

VICTORIOUS

(νίκη / νικάω)

To overcome, overthrow, conquer.

Throughout my ministry people have come up to me and said, “Pastor, I can’t seem to get the victory!” Time and time again I have seen the desperation in their faces. So what is the answer? How can we be sure of getting the victory in every situation? The truth is, it’s not an easy question to answer. We have all probably heard numerous sermons about victory, or living a victorious life. Joel Osteen once said, “You cannot expect victory and plan for defeat.” This immediately brings to mind 1 John 5:4, ***“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.”***

Note, this is the only place in the New Testament the Greek word ‘nike’ is used and translated “victory.” Whenever a word is used so selectively in the Bible I am always curious to find out why. So let us see if we can unravel it in the context of overcoming the world.

This verse is written in two sections, the first being, ***“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.”*** It is important to notice that it does not say “whoever” but “whatever,” implying that anything which is birthed in God has the power to overcome conditions birthed in the natural realm (the world). This is fully in line with 2 Corinthians 4:18, ***“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*** You have the power ‘right now’ to change your circumstances by using what is birthed in God to overcome them! Too many of us are trying to gain the victory over things that have been birthed outside of God by using our natural abilities. Fire does not put out fire! You need to use the water of God’s Word.

The second section in the verse is, ***“And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.”*** And this IS the victory that has (*past tense*) overcome all the things birthed outside of God – our faith. True faith has its origins in God, nowhere else, and this is what has secured the victory for us. When you have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and you apply God’s infallible word to your situation, nothing can prevent you from being victorious! FAITH is the victory! It doesn’t say that your faith carries you into victory. But rather, that faith is the victory. Faith itself - the reality of faith in us – that is the victory!

Therefore, the victory does not begin "out here," in the circumstances of life. Victory begins within – between God and you. The more you surrender to God and allow His Spirit to birth things ‘in’ and ‘through’ you, the more victories you will experience in life. And remember this, your faith has already overcome every negative situation that is confronting you. That IS the victory – your FAITH!