



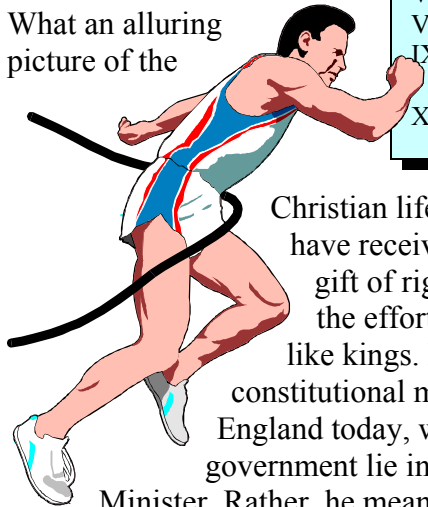
THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Being An Overcoming Christian

Study #22

“**F**or if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; [this man was Adam] much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness [us] shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).

What an alluring picture of the



Christian life Paul presents here! We who have received an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, will **reign in life** by the efforts of Jesus Christ! We will live like kings. Paul was not speaking of a limited constitutional monarchy such as exists in England today, where the executive powers of government lie in the Parliament and Prime Minister. Rather, he meant kings who possessed absolute powers who were beneficent if he was a good man and tyrannical

Lesson Overview

- I. The Possibility and Promise of the Victorious Life
- II. The Choice of a Victorious Life
- III. Steps to Victory in Your Life
- IV. How Can I Have Victory Over the World?
- V. How Can I Have Victory Over the Flesh?
- VI. How Can I Have Victory Over the Devil?
- VII. The Person of Victorious Living
- VIII. The Path to Victorious Living
- IX. Closing Counsel for Victorious Living
- X. But What if I Fail?

Checklist

- This Lesson
- Spiritual Journal
- Gospel Tracts
- Godliness Through Discipline*, by Jay Adams

For Next Session

- Lesson W

Informal

Conversation –

Ask about his week. Ask about answers to the prayer requests you have shared.

Discuss Last Week’s Assignments –

1. Ask him to share his Scriptural insights, prayers, and applications from his Spiritual Journal.
2. Share one of your Quiet Times.
3. Exchange highlights of your sermon notes.
4. Ask him about his effort of handing out a gospel tract.

Read page one with your Timothy.

if he was bad. “Kingship” and reigning too often seem far removed from the actual experience many Christians live.

The greatest single need in the lives of the majority of Christians is VICTORY! Not simply a victory here and there, but the experiencing of consistent, daily, victorious living. Too many believers are living defeated lives.

You have been saved for some time now. You have been working through these lessons for many weeks. Ask yourself this question – “Am I living victoriously?” Please be honest with yourself and before God.

If you are defeated, or if your life consists of a roller coaster path of spiritual “ups and downs,” this lesson will be of immense value to you. But studying it will not be enough – it *must* be applied!

Illustration:

Living below your privileges and resources – Mrs. Hetty Green was a recluse who lived in a closely sealed apartment in an American city. She was fabulously wealthy, having inherited \$20 million dollars of railway stock. On her death it was discovered that in place of an underskirt, she wore newspapers sewn together! This way she could save a little money. She didn’t live up to the resources she had.

I. THE POSSIBILITY AND PROMISE OF THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

A. *According to John 10:10b, the Lord wants you to have an A_____ life.*

B. *According to Psalm 16:11, the Lord intends for you to experience F_____ of J_____.*

C. *According to John 8:31,32, the Lord intends for the truth (His Word) to make you His disciple – but also to M_____ you F_____.*

This freedom from sin does not mean the absence of sin – but as Romans 6:14 says, freedom from the power of sin.

D. *The Bible teaches glorious victory for every believer.*

Read John 10:10. This is the kind of life God wants us to have.

Read John 10:7-15 and ask the following:

1. Who is the door? (v.9)
2. Who are the sheep?
3. What happens if we enter the door? (v.9)
4. Who is the Shepherd? (v.11)
5. What did/does the Shepherd do for His sheep? (v.11)

According to 1 John 5:4, what do people who are born of God do? _____

E. Paul wrote to the Romans that sin should not have “D _____ over you” (Romans 6:14).

Notice the certainty and extent of these promises:

- (Romans 8:37) “In A _____ these things we are more than C _____.”
- (1 Corinthians 15:57) “But thanks be to God which G _____ us the V _____.”
- (2 Corinthians 2:14) “Now thanks be unto God, which A _____ causeth us to T _____.”
- (Philippians 4:13) “I C _____ do A _____ things....”

