

**What is a Victor?**

A victor is someone who has the victory.

He is a person who wins.

How many of you feel like winners today?

How many of you act like winners today?

Do you know what a winner looks like?

Have you seen after a sports match of some kind, the winner is applauded by the crowds; they receive a medal or a cup or some sort of trophy for their achievement?

The winner is joyful and in high spirits, because he overcame his opponent or the test that he was put through.

**What is a Victim?**

Today we only switch on the tv or open a newspaper to hear about someone that has been a victim.

A person who has come to feel helpless and passive in the face of misfortune or ill-treatment.

Who has been a victim or felt like a victim?

Who feels like a victim today?

If you don't feel like a victor, you are most probably feeling like a victim.

To be honest, we act like victims most the time.

*"Why is this happening to me?", "Why does nothing ever work for me?", "Everybody else has this but I never have."*

I watched a movie the other day where the man pranked his fiancé to believe that he lost his job.

The man had a high-profile job earning a substantial salary.

He said to his fiancé that they would have to downscale the wedding, sell the nice sports car and so on.

The fiancé was in tears, how could this be happening to her?

What did he do to lose his job?

She became the victim in the picture and started looking to blame someone else.

The man was astonished as he thought he was the victim.

### **Symptoms of being a Victim:**

1. Being critical of others, including God. When you hate people, any slight thing they do to you will make you feel victimized by them.
2. Being full of excuses: As long as you have excuses, you will remain a victim. Instead of working hard and trusting God for a breakthrough, you are excusing yourself. **Luke 14:1–24**
3. Blaming other people, even God. Adam blamed Eve in the garden for giving him the fruit to eat. The Christian faith is an individual faith; whatever you are going through, you are responsible for yourself and being victorious over the predicament.
4. Sense of hopelessness, feeling trapped: The 10 spies in **Numbers 13** confessed they couldn't accomplish what God said they could do. The way you see yourself is the way the devil and others see you.
5. Self-pity: seeking sympathy, having the "poor old me" mentality.
6. Deep feeling that others don't like or respect you. You feel worthless.

### ***Testing Your Faith***

#### **James 1:1-4**

*James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*

### **Challenges:**

Even though we are saved, we face many trials of many sorts.

Being saved doesn't mean that life is just plain sailing all the way.

If Jesus was tempted and persecuted, we will be too.

Jesus lived the life of a **victor** not a victim.

### **Mindset:**

We have been learning that the way we think is very important.

Our thoughts/mind influences our will and emotions.

The way we think influences the way we feel and act.

If we think like a victim, we will live like a victim.

If we think like a victor, we will live like a victor.

### ***Proverbs 23:7***

*For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.*

### ***1 John 4:17***

*By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.*

## **What does the Word say?**

### ***Romans 8:37-39***

*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### ***Our Victory in Christ***

#### ***Romans 8:26-36***

*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."*

### **The Spirit Helps in Our Weakness:**

We feel weak because we want to do things in our own abilities.

Our own abilities are limited and will disappoint us.

The Holy Spirit enables us to do things beyond our own capabilities.

We don't get the glory; all the glory goes to God.

### **God Causes All things to work together for Good:**

We must realise that God is in control of the universe, including your life and situations.

He will cause those challenges and setbacks to work for your good.

It is when we feel that things are out of control that we become victims.

We lose our faith and trust in God that He will cause things to work to our advantage.

Let's use the church ground as an example.

We could let the delay in us obtaining the ground demotivate us and make us give up.

Instead, God is using the delay to put up infrastructure for us.

### **Predestined to be conformed to the Image of His Son:**

We are not what people see or think we are.

We are who God says we are.

We often see ourselves through the opinions of people.

If you look like Jesus, how can you be a loser or a victim?

### **If God is for us who can be against us?**

We forget who God is.

We need to remind ourselves daily who God is.

Give God glory for who He is.

If the Creator of the universe is for you, how can you be a victim?

### **Who will separate us from the love of God?**

There is security in love.

When we are loved and accepted, we are confident and feel we belong.

Everyone wants to feel like they belong.

When you love someone, you do everything for that person.

You would protect them, help them and provide for them where you can.

The almighty and all-powerful God says He loves you.

He assures us that nothing in heaven or earth will come between His love for us.

### ***The Triumphs of Faith***

#### ***Hebrews 11:1-40***

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF*

HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had [aa]provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.