Walking In Victory

Introduction: The title assigned me for this lecture is *Walking In Victory*. The idea of *walking*...whether that be walking in the light, or walking in the truth, or walking in love...or the many others you have considered in your summer theme...walking connotes making something a manner typical of our everyday life. We don’t occasionally do it, but generally practice it. One of the more lame statements you can make is...“Well, I did my good deed for the day.” Really? Just one? ONLY one good deed for a day?! You are trying to make yourself feel good, when you shouldn’t feel good. Stop pandering to yourself. Stop trying to give yourself brownie points, when none is deserved. *Walk* in goodness...be zealous for good works...walk, walk, walk...and then keep on walking.

Demonstration: Come from behind the pulpit and place one foot in front of the other and hold it. Am I walking? Take another step. Am I now walking? And then walk across the stage. Am I now walking? Yes! And then last walk a few steps and stub my foot so that I trip. I may trip up, stumble from time to time, but continue to be walking. And the lesson is yours. Let’s go home. - Ha!

And so now here at the last of your summer series of lectures we come to walking in *victory*...victory in Jesus. I John 5:4-5... *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Our life in Christ is one of victory. It is a triumphal procession from here to eternity. And it spreads a sweet fragrance everywhere. Oh, so sweet. How sweet it is! — It began with the victorious cry of our Savior on the cross...It is finished!! A victory cry over Satan...YOU are finished! You are through! I am crushing your
head! It is a victory cry over sin and the law that kills us all for we all break it. Listen to the Holy Spirit describe it...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. — I Cor. 15:54-57.

And so, we Christians line up right behind our Lord, as militant followers...proudly wearing His name, a name that our enemies blaspheme, but in which we revel and rejoice. **I’m a Christian.** We are the winners. We are kings. We are overcoming and sitting with Him on His throne. We are priests of the Most High God...offering up spiritual sacrifices, holy and acceptable...a sweet smelling aroma or fragrance as the victory procession marches on toward heaven. We are marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful, Zion. And we all are singing, Oh, victory in Jesus. You sing with me....

O victory in Jesus, My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me — With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him — And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory, Beneath the cleansing flood.

**Text:** I John 5:14-21...And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know
that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

**Commentary:** Let me break this down into three parts for some brief commentary...and then my sermon will be through.

1. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

This is the confidence? This is the bold assurance? You bet. The writer says by the inspiration of God in the previous verse...verse 13...I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. — I write to you Christians so that you may KNOW! **Know** that you **might** have eternal life? NO! **Know** that you **have** eternal life. See what I mean when I say the victory is won? Sure, my faithfulness until the end may not be locked in due to my freewill to walk away from the Lord, but this fight has been fixed...in a good way. The outcome has been determined. The game’s final score is...Christ beat the devil. Christ rose from the dead. Christ has eternal life. And so, get on board...get on the Lord’s side and stay on the Lord’s side, there you have a 100%, money back guarantee...you are going to heaven. No doubt about.

And with that comes great confidence. Blessed assurance...Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. We have access through Jesus to the throne of God anytime, anywhere, anyone of us. We have the ear of God always open to our requests. And if we have that open ear of God (and we most certainly do) then we are receiving the things we are requesting according to His will...for it is the Lord’s will to give us those things we request.
Do prayers make a difference? You bet they do! Is it God’s will that we pray and share our wishes with Him? You know He does. He wishes we would wish upon Him more than we do. Our problem is not over praying it is under praying. Come on, talk to Me more, the Lord in essence keeps saying. It is for your benefit, not His. He does not lose any of Himself if we don’t, but we sure do. We are drawn nearer, still nearer, close to His heart, when we lean on His breast and make our petitions known. WE are helped. He already knows what we need to ask and pray, before we even think of it. We tell God nothing He doesn’t already know...so it is for OUR sake people. OUR sake. We must confidently approach the heavenly throne to help US bring US into line with what the will of the Lord is. Can I change His mind? You bet. So get to talkin. Walk in victory when we pray. Can I get an Amen?