Without a doubt, God’s desire and plan is for each Christian to live a victorious life -- not just victory, but abundant super-abounding victory over our spiritual enemies!

Read this concluding statement.

II. THE CHOICE OF A VICTORIOUS LIFE

As a Christian you still have your own free will. If you choose victory, you certainly may have it as a gift from God. If you reject God’s way, you will continue to live in defeat.

(Rom. 6:16) “Know ye not, that to whom ye Y _____ yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of S _____ unto death, or of obedience unto R _____?”

Comment: Whether or not you are victorious in your Christian life is left up to you.

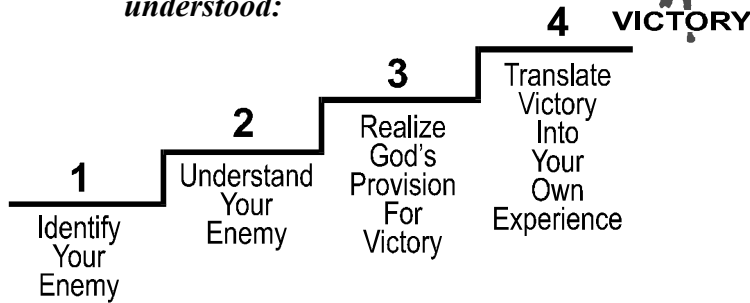
III. STEPS TO VICTORY IN YOUR LIFE

“What’s the *secret* of victory?” “What’s the *formula* that I need to know?” “Give me the procedure and I’ll plug it into

Read this paragraph and review the chart with your Timothy.

my life.” Unfortunately, it is not as easy as filling a prescription or taking medicine. However, if there was one *secret* to the Christian life, it would be *death to self and yieldedness to Christ*. You will understand this as you work through this section.

A. *To enable you to enjoy the victorious Christian life, the following steps (shown on the diagram) need to be understood:*



B. *The Bible teaches there are three enemies you will face as a child of God – each seeking to defeat you spiritually. These three enemies are:*

the **WORLD, FLESH, & DEVIL**

We will now take each one of these enemies and apply the four steps to victory.

IV. HOW CAN I HAVE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD?

A. *Identify Your Enemy.*

When the Bible speaks of the “world” in the context of opposition to you, it is **not** referring to God’s creation – but to the “*world system*” which is

Explain what we mean (and what the Bible means) when we say “the world.”

organized on selfish principles, improper motives, ungodly standards, and is opposed to the things of God.

1. Jesus said His Kingdom is not of this World (John 18:36).
2. Jesus said the world system would Harm the Christian as it did Him (John 15:18).
3. Jesus also said the believer is not of the World (John 15:19).

This does not mean that we are to isolate ourselves from any worldly contact. We are *IN* the world, but not *OF* the world.

Isolation is Impossible!

“I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: {10} Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world” (1 Corinthians 5:9-10).

To avoid all company with those who are immoral, greedy, swindlers, and idolatrous, one would have to “go out of the world.” You would have to leave earth!

Examples of Isolationism:
Monks/monasteries
Nuns/convents
Cults/communes

Recall the S Lesson (Separation). We are separated believers, that is, even though we live in the world, we don't live like the world. We live by a higher standard – living like Jesus Christ.

4. According to James 4:4, worldliness for a Christian only brings enmity with God.
5. In the light of these Scriptures, do you think there is any common ground between God and the world upon which the believer may stand? no See: Matthew 6:24.
6. According to 2 Timothy 4:10, what happens to a Christian when he or she is defeated by the world? he is ashamed of his name

B. Understand Your Enemy.

1. How does the “world” attack the Christian?
Answer: It ENTICES the Christian away from the Lord.
2. Look up 1 John 2:15-17. According to verse 16, what are three ways the world will attempt to entice you?
 - a. The L_____ of the F_____ .
 - b. The L_____ of the E_____ .
 - c. The P_____ of L_____ .
3. According to verse 15, what is it the “world” seeks to gain from you? My L_____ .

Brainstorm how the world *entices* a Christian away from holy living.
Possible answers –

1. Sexual allurements
 - affairs
 - pornography
 - suggestive entertainment
 - sensual advertising
2. Materialism
 - houses, cars, “things”
 - easy credit
3. Promotions
 - Position in the company
 - too high commitment to the job
 - neglect of the family
 - status

C. Realize God’s Provision For Victory.

1. In John 16:33, what did Jesus say to His disciples? “*Be of G_____ C_____ , I have O_____ the world.*”
2. The Lord Jesus Christ said He has won the victory for you!

