

Lesson 6

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the basic principles for a Victorious Christian Life.
- To know how to maintain victory.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. KNOW THE LORD
 - A. People in the Bible who knew God.
 - B. How can we know God?
 - C. How does God reveal Himself to us?

- II. KNOW THE WORD
 - A. What does the Word of God mean to me?
 - B. What should be my response to the Word of God?

- III. KNOW YOURSELF
 - A. What do you think of yourself?
 - B. What do you need to know about yourself?

- IV. KNOW YOUR ENEMY
 - A. Who is Satan?
 - B. What are the tactics of our enemy?
 - C. What do we need to know about our enemy?
 - D. How can we walk in victory?

- V. KNOW HOW TO MAINTAIN THE VICTORY.
 - A. Maintain a daily Quiet Time.
 - B. Have regular Christian fellowship.
 - C. Guard your thoughts.
 - D. Guard your speech.
 - E. Be disciplined in your lifestyle.
 - F. Get rid of sin.

I. KNOW THE LORD

*"The people who **KNOW** their God will display strength and do great things."*

Daniel 11:32

If we know God, we will be strong and know victory. If we don't know God, we will be weak and defeated.

In Basic Doctrine we have learned about the character of God through His names, His personality, His nature.

A. People in the Bible who knew God

1. **Moses**

- a. God spoke to him as a man with a friend.

"With Moses I speak face to face."

Exodus 33:11

- b. Moses faithful in all God's house.

Hebrews 3:5

- Short history of his life **Hebrews 11:23-29**
- Called by God from Burning Bush
- Led more than 2 million people from Egypt
- Crossed Red Sea
- Went up on mountain and saw God's glory
- Given 10 commandments
- Struck rock and water came out

2. **David**

- a. Wrote the Psalms while sitting out on the hillside looking after sheep.

Psalms 23

- b. God helped him to kill a lion and a bear, therefore had confidence God would help him kill the giant.

- c. King over Israel. Brought God's presence in amongst his people.

3. **Daniel**

"Could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption ... he was faithful ... no negligence ... found in him." **Daniel 6:4**

- a. King had a dream. None of the wise men could tell him what it meant. Called Daniel in. *"There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries and He has revealed to you what will take place in the future."*

Was able to tell King both his dream and the interpretation.

- b. Prayed three times a day, despite persecution and threat of death. Lions' den - God has closed their mouths and they have not harmed me.

4. **Stephen**

- a. Looked up in to heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. **Acts 7:55-56**

- b. Pleaded for them because of their ignorance.
v. 60

5. **Paul**

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble, hardship, persecution etc.... more than conquerors." **Romans 8:35-37**

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

2 Corinthians 4:8

Paul's sufferings.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

"I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." **2 Corinthians 12:10**

"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

B. How can we know God?

1. As our **Creator**.

a. In the beginning God created. It didn't just evolve! Different kinds of flowers, fish, birds. **Genesis 1:1**

b. Seven days of creation. **Genesis 1**

c. Made man in His image. **Genesis 1:26**

d. Builder of all things is God. **Hebrews 3:4**

"O Lord, it is you who has made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them." **Acts 4:24**

"You did form my inward parts; you formed me in my mother's womb." **Psalm 139:13**

2. As a **loving Father**.

May have wrong concept if earthly father is not good.

Prodigal Son **Luke 15:11-32**

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters." **2 Corinthians 6:18**

"How much more will your Father give good gifts to those who ask Him." **Matthew 7:11**

"We have received the spirit of sonship where we can call God Father." **Romans 8:15**

3. As a good **shepherd**.

a. **Psalm 23**

b. The sheep hear his voice **John 10:1-5**
He calls his sheep by name and leads them
The sheep follow him because they know his voice.
The sheep will not follow a stranger.

c. Door to sheepfold, laying down life. **John 10:11**

d. He knows who are His, and they know Him.
v. 14

e. Give them eternal life and no one can snatch them out of his hand.
v. 27-29

4. As the **planner** of my life.

"For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your good and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

