

VICTORY CLASS, LESSON ONE

You Can Prosper and Have Good Success.....VICTORY!

Lesson #1 (Not in the book) 3-9-2008

1. INTRODUCTION TO PROMOTE THE VALUE OF THE VICTORY CLASS – EXCITING, ENTHUSIASTIC, **WELCOME!**

WELCOME. INTRODUCE I-52 PLAN:

I - IS FOR INVITE 1 FRIEND TO “BE YOUR GUEST EVERY WEEK” 52 WEEKS A YEAR!

TELL MY GOAL, SELL VALUE OF MY GOAL!

I Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God which gives us the victory (not the losses) through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Personally for my family, for my friends, for my church, for my ministries, for my job, VICTORY IS MY GOAL! IS IT YOURS? YOU CAN DO IT! Y.C.D.I. Phillipians 4:13 CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF MY POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

Theme verses: I Corinthians 15:57,58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. “TNLT translates verse 58 like this:” be strong (weak) and steady (unsteady), always (never) enthusiastic about the Lord’s work, for you know nothing (everything) you do for the Lord is ever useless (useless).” The words I’ve included in parenthesis give the opposite, negative message that God does not want us to believe or do. ☺

2. MY CHALLENGE TO YOU, TODAY..... **BE VICTORIOUS! DON’T BE A LOSER!**

It takes commitment! Define commitment: Commitment is “the absolute, total focus on a cause or goal until that cause or goal is achieved, completed or reached!” 24-7-365! No holds bared.....That’s genuine commitment. God has commanded us to be committed in His Word!

IT’S YOUR CHOICE! YOU CAN DO IT! Y.C.D.I.

Do you want to be committed? Will you be committed? If not, why not?
Friends, “you won’t truly commit to a cause until you truly believe!”

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO? YOU CAN DO IT! Y.C.D.I.

“Remember; Jesus Died for You (us) Jesus committed to you! (personally, individually). Won’t you (we) commit to Him? Won’t you (we) live for Him?”

It will take discipline; self discipline. It will take work. It will be hard work. But it is worth it and YOU CAN DO IT! Y.C.D.I. It’s your choice IF you want to have success, prosperity and victory. Here’s how I Biblically define success: (BE SUCCESSFUL)

My personal success is 1) establishing realistic goals for myself as an individual and 2) then achieving those goals to the best of my own God given individual abilities using the time, talent and treasure that God has “loaned” to me while I am here on this earth.

3. YOU HAVE ENTERED (YOU ARE IN) “A BATTLE” SPIRITUALLY! (BAD NEWS ☹)

Or at least I hope you have (are). ☺ The second you make your choice to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have 3 real, genuine, powerful adversaries to battle and fight against. They are 1.) Satan, the Devil, 2.) The world, of which Satan is the god (ruler) of, and 3.) the flesh, our old, adamic, sin nature. Mankind is inherently wicked. Our nature is to do wrong, to do bad things. We are born with this sin nature. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (good).” Good versus Evil (Devil). “G vrs E” God versus Satan. The problem is both natures, good and evil, live inside my body and mind. (one body, two natures) I was born physically in August of 1948 with my evil nature. I was born again spiritually in January 1975. When I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, in January of 1975, instantly the Holy Spirit of God came to live inside my body and mind as well. I Cor. 6:19

BECAUSE BOTH NATURES NOW LIVE INSIDE MY BODY, I AM IN A BATTLE!

My body, and yours too, is the temple of the living God here on this earth. (Expound both natures..... good angel on one shoulder....devil on the other.) II Corinthians 5:17, expand this verse. It's true. It's real. It's genuine.... IT IS a battle we are in! HOWEVER; I CAN HAVE VICTORY. YOU CAN HAVE VICTORY, WE CAN HAVE VICTORY. HOW DO I KNOW THIS? I Corinthians 15:57 GOD SAID SO IN HIS WORD! Our goal is victory!

CONGRATULATIONS! (pause.....wait for their “Thank You” response ☺)

IF you have accepted and received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. IF you have confessed that you are a sinner and asked God to forgive your sins because of your faith and trust in Jesus, you are to be congratulated. When anyone congratulates you, your natural, conditioned reply is “Thank You”. The Christian life, by far, is the only truly joy filled life that any man or woman, young or old, can ever have. 1.) Receiving Jesus as your Savior; however, is only the beginning. There are so many other things to add to your “new life” as you “grow” and mature spiritually in Christ. 2.) Now you must learn to make Jesus your Lord. Remember...It's your choice. Y.C.D.I.

4. REWARDS FOR SERVICE (Taken from the John Maxwell Leadership Bible) II Corinthians 5:9-11 especially verse 10.

The Judgment Seat of Christ – v9: Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **v10:** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **v11:** Knowing, therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. (**v20:** Persuade to be saved!)