D. Translate Christ’s Victory Into Your Own Experience.

It is exciting to learn that the Lord Jesus has won the victory over the world, but you and I need to appropriate this victory in our own lives so that we too can be overcomers.

Here’s how:

1. Acknowledge that you are on the victorious side.
 - a. According to 1 John 5:5, who is he that overcomes the world? “*He that B_____ that Jesus is the _____ .*”
 - b. Are you a believer on the Lord Jesus Christ? _____

Review this “Here’s How” section.

Refute self-defeating statements –
“I can’t.”
“That’s just the way I am.”
“It’s no use.”

2. Claim your victory by FAITH.

- a. 1 John 5:4 says, “*And this is the victory that overcometh the W _____, even our F _____.*”
- b. What is faith? Faith is simply believing what God says in His Word and acting upon it. It is total reliance upon God.

- 3. Do the will of God always.
“*But be ye D _____ of the word, and not H _____ only, deceiving your own selves*” (James 1:22).

- 4. Set your affections on heavenly things. If you think about worldly things, wrong things, etc., you will be easily enticed.
 - a. *Colossians 3:1* – “*Seek those things which are A _____.*”
 - a. *Colossians 3:2* – “*Set your A _____ on things above.*”
 - b. *Matthew 6:21* – “*For where your T _____ is, there will your H _____ be also.*”

Comment:

Move beyond faith to *action*. True faith produces action.

Illustration:

Someone in the assembly hall yells “fire.” At this point, your belief determines your action. No belief = no action. What would be the response of true belief?

Similarly, if you believe God can and will give you the victory, take actions accordingly.

V. HOW CAN I HAVE VICTORY OVER THE FLESH?

A. *Identify Your Enemy.*

When the Bible speaks of the “flesh” in the context of opposition to you, it is **not** referring to your literal body - but to the old sin nature, the “old man,” the corrupt Adamic nature which belongs to all men.

1. When you were saved, you were made a P _____ of the D _____ nature (2 Peter 1:4b). Although you received this new spiritual nature, your old sin nature was not removed.
2. In the flesh (your old nature) dwells no G _____ T _____ (Romans 7:18).
3. As a Christian, you have TWO NATURES – the *flesh* and the *spirit* – the *old* and the *new* – the *sinful* and the *divine*.



B. *Understand Your Enemy.*

How does the “flesh” attack the Christian? Answer:
It produces CONFLICT and inner turmoil. It cooperates with the world and the Devil.

1. According to Romans 7:21, what did the Apostle Paul discover? _____
2. How does Galatians 5:17 describe this conflict? _____
3. According to Romans 7:23, where does this conflict take place? In the M _____ .

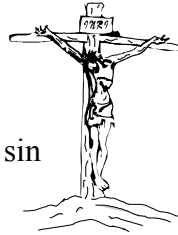
C. *Realize God’s Provision For Your Victory.*

1. What was Paul’s question in Romans 7:24?
“Who shall D _____ me...?”
2. Write out the answer to Paul’s question in Romans 7:25a. “I _____ Lord.” The Lord Jesus Christ has won the victory for you.

D. *Translate Christ’s Victory Into Your Own Experience.*

1. Galatians 5:16 tells us to “*W_____ in the S_____*.” See the H Lesson, V. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to Believers.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:7 informs us “*For we walk by F_____*.” These Scriptures show the importance of walking constantly with the Lord.
3. Romans 13:14 says, “*But P_____ ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not P_____ for the F_____, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*” This verse teaches you to “**blockade the flesh**” – don’t feed it.
4. Recognize your position in Christ.
 - a. According to Galatians 5:24, your old nature (flesh) has been C_____.
 - b. Galatians 2:20 says, “*I am C_____ with Christ....*”

This is a **fact**. Positionally, your old nature was dealt a deathblow when it was crucified with Christ. But practically, you still have that sin nature which attempts to control your life.