5. As the **ONLY** God.

"I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me."
Exodus 20:2-3

"There is no other God beside Me, a righteous God and a Saviour."
Isaiah 45:21

6. As our **refuge** and **strength**. **Psalm 46:1**

7. As our **rock, fortress, deliverer, shield** and **stronghold**.

Wise man built his house upon the rock **Psalm 18:2**

8. As a God Who responds to **faith**. **Hebrews 11:6.**

Jesus said, if we had faith as small as a grain of mustard seed we can speak to a mountain.
Matthew 17:20

God has given to each a measure of faith. We can ask God to increase our faith.
Romans 12:3

9. As a God we can **approach**.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." **James 4:8**

"We can draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." **Hebrews 4:16**

C. *How does God reveal Himself to us?*

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Through nature . | Romans 1:19-20 |
| 2. | Through our conscience . | Romans 2:15 |
| 3. | Through His Word . | Hebrews 1:1 |
| 4. | Through Jesus . | Hebrews 1:2 |

II. KNOW THE WORD

"All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness:" **2 Timothy 3:16**

It is totally true, absolutely reliable and the final authority for all we do as Christians. It is God's Word to us - God speaking to us. To know the Word, and what God is saying to us, we need to spend time in it every day.

A. *What does the Word of God mean to me?*

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Source of life and strength . | John 6:33 |
| | OT prophet referred to God's Word as bread to eat. Satisfies hunger in our spirit. | |
| 2. | Lamp to our feet and a light to our path. | Psalm 119:105 |
| | In OT days soldiers wore small lamp on knee to light up the next step. | |
| 3. | Keeps us from sin . | Psalm 119:11 |
| | The Holy Spirit will bring it to our remembrance. | |
| 4. | Weapon against the enemy. | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| | Jesus also used it: | |
| | a) To rebuke tradition and hypocrisy. | Mark 7:6-9 |
| | b) To correct wrong doctrine. | Mark 12:24-27 |

- c) To **teach** the way of salvation. **Luke 10:25-28**
5. **Cleanses** me. **John 15:3**
- As I read it, and meditate on it, it cleanses my thoughts.
6. **Builds** me up in my spirit. **Acts 20:32**
7. **Encourages** me and gives me **hope**. **Romans 15:4**
8. It will not return empty to God but will accomplish the **purpose** for which He sent it. **Isaiah 55:16-17**
- Confidence we can have when we share the Word with others.
9. **Stirs up our faith**. **Romans 10:17**
10. Helps us to **grow**. **1 Peter 2:2**
11. Will never **pass away**. **Luke 21:33**
12. **Powerful, active, sharper** than a two-edged sword dividing soul and spirit, able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

B. What should be my response to the Word of God?

1. Let it **dwell** in me. **Colossians 3:16**
- Need to meditate on it. Memorize.
- Parable of Sower. **Matthew 13:3-8, 19-23**
- As Word dwells in us we will be fruitful for the Kingdom of God.
2. **Confess** it. **Romans 10:8-9**
- Confessing the Word can be very powerful in our lives. It leads to a renewing of the mind, a cleansing of our heart, a disciplining of our tongue and it brings faith. Confess who you are in Christ. Confess the victory He has won for you. Confess that "*All things work together for good for those who love Him.*" etc.

3. **Study it.**

2 Timothy 2:15

Let God speak to you through His Word. Don't just flip through. Have to dig deep for priceless gems. Can pray-read verses of Scripture that mean a lot to us.

4. **Apply it to my life.**

As God shows me things in His Word apply them to my life. *"Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you etc."*

5. **Obey it.**

James 1:22-25

Be doers and not hearers only.

Obeying God's Word likened to wise man who built his house upon the rock and it stood firm in times of storm. **Matthew 7:24-27**

6. **Share it.**

The Word has power to bring men to Christ. God's Word is powerful. God has promised that His Word will not return to Him empty. As we share it with other believers we build up and encourage each other.

III. KNOW YOURSELF

"As a man thinks in himself, so is he."

