God has rejected or abandoned us in some way.**
- *“Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?...No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”* (Romans 8:35, 37)
- **We must remind ourselves in times of difficulty, tragedy and turmoil that God is with us in the midst of our troubles.**
- *“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”* (Psalm 46:1)
- **The Key to victory in the midst of difficulty is to press into the Lord and to plant ourselves in God’s love for us.**
- *“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”* (Jeremiah 17:7-8)
- **God repeatedly promises that He has not and will never abandon us.**
- *“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”* (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- **What’s keeping me from understanding how greatly I’m loved by the Lord?**

Experiencing “Victory In Volatile Times” Requires:

REFUSING TO ISOLATE FROM OTHER CHRISTIANS

- Jesus - *“But the time is coming - indeed it’s here now - when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving Me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me.”* (John 16:32)
- **Many people struggle with a perceived sense of loneliness.**
- **Isolation is one of the Devil’s most effective spiritual warfare strategies.**
- *“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8)
- **When facing challenging times we all need the encouragement and support of other Christians like we receive in a Life Group.**
- *“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:25)
- **The strength of our Christian relationships will often determine our ability to persevere in difficult times.**
- *“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

- ***What steps do I need to take to connect with godly Christians on a consistent basis?***

Experiencing “Victory In Volatile Times” Requires:

RESOLVING TO STAY CLOSE TO OUR CHRIST

- Jesus - *“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me.”* (John 16:33)
- **We won’t find the peace or “victory” that we’re looking for in possessions, popularity, power or even in other people.**
- Paul - *“I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* (Philippians 3:7-8)
- **We get to know the Lord when we receive Him as our Savior, and we are to focus daily or regularly on becoming closer and closer to Him.**
- Paul - *“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead.* (Philippians 3:10)
- **We pursue a strong relationship with Jesus by worshiping and praying to Him, reading His Word, serving Him, etc.**
- **The stronger our relationship with Jesus grows the more supernatural power we will have and the more victory we will experience in our lives.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to get closer to the Lord in my life?***

Experiencing “Victory In Volatile Times” Requires:

RISING UP TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES

- Jesus - *“But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)
- **It is a human tendency to struggle with discouragement, disappointment and sometimes defeat in times of trial and sorrow.**
- *“I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord’s mercy. I pour out my complaints before Him and tell Him all my troubles.”* (Psalm 142:1-2)
- **The Lord has compassion for us when we get tired, weary and exhausted by the obstacles and opposition of life.**
- Jesus - *“Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* (Matthew 11:28-29)
- **But Jesus has commanded us to “Take Heart” in the midst of our difficulties, which means to have courage, confidence and cheer in spite of circumstances.**
- The Lord - *“This is My command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)
- **We should not fear any challenges that come our way and we must constantly rise up when things begin to feel overwhelming.**
- *“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- ***What steps do I need to take to face up to life’s challenges?***
- **The World wants us to live discouraged and defeated lives, but nothing should prevent us from living the victorious life the Lord intends for us to live.**

- *“You belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.”* (1 John 4:4)
- **We can daily have “victory over the world” if we rely on the Lord’s promises, presence and power in our lives.**
- *“Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37)
- ***What challenges, trials and sorrows have been holding me back from living as an “Overcomer” in Jesus Christ - and what am I going to do about them?***