5. Write out Romans 6:11. _____

6. According to 1 Peter 2:11, you are to A_____ from fleshly lusts.

Making Behavioral Changes –

Victory is often a matter of changing sinful behavioral patterns to righteous conduct. It is the “put off, put on” process described in Ephesians 4 and other scriptures. Christian counselors call it a *dehabitation* and *rehabitation* process. We are creatures of habit, and have to replace old sinful habits with new godly ones. As a Christian, any quality of life, attitude of mind, or activity that God requires of man may be acquired through the Lord Jesus Christ. To understand God’s truth of changing sinful behavior, read the booklet *Godliness Through Discipline*, by Dr. Jay Adams.

Ask:

Did you read the booklet entitled *Godliness Through Discipline*, by Jay Adams?

Review the booklet with your Timothy. Mark your copy ahead of time.

VI. HOW CAN I HAVE VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL?

A. *Identify Your Enemy.*

1. Before going on, review the I Lesson (Study #9) that deals in more detail with Satan.
2. According to 1 Peter 5:8, the Devil is your A_____.

B. *Understand Your Enemy.*

How does Satan attack the Christian? Answer: He uses a number of DEVICES to attack us. See: 2 Corinthians 2:11.

1. He uses T_____ (1 Thessalonians 3:5). Satan is a master at using the world to entice you.
2. He uses W_____ (Ephesians 6:11b). This means crafty deception.
3. He uses P_____ (1 Timothy 3:6). Satan will appeal to the flesh.

- 4. He uses discouragement (Deuteronomy 1:21,28).
- 5. He uses F_____ D_____ of opposition (Ephesians 6:16).

C. Realize God’s Provision For Your Victory.

- 1. What was one reason the Lord Jesus Christ came? 1 John 3:8b _____
- 2. How did the Lord Jesus defeat Satan? Hebrews 2:14 _____

D. Translate Christ’s Victory Into Your Own Experience.

- 1. Remember you are on the winning side. 1 John 4:4 says, “Greater is he that is _____ Y_____, than he that is in the W_____.”
- 2. According to 1 John 2:14, we overcome the Wicked One when the W_____ of G_____ abides in us.
- 3. You are to put on the W_____ A_____ of God (Ephesians 6:13).
- 4. List the DEFENSIVE items of this spiritual armor as recorded in Ephesians 6:14-18.

Belt (loins girt about) = _____

Breastplate = _____

Shoes = _____

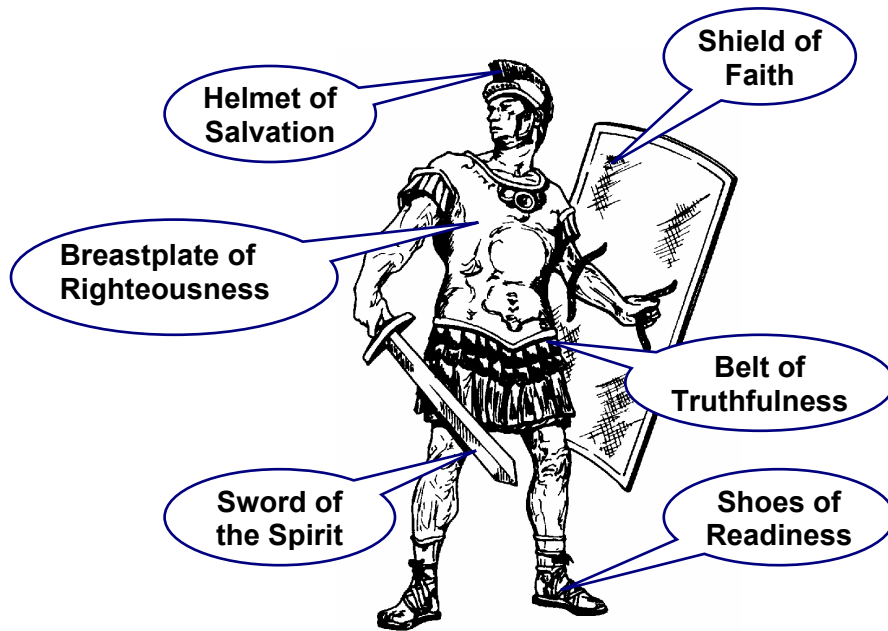
Shield = _____

Helmet = _____

- 5. What piece of this armor of God is *offensive*; that is, with which we may fight?