Proverbs 23:7

A. ***What do you think of yourself?***

Some people think too **highly** of themselves, but others think too **lowly** of themselves. A low self-image hinders your effectiveness in God's work and does not help you to have victory in your Christian walk. You develop negative attitudes and ideas about yourself.

We are trapped by the words of our mouth. Three things happen when you have a low self-image.

Proverbs 6:2

1. You have no **confidence** in yourself.

2. You cannot find your **purpose** in life.

3. You have a sense of **rejection, failure** and **insecurity**.
4. Moses experienced this when God called him from the burning bush to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt **Exodus 3:11-4:13**
 - a. *Who am I?*
 - b. *Who will I say sent me?*
 - c. *What if they won't believe me?*
 - d. *I'm not a good speaker*
 - e. *Can't you send someone else?*
 - f. God asked him, "What do you have in your hand?" – just a shepherd staff. But as Moses surrendered what he had to the Lord, God used that staff to:
 - **Perform** miracles in Egypt
 - **Divide** the Red Sea so they could walk across on dry land
 - **Struck** rock and water came out
5. Gideon was another. **Judges 6:11-16**
 - a. *How shall I deliver Israel?*
 - b. *My family is the least.*
 - c. *I am the youngest in my family.*

But God used him to bring victory to Israel. He showed Gideon that it did not depend on his weakness but on God's strength.

6. Cause for low self-esteem can be:
 - a. Bad **relationship** with parents
 - b. **Critical** parents
 - c. Parents who **over-disciplined**
 - d. **Adopted** child
 - e. Bad **experience** in school, or with friends
 - f. **Death** of a parent when young
7. We can receive healing through Jesus.

"He carried our griefs and sorrows ... by His stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:4-5

We need to know we are accepted by God who created us. We need to know who we are in Christ and begin to see ourselves as God sees us. This will help us to have confidence in ourselves and in God, help us to feel secure knowing that we are accepted, and help us to be successful in what God asks us to do.

"You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. ... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in secret."
God doesn't make mistakes. **Psalm 139:13-15**

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." **Ephesians 2:10**

B. What do you need to know about yourself?

1. You are **valuable** to God. His special treasure. **Matthew 6:26**
2. You are **forgiven** of all your sins. **1 John 1:9**
3. You are a **new creation** - the old life has been replaced by Christ's life in you. **2 Corinthians 5:17**
4. You are **crucified** with Christ. **Romans 6:6**
5. You are a **child** of God. **John 1:12**
A **joint-heir** with Christ. **Romans 8:16-17**
6. You are **complete** in Christ - nothing more to be added. **Colossians 2:9-10**
Work to be done, but nothing more to be added!
7. You are **righteous** in Christ - in right standing with God as if you had never done anything wrong. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
7. All my **needs**, in every area of my life, are met in Christ. **Philippians 4:19**
9. You can do all **things** through Christ ... **Philippians 4:13**
10. God **works** in you. **Philippians 2:13**
11. You have been taken from **Satan's** kingdom and are now in **God's** Kingdom. **Colossians 1:13-14**
12. You are more than a **conqueror**. **Romans 8:37**

13. You are seated in **heavenly** places in Christ Jesus, far above all powers of darkness ... **Ephesians 1:20-22,26**
14. You have been given **authority** over all the works of the enemy. **Luke 10:9**
14. You have been given authority to **bind** and **loose**. **Matthew 16:19, 12:29**

IV. KNOW YOUR ENEMY

A. "Who is Satan?"

Two Kingdoms opposed ~~story~~

Ezekiel 28:11-19

Satan

Darkness

Evil

Death

Accuses

Deceives

Takes Word

Jesus

Light

Righteousness

Life

Forgives

Leads into truth

Sows Word

B. What are the tactics of our enemy?

1. He **tempts**.

Tempted Jesus by appealing to three desires. **Matthew 4:3**

Body - satisfy the flesh with food - after fasting!
Soul - offered possessions - god of this world.
Spirit - worship him.

Each time Jesus defeated him with the Word of God - His sword!

2. He **lies**.

Father of lies. Whispers lies to us.

John 8:44

Appears as angel of light.

