

1. We're continuing with our word from the Lord for 2023.
2. This is Your Year of Jubilee.
3. This is the year where the Lord restores in you what he originally wanted you to be, and where the Lord restores for you what he originally intended you to have.
4. This morning we are going to talk about the restoration of something that we as believers desperately need.
5. The restoration of victory.
6. You and I were created for victorious living. We were not created for defeated living.
7. As followers of Jesus, I believe we should be some of the most victorious people in the world.
8. What is victory? **Victory: The act of defeating an enemy or opponent in a battle.**
9. We have talked much about the fact that we are in a battle. We are in a battle with Satan. We are in a battle with our flesh, or our sin nature that wants to rule over us and draw us away from the lord.
10. But thankfully the bible gives us the truth, and when we live by the truth, it brings us victory.
11. What is the truth about this battle we are in with Satan? **1 John 4:4**  
You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (KJV)
12. The truth is, Jesus, who lives in us is greater than our enemy that lives in this world.
13. What is the truth about this battle with our flesh or sin nature?  
**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NIV)
14. The truth is, if we will submit our bodies to the lord and allow him to live in us and through us, He will provide the help we need to have victory over our flesh.
15. God has made provision for us to be victorious. He has promised us in His Word that the life he has given us is a life of victory.
16. Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at a passage of scripture in the book of Revelation.

17. It is the section in Revelation chapters two and three where Jesus himself speaks to seven different churches.
18. In this passage Jesus identifies what is admirable about each church, and then he identifies what needs to be better about each church.
19. And in every case, Jesus makes a promise to whoever will hear what he says and obey.

- **Revelation 2:7** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (NIV)
- **Revelation 2:11** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death. (NIV)
- **Revelation 2:17** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it. (NIV)
- **Revelation 2:26** To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— (NIV)
- **Revelation 3:5** The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. (NIV)
- **Revelation 3:12** The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. (NIV)
- **Revelation 3:21** To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. (NIV)

20. What I see in each of these passages is this. The promise that is given is for the future. The promise will be fulfilled in eternity in heaven.
21. But the victory that leads to the fulfillment of the promise is in the present. It's in the here and now. Victorious living now leads to great promises in eternity.
22. Jesus would not have made promises to those who will be victorious if victory wasn't possible. Victory is possible.
23. So, what is the key to that victory?
24. The key to gaining the victory in the battles and struggles of this life is to lean into Jesus.
25. Pastor, what do you mean lean into Jesus?

26. What I mean is, the key to our victory is to continually draw closer to Jesus, to lean upon him. And then to learn from Him how he was victorious in the very same battles and struggles that we face today.
27. In the words of the first song we sang in worship this morning, our Victory is in Jesus.
28. There is a passage in the book of Zechariah where the prophet foretells what will happen in the future.
29. It is a picture of Jesus and the victory that he gains or wins while here on this earth.
30. **Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (NIV)
31. It is a prophecy of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
32. Jesus is making his way into Jerusalem.
33. In a short while Jesus will be betrayed, he will be tortured, and he will be crucified for your sins and mine.
34. But God tells the prophet Zechariah, he will not enter into the city in defeat. He will enter into that city victorious.
35. His betrayal, his torture, and his death are not signs of defeat; they are signs that he himself has conquered sin.
36. That he himself has taken back the keys to death, hell, and the grave.
37. That he himself, through his resurrection from the dead has paved the way for all of us to have eternal life.
38. And that my friend is what I call victory. Through Jesus Christ we are no longer bound by sin.
39. Through Jesus Christ we no longer have to be afraid of death, hell, and the grave.
40. Through Jesus Christ we have been given the promise of an eternity with him in which we will live forever.
41. Through Jesus Christ we have victory.
42. So, what I want us to do this morning is to consider how we can lean into Jesus so we can be victorious.
43. The Apostle Paul, in a letter to his young protégé Timothy, paints a picture of the victory that awaits him.

**TEXT:** **2 Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (NIV)

**TITLE:** **Victory in Jesus.**

**INTRO:**

1. What we have in this passage is an old man encouraging a young man in the future that will be his if he is victorious in this life.
2. Paul is near the end of his life and ministry and young Timothy is in the beginning of his ministry.
3. Paul is not trying to insinuate to Timothy that the journey will be easy. The journey will in fact be a journey of ups and downs. Good times and bad times. Understanding and misunderstanding.
4. But he is telling Timothy that if he will live in the same way that Paul has lived, there is a great promise in store.
5. What is that promise? The crown of righteousness that the Lord will award to, not only him but to all who have longed for his appearing.
6. In God's kingdom you only get the award if you have been victorious. If you have defeated the enemy or opponent.
7. So, let's look at three things Paul says he has done. They are three things that I believe Paul learned from Jesus himself.
  - Fought the good fight.
  - Finished the race.
  - Kept the faith.
8. Let's look at each of these individually.

**Fought the good fight.**

1. Victory is not won by being passive. Victory is only won when we get into the fight.
2. In the kingdom of God, victory is not won being a spectator, watching the fight, victory is only won when you put on the gloves, get into the ring, and throw some punches.
3. What is this fight we are talking about? As we said earlier, it is our

battle with the enemy and with our flesh.

