



ASKING FOR A FRIEND PART TWO

Asking For A Friend Why Are We Not Living the Victorious Life that God Has Promised?

John 3:9-21

Week of January 17, 2020

Before Connect Group

- John 3:9-21
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 1:15-23, ESV

Sermon Notes

Jesus Christ is the bread of life, the living water, and the breath of eternal life.

The human body is amazingly complex and depends on the amino acids from food, the water we breathe, and the oxygen we breathe. If we lack any of these things, eventually, we will suffer pain and physically die. Similarly, we have three spiritual needs as well, not just to maintain life but to live a victorious life. Every believer SHOULD be living the victorious life as we pursue Jesus Christ and keeping in step with the Spirit.

This is not to be consumed with the prosperity message that God merely wants to bless our wallets and bless us with status, power, money, and relationships. Paul, for example, held all the markers that we would consider prosperous and yet when he came to Jesus Christ, lost all of those and endured suffering, pain, torture, hurt, and many dangers. Yet, despite all of this, Paul claimed to live a life of pure victory.

Suffering Is An Expected Element of the Christian Life

- *2 Timothy 3:12-13 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*
- *Matthew 10:22 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*
- Jesus suffered in this world for our sake. We cannot think that we will not face any suffering of any kind since we see scripture talking about the suffering of Jesus Christ and His promise to us that we will endure difficult times on account of Him.
- Some of us still struggle with fear, anxiety, loneliness, depression, doubt, and many other things in the world today. Yet we see many Christians living this "victorious" and confident life that brings this incredible peace with them as they carry an inexplicable joy.
- The victorious living isn't some kind of try hard faith that must prove itself, but instead the person of Jesus Christ Himself and us in Him.
- Many people want the hope, the peace, and the joy, but don't want the source of those things. We strive for the outcome but forget that all things come from Jesus Christ. All these things stem from the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- So we search and search for the things of this world for things that can only come from above.
- *Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
- Jesus Christ gives us everything we need to live the victorious life.
- God does not test us and grade us according to our ability to live the victorious life. He wants us to live according to the assurance of our faith and the empowerment of His Spirit which dwells inside of us.

In Christ Alone

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- No matter the circumstances, the people of God give all credit to Jesus Christ and place all our hope in Him.
- Our salvation and our victory is only in the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is only by grace through faith that we have any hope of victory and eternity..

- *Isaiah 43:1-2 "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God.*
- We also love for all our fellow Christians
 - We love those of the faith even though there may be disagreement. This is not something we commonly see in our world today with so many people looking to disagree, leave or split, based on small differences or thoughts.
- True faith in Christ and genuine love for the saints in the church marks the core of Christianity and the Christian faith.
- There is a difference between knowing who Christ actually is, being in relationship with Him and simply going through the motions. When we are truly in Jesus Christ it seeps into every area of our lives and saturates our being with Him.
- Knowing Christ is the key to life here now during this life and for all eternity.
- *1 Corinthians 2:10 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*
- Every one of us needs to pray to ask the Holy Spirit that dwells within us to give us the wisdom, discernment, and knowledge of the

Three Spiritual Needs

- We all have three spiritual needs for us to live according to the victorious life that has been secured for us by the work of Jesus Christ; hope, value, and power.
- Paul prays that we would be enlightened that we already have these things in Jesus Christ.
- Hope is the sense that there is a future for us and it is a good one. No one can live in continually despair and live the victorious life.
 - Our hope comes from the secured victory of Jesus Christ on the cross that our future life is waiting for us.
 - The Holy Spirit comes and dwells within us as the sign of our inheritance.
 - *1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
 - We have been given a promise, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and guaranteed by God for us in heaven.
 - Nothing can happen in this world that will change our eternity and our standing in the eyes of God. This is our hope!
- Value - everyone needs to know that they matter to someone and have worth to someone with a purpose.
 - Ephesians 1:18
 - We are God's treasure. Although the entire world was created by the hand of God

and reflects His glory, mankind holds a different status as His treasured possession.

- Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins so that we might be saved from our sins and be with Him forever.
- We bring God great joy as dearly beloved children.
- Furthermore, out of the abundance of God's joy and love, we can enjoy His presence with Him.
- The creator of this world immensely values us.
- Stop seeking to find our value in something other than Jesus Christ.
- Power - we need the power necessary to deal with the challenges of daily life in a fallen world. None of us can live a fulfilled life if we think we are powerless
 - Ephesians 1:19
 - The power of Christ changes us from children of hell to children of God.
 - No created or self imposed power of this universe can overthrow or conquer God who rules and reigns victorious forever.
 - *Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
 - We can endure all things because it is God who provides us the power to handle everything that this world throws at us.
 - The power that dwells within us through the Holy Spirit is beyond all things able to overcome and conquer any thing that attempts to threaten His rule.
 - We have the power of God within us and works in us and through us.

Jesus Christ is the bread of life, the living water, and the breath of eternal life. He places great value on us as His greatest possession. He empowers us through His Spirit to obediently follow Him. He gives us a hope of an eternity through His completed work on the cross. Without Christ, we have no value, no power, and no hope.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to live the victorious life? How would you describe the victorious life in today's understanding?
- Where do we often go to in order to define our worth other than God? How does the world try and define our worth?
- Why is it important to look to Jesus Christ for our hope, value, and power? What happens when we look to other things for these three spiritual needs?
- How did Jesus Christ provide us with everything we need to be victorious in this life? Do we need to add any additional works to Jesus Christ's? What sufficiency do you see in the work of Jesus Christ?
- What are some of the biggest challenges you face to living the fullness of the life that God has prepared in advance for you to complete? Where does walking in the victorious life?

Challenge For The Week

The question of "Why Are We Not Living the Victorious Life that God Has Promised?" is rooted in the sufficiency of the work of Jesus Christ. Nothing is able to overpower the rule and reign of God and nothing else is needed as we pursue God who is Lord over all our life.

- Spend some time in reflection to consider whether you prioritize your relationship with Jesus Christ and whether you look to Him for your hope, worth, and power.
- Who in your life needs to know that Jesus loves them? What opportunities do you have to share the love of God with them this week?