2 Cor 11:14

3. He **deceives**. **Revelation 20:3,8**
4. He **accuses**.
'You call yourself a Christian!!' **Revelation 12:10**
Tries to make you feel guilty. Condemns. **Romans 8:1**
5. He **steals, kills and destroys**.
Seeks to steal Word from our heart, to kill our joy and faith in God, and to destroy our Christian life. **John 10:10**
6. He seeks to **devour**.
Prowls about like a roaring lion. **1 Peter 5:8**
7. **Ruler of darkness**. **Ephesians 6:12**
8. **Blinds** people's minds so they cannot receive the Gospel. **2 Corinthians 4:4**

C. *What do we need to know about our enemy?*

1. His work is **destroyed**. **1 John 3:8**
Does not mean he is not around anymore, but:
 - *Has been made powerless*
 - *He has been brought to nothing*
 - *He has been made of no effect*
 - *He has been paralyzed*
2. Jesus has **triumphed** over him and made a public spectacle of him. **Colossians 2:15**
He has been stripped of his authority and disgraced.
3. His end is to be thrown into the **fiery lake** forever. **Revelation 20:7-10**
4. Jesus has **ALL** authority. **Matthew 28:20**
This means the devil has **NO** authority.

5. Jesus has given us **authority** over the devil. **Luke 10:17-19**

Jesus' victory is ours.

D. How can we walk in victory?

Submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

1. *How do we resist?*

Put on the whole armor of God so you can stand against (resist) the tricks of the devil.

2. Christian soldier. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

- **Belt of truth** - surrounded by truth - Jesus is the truth.
v. 14
- **Breastplate** of righteousness - in right standing with God.
Guards our heart. **v. 14**
- **Gospel of peace** - feet fitted with the readiness. His peace is within us. Being ready to share the Gospel wherever He would lead us. **v. 15**
- **Shield of faith** - faith in God and His victory over the enemy.
v. 16
- **Helmet of Salvation** - covers mind. We KNOW we are born again. **v. 17**
- **Sword of the Spirit** - Word of God. A weapon of attack.
v. 18
- **Praying in the Spirit** on all occasions. **v. 18**

2. Use the **weapons** God has given us to fight against the enemy.

3. Our weapons of warfare are divinely powerful for the destruction of strongholds. **2 Corinthians 10:4**

He has promised to train us for the battle. **2 Samuel 22:35**

No weapon formed against me will prosper. **Isaiah 54:17**

a) The **blood of Jesus**. A protection. Passover.

Plead covering of blood when go to a temple, near an idol shelf,
in areas of danger or when sense fear.

b) The **Name of Jesus**. **Philippians 2:9-10**

David came in the Name of the living God! Name has authority.

"In the Name of Jesus ..." Don't use the most powerful Name
wrongly or in fun!

c) **Word of God**. **Hebrews 4:12**

Defeat each lie of the devil with a verse of scripture.

d) **Praise** - Paul and Silas, Jehoshaphat.

3. Keys to Victory. **Revelation 12:11**

Overcame him by:

a) **Blood of Lamb**

b) Word of their **testimony**

c) Loving not their **lives** unto death

4. Key Bible verses to remember:

a) *"Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world."*
1 John 4:4

b) *"Thanks be unto God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
1 Corinthians 15:57

c) *"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*
Romans 8:37

V. KNOW HOW TO MAINTAIN THE VICTORY

A. *Maintain a daily Quiet Time.*

For any relationship to grow and develop, there needs to be good communication. For our relationship with God to grow we need to talk to, and listen to Him.

1. Why is Quiet Time important?
 - a) As we have regular **fellowship** with God we will grow spiritually mature.
 - b) A regular quiet time is an expression of our **love** for, and **commitment** to, God and His ways.
 - c) During quiet time we can receive **direction** and **guidance** from God for each day.
 - d) Our spirit will be **encouraged** and **strengthened** and this will help us to live as God wants, especially when we face hard times and temptations.