2. If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

And one of the greatest uses of our prayers, as a result of our steady walk with God in victory over sin and the Evil one, is to benefit others, especially a Christian brother who may be struggling with his walk with the Lord in fellowship of the light. Let’s just be plain...sin is getting the better of him at the present time. Well, then maybe we should go and hold him up...give him some props, support his feeble knees and hanging arms in despair, give him some advice, give him some encouragement, give him some love. That is all well and good and bible based, but here is another thing...pray for God to continue giving Him spiritual life, to continue keeping him in fellowship, to continue to keep him from the devil, to continue to make him stand.
You know what? This must be big for John to say it here. He could have gone into prodding the saints, who are not at the moment struggling as much with sin, to go visit him, or give him a call, or write him a card...but he didn’t! He said pray. And he says this with great confidence. You are and have a most powerful tool of assistance for that brother...and what is that tool? Its your confident connection with God... and then get this...it is a 100% sure thing to work. I can’t say for sure cards, calls and visits will help...maybe so, maybe not, but this one will work. I am confidently hoping? NO! I confidently know because God says so! It is written! It...will...be...done. God will give him life because you asked! Not him, but YOU asked. He may be so weak like Simon the sorcerer, who when Peter reamed him out about trying to buy the power of the Spirit, and told him to pray God’s forgiveness, that he begged Peter, you pray for me. Man, this is powerful stuff!

Sometimes saints can sin and it leads to separation from God, but not always. If the brother has abandoned God, this will not work for that one...for it is not God’s will to forgive a brother who walks willfully in sin, just because you asked God to. So, we aren’t talking about that. But, I sin everyday, we Christians all do, we all stumble in many ways, is how James puts it in his book, but, we are not separated from God...we still have fellowship with each other as I walk in the light. All my unrighteousness is being cleansed faithfully by God in the blood of Jesus, so that fellow Christians can be mutually praying for one another everyday and we have the faithful promise that life continues...even for the brother maybe struggling a lot.

Illustrate again...walking and stubbing toe a lot. But, I’m still walking in the light. Help me. Help me. Pray for me.

3. We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.
We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

One last reference to the brother we know who is sinning unto death. The brother who keeps on sinning unrepentantly, with no acknowledgement and admission of it, this is sinning unto death. Ok, we are through with that...But, God protects those of us who are not walking in sin, but walking in righteousness. I say one more time...Our walk is not without exception. A walk in sin may even occasionally do something right, but his walk is still in darkness. The vilest of men, may help an old lady cross the street, especially if it is his mom, but he is still the rankest of sinners. And vice versa...you and I can walk in the light, as God is in the light, and have the blood of His son cleanse away all our unrighteousness. What?! You heard right. We can walk in the light, as God is in the light and have the sins we commit, while walking in the light, forgiven. Walking in the light is not walking without a misstep. That is not what walking is. God protects those of us who are walking so. Huge amen needed on that point. And I don’t even know how He does that. But, one thing is for certain, we will be victorious because God is protecting us from the Evil One.

We know we are in the minority in the world. Generally the world is going to hell. Evil Satan has them captured...not against their will, but through their weakness of mind and spirit to take a stand against him...he’s gotcha. He rules predominantly in the world. Most people are not walking in the strait and narrow, as we sometimes call it. Generally speaking the whole world is walking right behind the Devil into hell. Satan is being sent by God to hell to punish him and his angels, and most people are going right down the same path of condemnation. Sad, but true.
But, you and I know better. In Christ, though we are in the slim minority, we have received from Jesus the truth about this. If we stay with what we know to be true, we are going to be ok. Stay with the victor, Jesus.

4. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Odd way to end a book. Odd way to end a thought. But, it just goes to show how supernatural this book of Scripture is. We know Jesus. He is the true God. He is the way to eternal life. We know this. He is the one true and living God in whom we live, move and have our being. And so...and so...and so little children...you and I with the heart of a humble, obedient, little child...stick with your Father and His Son and keep away from any other god. Do not let anything or any one stand between you and the true God. Do not let any other god be above the true God. It is a first commandment written stone...Do not have any other gods before Me. It is so easily done, so that we must much more with diligence keep ourselves from idols and be loyal only to the victorious Son of our salvation. Amen!

Conclusion: But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. — II Cor. 2:14.

My dear friends, we are continually living in victory. We are walking in victory. The eternal outcome of the struggle is known. Jesus wins! And so let us stay on the winning side. Let us rejoice in this blessed hope. And let us walk in victory everyday.

Amen?