

**Series: Victory in Jesus**

**Title: Victory over the Flesh**

**Text:**

**We Have Three Enemies that use the Power of Sin On Us:**

(Eph 2:2-3) *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

**The World - *World*** (Vs 2a)

**The Devil - *Prince of the Power of the Air*** (Vs 2b)

**The Flesh - *Flesh*** (Vs 3)

As we saw last week, **The World fights us in the areas of Failure, Circumstances, Struggles:**

The uses Enticements to exit our Flesh to control us.

**The Steps to Victory over Each Enemy:**

***Identify Your Enemy.***

***Understand Your Enemy and His Tactics.***

***Realize God's Provision for Victory Through Christ.***

***Translate Victory into your Own Life Experience.***

Today I want to talk to you about Victory over our Flesh!

**You Can Have Victory Over the Flesh:**

**I. Identify your Enemy:**

When the Bible speaks of your Flesh opposing you, it doesn't mean your Literal Flesh, Blood, & Bones.

*Illus: Autoimmune disease: when the body's immune system attacks its own body.*

Sometimes the system goes wrong, and the body itself gets damaged by its own immune system.

Examples are: Crohn's Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus, Multiple Sclerosis.

**The Bible is referring to your OLD SIN NATURE!**

***At Salvation. we received a Divine Nature***

(2 Pet 1:4) *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

***But the Old Sin Nature was NOT Removed.***

(Rom 7:18) *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

***I want to do right, but our OLD SIN NATURE Fights us!***

As a Christian, You have TWO NATURES:

The OLD and the NEW:

The FLESH and the SPIRIT:

The SINFUL and the DIVINE:

**II. Understand Your Enemy:**

We have to understand our Enemies Tactics in order to Anticipate their Attack.

***The Flesh produces CONFLICT, or Inner Turmoil:***

The Flesh Cooperates with the World and the Devil.

(Rom 7:21) ... *when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

*Dwelling inside it has these 3 inherent weaknesses to exploit*

**The Flesh has the ...**

***The Lust of the Flesh:*** Discontented with What you Have.

***The Lust of the Eyes:*** Desiring What You Don't Have.

***The Pride of Life:*** Determining That You Deserve It.

**The Conflict is a Fight for CONTROL:**

*(Gal 5:17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

***It is a constant battle between SELF & the SPIRIT of God.***

The Flesh Opposes Righteousness with Selfishness.

*(1 Pet 2:11) fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

Selfishness is a complete lack of Faith in God's Word!

We do not believe God CAN \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)

***The Battle Rages in Our Minds***

*(Rom 7:23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

Illus: *I know what the bible says, but... What?*

***The Flesh fights us with Selfishness, causing us to have...***

**FEAR, DISCOURAGEMENT, WORRY, STRESS**

**Why do we Worry?**

Because I want to choose what happens to me!

Why do you want to choose what happens to you?

Because I don't Trust God to make choices I like?

Why don't I trust God?

Because I want to be in control of my life?

Why do you want to be in control of my life? (is an Illusion)

I don't believe His Word is True.

Why don't you Trust God at His Word?

I have no Faith!

**III. Realize God's Provision for Victory:**

**We have Jesus:** (1 Cor 15:57) *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**We have the Indwelling Holy Spirit:** (Rom 8:

**We have God's Word:**

**We Have our Faith in God:** (1 Jn 5:4) *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

**IV. Translate Christ's Victory Into Your Own Experience:**

**Victory in our Christian life is the Freedom from the Controlling Power of Sin:**

**He gave us the Step, by Step Instructions:**

*(John 8:31-32) Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

(Believe on Jesus) + (Continuing in His Word) + (Be His Disciple) + (Knowing the Truth) = Freedom

**A. (Believe on Jesus = Saved)**

*(1 Jn 5:5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

**Acknowledge you are on the inning Side:**

*Have you Believed on Him? When, Where, How?*

**Claim Your Victory by Faith:** Dependence Upon God.  
(1 Jn 5:4) *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

**B. (Continuing in His Word)**

**A Simple Choice to believe God's Word and Act On It!**

Whatever area you are battling, God's Word has references that we can Claim, Memorize, and Meditate on.

**C. (Be His Disciple) -**

*Do the Will of God & Embody His Character!*

**A Personal Change of our Will has to happen:**

God has to be our Authority!

(Gal 5:24) *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

***Requires us Choosing to Yield our will to the Holy Spirit.***

(Gal 5:16) *Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.*

**Are you His Disciple: I Can't change!**

YES YOU CAN! (Phil 4:13) *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

YES YOU CAN HAVE VICTORY! **The Choice is Ours!**

**A Personal Change of our Character is Necessary:**

(Eph 4:22-32) THE CHANGE CHAPTER!

It is PUTTING OFF the works of the FLESH, and PUTTING ON of the Things of the HOLY SPIRIT!

**22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;** (Rom 13:14) *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

***Act With Integrity at the Moment of Choice!***

YES, YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE! (1 Cor 10:13) *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Starve our the Appetites of the Flesh: Blockade the Flesh.

(1 Pet 2:11) ... *abstain from fleshly lusts,..*

**23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

A Daily Reading of God's Word.

Memorize His Word

Mediate on His Word

(2 Cor 5:7) Walk by faith: Take God at His Word!

Listen to God Honoring Music

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

*Replace our Sinful appetites of the Flesh with Appetites that honor God.*

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**25 Wherefore putting away lying,** speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**26 Be ye angry, and sin not:** let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

**27 Neither give place to the devil.** Anger give the Satan a beach head in our lives for him to attack us from.

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**28 Let him that stole steal no more:** but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,** but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

We Grieve the Holy Spirit with our Attitudes, Words. Actions.

**PUT OFF / PUT ON**

**31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**

**32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Works of the Flesh** (Gal 5:19:21) *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:*

**Get Specific About what You Need Victory Over:**

Anger, Hostility, Resentment, Anxiety, Impatience, Selfishness, Self-Centeredness, Bitterness, Bigotry, Impure Thoughts, Jealousy, Laziness, Sexual Lust, Self Indulgence (Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Porn, etc.)

***These are the RESULTS of Works of the Flesh***

***The Fruits of the Spirit are the Results of us PUTTING ON***

***Christ:*** (Gal 5:22-24) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

(Believe on Jesus) + (Continuing in His Word) + (Be His Disciple) + (Knowing the Truth) = Freedom

**D. (Know the Truth)**

You will see the Power of the Holy Spirit working in and through you everyday.

**Take on His Values:** (Col 3:1) *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.*

(Matt 6:21) *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

**(The Truth Shall Set You Free - Freedom)**

We were Designed for Victory by Christ.

We have Inherited the Victory through Christ.

Our Flesh fights the Holy Spirit for Control.  
The Flesh uses Selfishness as its main weapon to fight the Holy Spirit's Control.

***True Victory is to be free from the Power of Sin in our lives.***  
(Rom 6:14) *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

All that Jesus has purchased with His blood is ours to have and use as a part of His body.

Come and ask God to start the process of Freeing you to Victory!

Commit now, to be at both the morning and evening services to learn to appropriate victory in your lives daily.