The Believer’s Armor

The **belt of truthfulness** (“loins girt about with truth”) – a soldier who wore a long robe would grab the bottom of it and tuck it under his belt to prevent it from hindering his movement. He was committing to the fight. It was called “girding up your loins.” Before a Christian is ready to fight, he must have on this belt of truthfulness. This piece of armor speaks of attitude, commitment, and character. With truthful character a believer commits to the battle. The **breastplate of righteousness** – righteousness is a right relationship with God. This piece of armor is a devout, holy, and morally upright life. The devil’s attacks cannot defeat a holy Christian, however, an impure believer has no defense against Satan’s accusations.



6. According to James 4:7, we are to R_____ Satan.
7. According to Ephesians 4:27, we are to give NO P_____ to the Devil.

VII. THE PERSON OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

Victory comes through our relationship with a Person.

- A. *(Philippians 4:13)* “...through C_____ which S_____ me.”
- B. *(Romans 8:37)* “... we are more than conquerors through _____ that loved us.”
- C. *(1 Corinthians 15:57)* “... giveth us the victory through our L_____ J_____ C_____.”

© Christian Mentoring from A to Z

The **shoes of readiness** (“feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace”) – the Christian must be ready for attack. Part of this preparation is knowing the “good news” that he is at peace with God, reconciled to God by the death of Christ. He can stand in absolute confidence realizing that he is in God’s army – even in God’s family.

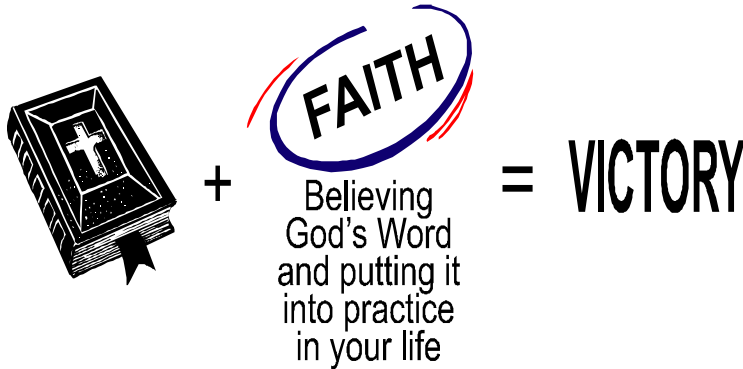
The **shield of faith** – faith means “believing God.” It is transferring your trust from yourself to God. The **shield of faith** is the application of what the Bible says about God to the issues of life. The more you know God, the more you can trust Him. Without the shield of faith, Satan’s fiery darts (temptations, persecutions, problems, etc.) will inflict deep wounds. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

D. (2 Corinthians 2:14) “. . . which always causeth us to triumph in C_____.”

VIII. THE PATH TO VICTORIOUS LIVING

Did you notice??

As you studied the *Steps to Victory* over the **World**, the **Flesh**, and the **Devil**, there was a common theme to translate the victory into your own experience:



A. According to Psalm 119:9,11, what will hiding God's Word in your heart do for you?

B. According to Matthew 26:41, what two things should we do to avoid falling into temptation?

_____ and _____

IX. CLOSING COUNSEL FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING

A. Don't lose heart, Christian growth comes slowly.

The **helmet of salvation** – there are three aspects of salvation. In the past we were saved from sin (justification), in the present we are becoming more Christ-like (sanctification), and one day in the future we will be in heaven free from the presence of sin (glorification). The Apostle Paul refers to this future aspect as the “hope of salvation” in Romans 8:22-25. That is, one day we will be without sin, in heaven, the struggle will be over and the battle will be won. The *helmet of salvation* is the confidence or hope of ultimate salvation. There is a final victory day to this battle. Christian, fight on with this confidence! The **sword of the Spirit** – this is the Word of God, and it is the major offensive weapon in the believer's arsenal. He must learn it well by reading it, studying it, memorizing it, and practicing it. The Christian warrior who doesn't become skilled in the Scriptures has disarmed himself and become vulnerable to repeated defeat.

Do not expect instant maturity. James 1:4 says, “But let *P* _____ have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” Each day patiently pray for growth (“give us *this day our daily bread*”). Your body is growing each day; but the changes are imperceptible. You can grow spiritually each day. Over time you will see how far you’ve come in your Christian life.

Review all of IX.
CLOSING COUNSEL
FOR VICTORIOUS
LIVING.