2. How to make your Quiet Time work:
 - a) Choose a **place** that is quiet, without interruption.

Mark 1:35	-	Jesus went to a solitary place
Mark 6:46	-	He went to the hills in the evening
Luke 5:16	-	He withdrew to a lonely place
Luke 6:12	-	He spent the night praying

 - b) Choose a definite **time** and build it into your day.

God deserves our best time so don't make it when you are really tired. For me it is first thing in the morning.

3. Quiet Time has three parts:
 - a) **Praise.**

"I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalm 34:1

- Sing songs you know.
- Sing from Scripture.
- Sing new songs.
- Praise sets your mind on the Lord.
- Praise drives the enemy away.
- Praise prepares your heart to receive God's Word.

b) Reading the **Word of God**.

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." **Joshua 1:8**

- (i) Have **systematic** reading. Two chapters a day of the NT and you can read the whole NT in 4 months.
- (ii) Ask the **Holy Spirit** to be your teacher as you read.
- (iii) **Meditate** on what you have read.
- (iv) **Speak** out loud some of the Scriptures in prayer or praise. Speaking it out feeds your spirit, and helps you to resist Satan's attacks - Jesus' example.
- (v) **Write** down what God has impressed on.
- (vi) Put in to **practice** what you have read.
- (vii) **Memorize** a key verse of Scripture.

c) **Prayer**.

- (i) **Thanksgiving** and **praise** for Who God is, and what He has done for you.
- (ii) **Confess** any sin or unforgiving attitude that the Holy Spirit reminds you of.
- (iii) Ask God for things you **need** - for your day, your life - and ask in faith.
- (iv) **Pray** for others: family, friends, Church, country, other countries. Let Holy Spirit guide you. Some people keep a prayer list.

Others pray for a specific thing each day:

- Family
- Friends
- Church
- Your ministry
- Missions and missionaries
- Self
- Country and government

(v) **Thank** God for answered prayer.

(vi) Leave time for God to **speak** to you personally.

B. *Have regular Christian fellowship.*

We are Christ's body. Christ is the Head. Each member has a part to play and each part is important to the body. One part cannot say it doesn't want to be part of the body for the rest of the body will suffer. **1 Corinthians 12**

If one members suffers, all suffers; if one rejoices all rejoice. Encourage one another. **v. 26**

Fellowship of the early Church: **Acts 2:42-47**

- 1) Instruction in the **Word**.
Communion
Prayer **v. 42**
- 2) **Miracles** were taking place. **v. 43**
- 3) **Shared** everything together v.44 -
- 4) **Visited** each other in their homes and shared meals.
v. 45
- 5) **Worshipped** together **v. 46**

The result of fellowship: new members were being added daily!

C. *Guard your thoughts.*

The enemy attacks a Christian in his thought life. The way we think affects our life.

"As a man thinks in his heart so is he."

Proverbs 23:7

"Take captive every thought."

2 Corinthians 10:5

When wrong thoughts come - fear, unbelief, defeat, impurity etc. deal with them straight away. Don't entertain them or you will give the devil a foothold.

Philippians 4:8 tells us what to think on:

Whatever is **true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and praiseworthy.**

D. Guard your speech.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Proverbs 18:2

"A great forest is set aflame by a small spark."

James 3:5

- Words can **hurt** or **heal**
- Bring **sadness** or **joy**
- **Tear** down or **build** up
- Cause **fear** or **love**
- Create **death** or **life**

E. Be Disciplined in your lifestyle.

God disciplines those He **loves.**

Hebrews 12:5-11

- He disciplines us as **sons** because He is our Father.
- We **respect** our earthly father for disciplining us.
- God disciplines us for our **good** that we may share in His holiness
- God expects us to live disciplined lives so we are an **example** to our children, to our Christian family, and to non-believers.

F. Get rid of sin.

"If I have sin in my heart the Lord will not hear me." **Psalm 66:18**

Because God is a **HOLY** God. Keep up-to-date account with God.

Story of Achan's sin. Israel did not have victory until dealt with sin in their midst.

Joshua 7:1-20

God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to endure,
and will provide a way of escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13

"I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my ways" - Hallelujah!

Ezekiel 36:27