



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Living Victoriously
Topic	Victory is Not the End
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Message Summary

Finding Our Destiny in Christ's Victory

One of humanity's greatest victories is that the power of sin has been broken at the cross, releasing us from captivity. As we thank God for His intervention, we need to remember that this victory is not the end – not the victory of the redemption of humanity, nor the victory of the cross, nor the victory over the grave. Instead, victory is to be experienced by all of us, so that we embark on a new course of destiny to bring God His due honor and glory.

How can we personally experience Christ's victory?

1. Victory for Fallen Humanity

We must see beyond Jesus' death on the cross as mere history, and move towards making it a reality. Paul saw himself as a sinner (1 Tim 1:15) and as one crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20). In forming this identity, and identifying with Christ, a powerful transaction took place with Christ's victory becoming his personal victory.

Through Christ, we have been given birthrights and new identities. However, these are not automatically ours – we need to align ourselves with it. We do this by connecting with it. Our change of identities include:

- Sinners in the kingdom of darkness > Saints in the kingdom of light
- Powerless prisoners > Powerful ambassadors for Christ
- Broken in bondage > Bondage breakers
- Beggars and heirless > Royalties and co-heirs

2. Victory of the Cross

What might have happened if Jesus had remained buried? We would have remained under the power of the grave. Our God-given victories might have ended in the grave (1 Cor 15:14). Jesus' resurrection broke the power of the grave, so that those who believe in Him, after a physical death, can look forward to a resurrected life (John 5:28-29). Victory belongs to us – we have power over sin, we are a royal priesthood, we have authority to cast out demons, we have abundant life. In contrast, those without Christ move only from physical to spiritual death (Rom 6:23).

When Jesus brought Lazarus to life, he said, "*Loose him and let him go.*" (Jn 11:44). This has huge implications for us! We who are alive in Christ need to be 'loosed' from grave clothing. Examples of grave clothing include bitterness, fear, hatred, unforgiveness, uncleanness, and so on, representing corruption, decay and death.

We still carry these in our lives despite being set free. If we are to truly break through from the grave, we need to be clothed anew, and not allow these struggles to define our identity. His resurrection enables us to live with a different mental paradigm: "*and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*" (Gal 2:20). Are we then alive in Christ?



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3. Victory Over the Grave

We have battles to fight – against our inner flesh, the world, and the devil. Victory is gained not only when we resist and cast out the devil, but also when he has no landing space in our lives (John 14:30). ‘Grave clothing’ that we hold on to in our lives are used as ‘landing rights’ by Satan to destroy us. Fight and ensure our lives have no ‘landing rights’ and open paths! (Prov 26:2, Psa 17:4)

1 John 2:14 shows us two ways to ensure this victory. First, the young men were able to overcome the wicked because the Word of God abided in them. To abide means to live by the Word, be doers and not just hearers, to honour it with our hearts, and wield the sword. We need to have the Word, and let it have of us i.e. take place in our lives. Two, the fathers moved beyond victory over the devil to be changed by the Lord – they had communion with Him, and knew Him. They were not compelled by obedience, but constrained by intimacy (*“being known”*).

As Christians, we should not focus on fighting worldly battles, but rather, focus on our intimacy with God. The Bible gives us encouragement that we will be able to break through our worldly struggles, as God has secured the victory (Gal 5:1, Gal 10:13).

4. Victory is not the End

Revelations 21:5-6 states that one day all things will be made new, and this day is not far off, even though time on earth seems to pass slowly. We know that there will be judgment and justice – the righteous man who has suffered will be rewarded, but the wicked man who prospered will now suffer. Indeed, the overcomers – those victorious in their faith, will receive their inheritance as well as son-ship (Rev 21:7).

God has shown us the future, and the certainty of events happening, so that we can make an intentional choice for the present – to be right with God, and to be overcomers. We need to take hold of our present victories, but also see our present victories in the light of destiny, and recognize that victory is not the end. The ultimate purpose of victory is for God’s honour and glory.

Questions

What are the victories that we have in Christ? Share one that you have personally experienced, or one that resonates strongly with you.



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What is an area in your life where the devil still has landing rights because we are holding on to our “grave clothes”?

If God indeed deserves the honour and glory that Ps Jason mentions, then we need to live victoriously and bring Him what He is due. What is one way you will lay hold of your victory in Christ this week? How can the cell group help you – in action or in thought?