B. *Guard your heart.*

Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek ye *F* _____ the kingdom of God, and his righteousness....” What does this mean? God wants your heart’s affections; not just first affections. Your priority ought to be God. For example, you go home and say to your wife Mary, “I want you to know how much I love you; you have first place in my life.” Then you add, “However, I want you to know about Sally, Clara, and Anna. They are in second, third and fourth place.” Would your wife be happy with being in first place? Not at all. Neither is God content with being first among other things which rival His position. Jesus said it this way in Luke 14:26, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might.

C. *Examine your heart.*

Paul said in Colossians 3:2, “Set your affection on things *A* _____, not on things on the earth.” To what is your heart attached? To find out if Christ has first place, examine your life in these areas:

1. Your time – Do you enjoy being with God in times of fellowship, recreation, worship,

and training? If not, what do you expect to like about heaven?

2. Your thoughts – What do you enjoy thinking about? In Proverbs 23:7a God says, “*For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he.*” This is why God says in Proverbs 4:23, “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*” What you think about is what you become. Are you following Philippians 4:8 and filling your mind with “*these things!*”
3. Your giving – look at your checkbook stubs and credit card statements to see what you really value in life. In Luke 12:34 Jesus said, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*”

D. *Prioritize your heart with JOY.*

Do you remember the Golden Rule? (*Matthew 7:12*) “*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should D__ to you, D__ ye even so to them.*” What if you were depending upon someone like yourself to explain the plan of salvation to you? What would be the likelihood of your learning how to go to heaven? Would you want their prayer life of intercession on your behalf to be like yours? Would you want their discipline and knowledge of the Bible to resemble yours? How about their love? Would you want their level of concern for your eternal destiny to be equated with



the burden you have for others? Follow Jesus' pattern as recorded in Mark 10:45, "*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister....*"

E. *Prepare your heart – through prayer.*

When life became hectic, Jesus withdrew to solitary places to pray. When there were big decisions to make, Jesus prayed. Jesus' greatest victory occurred in solitary agony – the garden of Gethsemane. He prayed, "*Not my will, but thine be done.*" Had this victory in prayer not occurred, there would have been no Calvary. Don't let life run you into the ground. Break away regularly and get on your knees in prayer.

Comment:

If you fail, get back up!

(Proverbs 24:16) "*For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again....*"

There is no shame in failing, only in not getting back up and trying again.

Thomas Edison "failed" thousands of times attempting to make a light bulb. But he didn't quit. Neither should you quit in seeking to live for God.

X. BUT WHAT IF I FAIL?

What do you do if you try to live for Christ and fail? Remember that 1 John 1:9 is still true. God has not failed you; and your failure has not weakened Him. He will forgive you and may even use your failure as a stepping stone to strengthen you from similar failures in the future.

Do not rely on past victories for future victory. Rather, always rely on Christ and His Word. Memorize Scripture and quote it when needed. The only time you can live the victorious life is NOW. Begin today! Don't learn the truths of this lesson only doctrinally; learn them experientially as you apply them to life.

J. Hudson Taylor, a powerful missionary of yesteryear, in speaking of victory said, "...not a striving to have faith, but a looking off to the faithful One seems all that we need." Follow the Apostle Paul's example, "*...I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...*" (*Galatians 2:20*).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSIGNMENT

- Read your W Lesson (**Witnessing**).
- Continue reading through the New Testament.
- Take sermon notes using your *Spiritual Journal*.
- Give out copies *The Amazing Story Behind Amazing Grace*.
- Where would you like to meet for next week's session?
- Be sure to bring your Bible, pen, W Lesson, and *Spiritual Journal*.

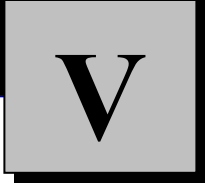
Encourage your Timothy and cast a vision for him regarding spiritual growth.

Pray for him and have him pray aloud.

REMEMBER!!!

Turn in the “Discipler Report Back” page by dropping it off at the Hospitality Booth in the church foyer.

Discipler Report Back



I met with _____ on
____ / ____ / ____ and reviewed the contents of this
lesson. My comments regarding the discipleship time
together are:

*(make comments only if they are needed to help the Pastoral
staff assist you in ministering to this person)*

Discipler's Name _____

*Please drop this off at the Hospitality Booth in the
church foyer on the first service after conducting
this session. This will help the Pastoral staff stay
current with the status of our new converts and
new members being disciplined.*

Thank You

**This is a
sample of
the
“Discipler
Report
Back” page
that you
removed
from the
back of your
Timothy’s
lesson.**

**Return that
sheet to the
Hospitality
Booth in the
church foyer.**