Reward vs. Inheritance: What a Christian Leader Can Expect from His Labor. (2 Corinthians 5:10) Rewards For Service

Every Christian leader needs to remember that we will face the judgment seat of Christ. This event is not the Great White Throne judgment, mentioned in the Book of Revelation, for that judgment concerns sin, and every Christian already has passed through that judgment based on Jesus' work on the Cross. At the judgment seat of Christ, we will be (rewarded) acclaimed or admonished (rebuked) for the labor (works) we give (after) our conversion. Paul mentions the testing of our work (1 Cor. 3:12-15; Eph. 6:8). Note the difference between inheritance and rewards:

Inheritance – SALVATION FOR FAITH

1. Based on Jesus' merits
2. Given freely by God's grace
3. The condition: being a son or daughter

4. Salvation based on birthright
Child of God
5. We must have faith in Christ
6. Secure eternally now

Reward – FOR SERVICE

1. Based on our service
2. Given in proportion to our work(s)
3. The condition: being a laborer,
a servant, a slave
4. Blessing based on obedience

5. We must be faithful to Him
6. Pending

Faithful Christian leaders can expect their inheritance to include both the gift of salvation and the blessing of a reward for their spiritual leadership. The Bible teaches that rewards in heaven will be handed out justly, but not equally. Our degree of faithfulness determines our heavenly reward and responsibility (Luke 19:11-26). Equal opportunities Matthew 25:15 unequal gifts, talents, abilities

5. THE PLAN FOR VICTORY

In this Bible Study lasting only 8 short weeks, you will be shown seven wonderful basic steps. God Himself, the Author, personally guarantees that IF you do these commandments, you will have joy, happiness, peace, contentment.... Yes VICTORY...in your Christian life. Your Pastor, as your spiritual leader, your "over-shepherd" and I, John Linnehan, your teacher, as a 30 plus years veteran Christian, plead with you. We earnestly ask you to follow God's leadership from His Word and make these basic principles the foundation for your entire life. Make these seven basic "habits" (expand: good habits/verses bad habits) the plan for your life. **Remember.... It's your choice to have Victory or not:** To omit or not do any of these commands is to "Rob Yourself" of the victory God intends for you to have. God wants you to have an "abundant life", a victorious life AND YOU CAN HAVE IT by making each one of these steps an important "priority" part of your life.....you must develop good positive habits! Matthew 6:33 PRIORITIES! It's your choice.
Y.C.D.I.

6. YOU CAN EITHER OBEY OR DISOBEY: OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IS THE PLAN, THE "BOTTOM LINE" FOR YOUR VICTORY! CHOOSE OBEDIENCE: REMEMBER..... IT'S YOUR CHOICE © Y.C.D.I.

Read, expand, slowly, this is very important! Joshua 1:7-8 use my personal paraphrase: Background: Moses turns leadership of Israel nation over to Joshua. The verses are God's challenges, promises, commands and directions for 1.) Joshua, 2.) the Jews, (His chosen people then) 3.) for us as Christians (His chosen people today!) Notice: The theme of "obedience" is all through the Bible as the key to Victory. Read PSL 1:1-3 Choice, not chance determines IF you (I) (We) will be victorious. It's your choice! **YOU CAN DO IT! GOD SAYS YOU CAN!** Joshua did. Joshua said in Joshua 24:14 & 15 "Choose you this day whom ye will serve....But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Good Choice! © (What other gods are you serving: god of pleasure, sports, business, family, money, anything that comes between you and God spending time together, is your god with a little g) "You will be in a minority numerically of Christians that obey God's commands but God plus one equals a majority." **GOD + 1 = 's A MAJORITY.**

**JOHN 14:15 IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.
OBEY MY COMMANDMENTS!**

7. REMEMBER OUR COMMITMENT DISCUSSION EARLIER

(Even though initially we must choose to accept Christ; thereafter our commitment is not a matter of choice....It's a matter of obedience.)

Question 1: How do we prove our faith? By our Good Works. James 2:17,18,20,26
Eph 2:8,9 We are saved by faith alone “not by works.”

Question 2: How do we prove our commitment? By our obedience. **It's your choice, You Can Do It!**

Commitment.....I can tell you pretty accurately by the end of this class who is going to be victorious.....but I won't ☺....But I could! ☺ (Obedience is the key to Victory! Solomon “the wisest man who had ever lived” according to the Bible said the following: Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.”) Fear means to respect and it also means to be afraid of God. God will discipline his spiritual children (God's word, the Bible, teaches physical corporal punishment (aka spanking) for physical children, same for disobedient spiritual children.

8. CONCLUSION CLOSING COMMENTS

So “JUST DO IT” GOD'S WAY! It's your choice. **You can do it!** Choose God's Way!
“God's way is to obey” His Word. Then, and only then, can we have the **VICTORY** God wants us to have. Remember God's conditional promise. When (**IF**) we obey God, our victory is guaranteed. FRIEND, IT'S YOUR CHOICE.....BUT YOU CAN DO IT!

