

VICTORY CLASS LESSON KEY:

Black lettering: taken from booklet "Seven Steps to Joy" by Tom Ward Sr., our study guide.

Blue lettering: John Linnehan's expanded thoughts/notes.

Red lettering: answers to questions in Tom Ward Sr.'s book "Seven Steps to Joy."

Victory Class Lesson Two
KNOWING YOU ARE GOING TO HEAVEN

1.) (in book) ASSURANCE

INTRODUCTION: An Important Word To You.....

Say congratulations to a couple of people, "CONGRATULATIONS!"

Explain "Thank You" their conditioned response

You are to be congratulated for receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior.....if you have. The Christian life, by far, is the "only" truly joy-filled life that any man, woman, boy or girl, could ever live. Receiving Christ, however is only the beginning. There are so many more things to add to your "new life" as you "grow in Christ." #1 IS MAKING HIM YOUR SAVIOR! #2 IS MAKING HIM YOUR LORD! I Peter 2:2 - Hebrews 5:12-14
#1 Spiritual Immaturity. #2 Spiritual Maturity.

2.) I Corinthians 15:57 repeat, memorize – But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE (CONFIDENCE) KNOWING YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN!

a) Assurance.....of what???? Of Salvation. Are you100% sure???? YES! b) Can you be 100% sure? YES! c) Why is it important? Because the battle is on Spiritually! EPH 6:10-20. God versus Satan: KEY WORD – KNOW. I John 5:18,19,20. Good versus Evil. THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND! WHEN YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN YOU ENTER A BATTLE. It is not like going to a Sunday school picnic. ☺

Make it PERSONAL, II Cor 5:17 – 6:2 NOW.....IS YOUR TIME! A 'NEW' PERSON! A "NEW" CREATION AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE GOSPEL, FOR JESUS. II Cor. 5:20, Eph 6:20

The opposite of fear.....is faith! It's part of the battle spiritually, in fact it's the most important part EPH 6:16 "ABOVE ALL" "QUENCH ALL". Feed your faith and you'll starve your fear to death!* Be faithful in your attendance at church: Sunday morning both services, Sunday evening and especially Wednesday evening Bible study/prayer (push 2:42 small groups geographically, common interest, family, etc.) Feed yourself spiritually.....like you do physically?? ☺And you'll grow spiritually....you'll have confidence spiritually, you'll have ASSURANCE of your Salvation.....YOU'LL HAVE PEACE. YOU'LL HAVE VICTORY.....IT'S YOUR CHOICE! YOU CAN DO IT! Y.C.D.I.

3 Important Words

1. 2. 3.
I John 5:2-5 KNOW – OVERCOME (THE WORLD) – VICTORY

Romans 10:17 “SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.” * Read the Bible DAILY. * Pray DAILY.

3.) DOUBTS Book Starts Here, WHY DO I DOUBT?

Many new Christians are stunned, surprised, because shortly after they are saved doubts about their decision for Christ arise in their minds. Let me assure you that doubts are common to most. Memorize I John 5:11, 12, 13 **KNOW! Write it down in your Bible! Read it often! Memorize it!** John 14:6 There is an enemy who will put all the doubts into your mind that he possible can. His name is Satan. Satan is a real being! A fallen Angel because of PRIDE!

Your next question usually is, “Why do I have these doubts?” Actually doubts are good for us because they cause us to get into the Word of God and find assurance for our salvation. Your salvation is a fact guaranteed by God’s Word. Your salvation is not a feeling. Feelings change constantly. FACTS do not.

ON THE QUESTIONS OF DOUBTS

Answering the following questions will help you to know for sure you are saved.
(IF WE GET THE ANSWERS FROM GOD, FROM HIS WORD!)

1. According to I Peter 5:8 what does Satan want to do to you as a Christian? **Devour us, defeat us and discourage us. Remember we are in a Spiritual Battle!**
2. What animal is Satan likened unto in I Peter 5:8? **As a “ROARING” Lion.**
3. Remember Satan is your adversary (opponent) and you must fight these doubts he puts into your mind. How do you fight Satan according to I Peter 5:9? **Resist him by standing firm against him, “steadfast in the faith”, by being rooted in God’s Word. Resist his temptations, in the faith, in your faith! Romans 10:17 BE GROUNDED IN GOD’S WORD AND HIS PRINCIPLES FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING!**
4. To resist Satan we must put on the “whole armor of God.” (Illustration: of a Roman soldier dressing for battle) Below list the armor that God gives us in Ephesians 6:10-18, 19 & 20.
 1. **Belt of Truth (vs 14) (loins) John 17:17 Thy Word is truth.**
 2. **Breastplate (Body Armor) of Integrity/Righteousness (vs 14) Righteousness is simply Right Living by God’s standards.**
 3. **Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace (vs 15)**