4. It is the constant battle in which our enemy and our flesh wants us to sin and move away from God.
5. What is sin? James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. (NIV)
6. Once we become aware of what is good, it is sin if we fail to do that good.
7. How do we become aware of what is good? We become aware of what is good as we...
  - Study and obey God's word.
  - Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
  - Pay attention to those God puts in our path to help us mature and grow in our faith.
8. Let me say again, none of those things can be done passively. We can't just sit by and hope that those things will take care of themselves.
9. We must actively participate in what the Lord is trying to do in our life. And if we don't, we are going to find ourselves neck deep in sin.
10. And a life of sin cannot claim the victory the Lord desires for us.
11. Will you ask yourself the following three questions as I give them to you?
  - Is there some area of your life where you are living in disobedience to God's word? If so, it's sin.
  - Are you actively listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth? If not, you will lead yourself into sin.
  - Do you have a cooperative spirit toward those who the Lord has placed around you to speak into your life? If not, don't be surprised when you live a life of defeat rather than victory.
12. Jesus set the example for us that if we are going to be victorious in the battle against the enemy and our flesh, we are going to have to fight.
13. And how do we fight successfully? When we...
  - Lean into Jesus.
  - Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Cling to the truth of God's word.

14. I am so encouraged by the story of the temptation of Jesus in Matthew chapter 4.
15. For time's sake I will not read this passage, instead I will give you the highlights.
16. Jesus goes out into the wilderness, and he fasts and prays for 40 days.
17. At the end of those 40 days, when his flesh is weak, Satan shows up and begins to tempt Jesus to do things in opposition to God's will for his life.
18. I have only fasted for 40 days one time, and I have to tell you on day 41 I experienced some of the worst cravings of my flesh I have ever felt. I was weak and I was vulnerable.
19. Jesus understands the weakest moments you will ever experience, and he understands the most overwhelming temptation and attack you will ever face because he too faced them head on and was victorious.
20. And because he used tools that are available to each and every one of us, we too can be victorious.
21. I believe Jesus relied on and leaned into his father.
22. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit.
23. And he grabbed ahold of the truth of God's word.
24. Temptation number one. Turn these stones into bread. Don't you know his flesh wanted to do it. **Matthew 4:4** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (NIV)
25. Temptation number two. Throw yourself down off this temple and command the angels to catch you. Don't you know as weak as he felt, he would have loved to encourage himself by displaying his power? **Matthew 4:7** Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (NIV)
26. Temptation number three. Satan says worship me and I will give you all the kingdoms and splendor of the world. Don't you know, after all Jesus had given up to come down to earth, he longed to be in a place that was more like home. **Matthew 4:10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (NIV)
27. Jesus had at his disposal the same tools we have.

- Lean into Jesus.
- Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Hold fast to the word of God.

28. The second thing Paul told timothy he had done was...

### Finish the race.

1. It's been a very long time since I have physically run a race. But what I do remember is that in any situation where our bodies are pushed to the limit, there comes a time when we want to give up.
2. We want to quit.
3. What Paul was saying to Timothy was, I have wanted to quit lots of times, but I just kept my eyes on the prize, and I kept running.
4. Jesus did the exact same thing in his time of anguish while praying in the garden. He wanted to give up. But he kept his eyes on the prize.
5. **Matthew 26:39** Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (NIV)
6. Jesus had a prize in mind. And that prize was the salvation of all mankind.
7. He longed to make a way once and for all, a pathway to freedom and life that would never have to be repeated.
8. Jesus kept his eyes on the prize. Listen to the description of keeping our eyes on the prize in **Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NIV)
9. What is the key to our victory? When we are surrounded by sin on every side, and we are tempted to give in.
10. When we are running the race, we are quickly becoming weary and want to give up.
11. The solution? Lean into Jesus. Fix our eyes on Jesus.
12. And how does fixing our eyes on Jesus encourage us? Because it reminds us that Jesus didn't give up when what was before him was a



cruel cross, and if he didn't give up on us, we don't have to quit on Him.

13. Keep running the race and keep your eyes on Jesus and the victory will be yours.
14. And finally, Paul told Timothy, I have...

### **Kept the faith.**

1. keep trusting in God.
2. That's exactly what Jesus did. He trusted in God. **John 5:19 "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (NIV)**
3. Trusting in God is not some superhuman trait that is only available to a select few; trusting in God is on the level of and is available to everyone who will admit the same thing Jesus did.
4. The Son can do nothing by himself.
5. Keeping the faith. Trusting in God is just as close as admitting, I can't do anything on my own. I need Jesus to guide me through.
6. I'm going to lean into him, find out what he would do, and then do it.
7. That's faith.

### **Conclusion:**

1. In just a moment the worship team is going to lead us again in singing the song **"Victory in Jesus."**
2. But before we sing about victory in Jesus, we are going to practice victory in Jesus.
3. To be clear. When I talk about victory in Jesus, I'm not trying to suggest that the victory will be easy. After all, there is a fight to be fought, and there is a race to be run, and you only need faith when you can't do it on your own.
4. Victory may not be easy, but it is available to all of us.
5. This morning, the lord is in the process of restoring your victory. So, let's practice that victory together.
6. Pray.
7. Is there some area of your life where you are living in disobedience to



God's commands? Don't move away from Jesus, lean into Jesus.

8. Confess your disobedience and ask the Holy Spirit to help you obey.
9. Are you at a place where you feel like giving up? Don't kick yourself. Don't believe the lie that you are worthless just because you are tired and want to quit. Jesus wanted to quit.
10. Instead, let's keep our eyes on the prize. Jesus, for the joy set before him. What was that joy? You are that joy.
11. For the joy of bringing salvation to you, he endured the cross.
12. Confess right now. Jesus. If you had the power to endure the cross, then I believe you have the power to help me keep going.
13. Are you at a place where your faith is weak? Don't run away from that weakness, embrace that weakness.
14. Come to him and say, Jesus. I am weak and I realize I can't do anything without you. Help my faith. Show me what to do.
15. Now let's thank Him for the victory we have in Jesus.
16. Sing. Victory in Jesus.