ROMANS 12:1-2 THE WILL OF GOD IS THE WORD OF GOD....THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WILL OF GOD!

Romans 12:3-8 ESP 6-8 Mention spiritual gifts test – hand out later.

RESULTS: FRUIT – 3 TYPES

1. Fruit of the spirit – Gal. 5:16-26, ESP 22-23 (9 specific fruits)
2. “Fish” souls of men, women, boys, girls – Matt. 4:18-22 from “Our Daily Bread”
A NEW CAREER – “GOD & SONS”, GOD & DAUGHTERS – GREATEST FAMILY BUSINESS IN THE WORLD – JOHN 1:12
(Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. – Matthew 4:22)

For some guys, the annual fishing trip is the highlight of their calendar. They stay in cozy cabins and spend long days fishing just for the fun of it. You can be sure it wasn't that way for the disciples. They weren't on vacation when they met Jesus. Fishing was their career.

Our careers often demand much of our time and attention. But Jesus has an interesting way of interrupting our business-as-usual agenda. In fact, He invites us to join His business.

Notice the sequence of His statement to the fisherman: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). We are tempted to think that we should make something of our lives and at the same time follow Jesus. Wrong! He calls us first to follow Him, and then He makes something of our lives. He leads us to prioritize so that we see the needs of people and their eternity as the goal of all our endeavors.

And while God may not require you to give up your career, following Him will guarantee that you will never see your career in the same way again. Where you “fish” is not important. But if you follow, you must fish.

What are you waiting for? Drop your nets, follow Him, and let Him make something of your life. – Joe Stowell

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said,
“If you would My disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart
And humbly follow after Me.” – Everest
DROP YOUR NETS AND FOLLOW JESUS.

3. Fellowship – Acts 2:42

In Romans 6:1-14, we are to be “imitators” of Jesus, “like” Jesus. To imitate Jesus, His #1 purpose must be ours as well.

I Tim. 1:15, “THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS OF WHOM I AM CHIEF.”

Matt. 18:11, “FOR THE SON OF MAN HAS COME TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST.”

Luke 19:10, “FOR THE SON OF MAN HAS COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST.”

**PLEASING GOD: Y.C.D.I. “REQUIRES ACTION”
IT’S NOT ABOUT KNOWING.....IT’S ABOUT DOING!
EXPAND ON DOING: KNOWING IS NOT DOING!
Matt. 28:18-20 DOING IS GOING! PERIOD!!!!
THE GREAT COMMISSION! GO MISSION!**

Clearly give the gospel presentation like is on page 6.

TRIPLE A PLAN AAA
(1. **A**DMIT, 2. **A**CKNOWLEDGE, 3. **A**CCEPT)

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD!

Why not have a peace and joy inside like you've never had before? Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." You really need to accept Him as your Savior right now, even while you are reading these few verses from the Bible, God's Holy Word.

1. ADMIT YOU ARE A SINNER. (I am a sinner too!) ☹

Romans 3:23 "For ALL have sinned and come (fall) short of the glory of God;" God Himself says in many Bible scriptures that we all have sinned. The good news is, God can forgive our sins.

2. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS IS YOUR SAVIOR.

(Jesus in my Savior too!) ☺

Romans 6:23 "For the wages (the penalty, the price) of sin is death but the (free) gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This verse is not just talking about our physical death, but most importantly, our spiritual death, our eternal punishment and our eternal separation from God forever. Our sin can keep us from going to Heaven.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates (shows, proves) His own love toward (for) us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus Christ has paid the price of our sin. When He died on the cross, He became our substitute. When we accept His substitutionary act of dying on the cross for our sin, then we can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only then we can have eternal life in Heaven with Him when we die and our soul leaves this earth.

3. ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR LORD. (Jesus is my Lord too!) ☺

Romans 10:9, 10, 13 "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED."

"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, (becomes right with God) and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

"For whoever (anyone who) calls on the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED."

Friends, listen! Choice, not chance, will determine whether you spend eternity in Heaven or Hell. This is what God Himself says in His Holy Word, the Bible. It's THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION you will ever make! Right Now, pray this prayer IF you really believe it and sincerely mean it. Please allow me to help you with your prayer.

Remember, just "repeating these words" will not save you. Only your faith, only your belief in your own heart, your own soul, your own inner being, will save you. My prayer for you is that the words you are going to say with me right now will accurately represent what you believe by faith in your innermost being, in your very own soul.

YOUR SALVATION PRAYER

Now, please repeat your prayer after me, "Dear Heavenly Father, I know I'm a sinner." Now say this, "please forgive me of my sins." Now say this, "thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and saving my soul." Now say this, "right now I accept your free gift of eternal life." Now finish your prayer like this, "in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."