4. **Shield of Faith (vs 16) Above All** Romans 10:17 (dispense “quench all) Faith is Powerful! Romans 10:17
 5. **Helmet of Salvation (vs 17)** Are you sure you have your “Helmet”? Are you Saved? Assurance! ☺ Blessed Assurance hymn.
 6. **Sword of the Spirit for offence (the Word of God) (vs 17)** 4 times told **STAND, FACE THE BATTLE!** There’s no armor on your back! ☺
5. To resist Satan you must learn to put out of your mind all the doubts Satan puts there. Refuse to dwell on these doubts. What must we do? (2 Corinthians 10:4,5)
“BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.” Be obedient to God’s commands/refute the Devil. **YOU MUST CHOOSE TO! IT’S YOUR CHOICE!** Y.C.D.I. Control our minds and discipline ourselves to be obedient to God. Do you have a “dirty mind?” Do you watch on TV or worse yet rent PG, R or X rated pornographic movies? Cable channel 55 E-TV, Girls Next Door, Playboy Mansion testimony. Garbage in my friend.....garbage out! James 4:7
 “Resist” “Flee” – 4:8 “Draw nigh to God” “He’ll draw nigh to you!” Rom. 12:1-2
 Control our minds.

4.) HOW SAVED AM I?

1. What kind of life did you receive when you accepted Christ? (John 3:16)
Everlasting/Eternal
2. At the moment of salvation you became one of God’s sheep. **He is our Shepard spiritually!** Can any man take you away from God? (John 10:28, 25-30) **NO!!!!** Great verse(s) to mark and memorize! **Jesus says Himself 1) “He gives you eternal life.” 2) “You will never perish.” 3) NO ONE can take you away from Him!**
3. List the things that cannot separate us from the love of Christ. (Romans 8:37, 38, 39)
“Neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor principalities, nor powers of Hell, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”

Read NLT – V37 WE ARE **“MORE THAN CONQUERORS”!!!!**
WE ARE MORE THAN A VICTOR!
ARE YOU A VICTIM OR A VICTOR? IT’S YOUR CHOICE! Y.C.D.I.

4. What protects you according to I Peter 1:5 (3-6)? **Power of God through faith for salvation.**
5. **VERY IMPORTANT!** Your salvation does not depend upon feelings. Feelings change but God and His Word never change. Salvation is a fact not a feeling. (Expand! Tired, Sick, Puking ☹ not feeling well, not feeling saved some days ☺) In II Timothy 1:12 the Word says that God is able to keep us. Leave the keeping of your salvation up to God not up to how you feel. **Vs. 12 says “I am persuaded.....I am sure!”**

HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE I'M SAVED?

KEY WORD KNOW.....NOT THINK, HOPE, WISH I'M SAVED.....KNOW!

Remember Victory Class Lesson #1 Theme? OBEDIENCE, remember that word???

1. How do “we know that we know (Love) Him?” (I John 2:3-6) **Keep His Commandments.** (John 14:15)
2. We know we are saved because we love to be with God’s people. **A new perspective on life!** The reason you do is because you are now a part of God’s family. Write out I John 3:14 -17 (18 & 19 very good also!) “**We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother, abideth in death. (Spiritually)**” (II Corinthians 5:17)
3. When you were saved the Sprit of God miraculously entered to live inside you. **I Corinth 3:16, I Corinth 6:19 (20)** When you accepted Christ, you accepted His Spirit. What does I John 3:24 tell you about knowing that Christ lives within you? “**And he who keeps His commandments abides, dwells in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**” TNLTLT “**Those who obey God’s commandments live in fellowship with Him, and He with them. And we know He lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.”**
4. **Greatest Compliment to Any Author: “I’VE READ YOUR BOOK”** According to I John 5:13, God has written (Authored) the Word of God so that you would know what? (14,15) The Will of God is the Word of God. **Know that we (you) have eternal life.** II Timothy 3:16

5.) WRITE YOUR OWN TESTIMONY, YOUR OWN PERSONAL TIME WHEN YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN, A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST!

Homework Assignment for Next Week.

Take a few moments and in this space record how you were saved. Be sure to include when you were saved (be specific), include as many facts as you remember, the date, the time, the place and who led you to Christ. Then every time Satan brings doubts to your mind, re-read what you have written. This is called your Testimony.

EVERYONE'S TESTIMONY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

Each person's testimony must contain a place, a time in their life when they prayed the Salvation Prayer as shown below in the "TRIPLE A" PLAN, the Gospel, the Good News!

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."