

Victorious Faith 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Introduction

The Bible says that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The Bible also says that without faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Today I want us to examine how our faith in God makes us victorious believers.

Would you be open to letting God do more in your life than you've ever experienced before? The way to expect that to happen is to let Christ bring the reality of Heaven into your personal experiences and daily living. Our Christian walk must become more than a doctrinal position, giving record, or perfect attendance record.

To experience spiritual growth, we seek out Christ and let him reveal to us the realities of His eternal kingdom. As we seek out Christ each day, it's impossible not to experience God's miraculous power?

When we read the scriptures and start to think with the mind of Christ, we begin to act in faith and use our sanctified imagination to expect the impossible. What seems impossible becomes possible because we know Christ is in us and works through us.

The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthian church, "However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:6-16 NKJV)

Ephesians 3:20 says that Jesus "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)

Through Christ, you can do things you never even think possible in the natural. That's why God wants us to think with the mind of Christ!

I. Think With the Mind of Christ

God wants us to study the scriptures and renew our minds and begin to think the thought that He thinks.

God tells the prophet Isaiah, "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." ([Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV](#))

Through the Bible, the Holy Spirit teaches us to abandon our old carnal, sinful minds and begin to think with a renewed mind. The renewed mind thinks with the mind of Christ and thinks the higher thoughts and understands the higher ways of God.

As we allow images and impressions from the faith realm to flow from God into our minds, we begin to understand what God sees and wants to do through us. And even though it may seem impossible in the natural, but with God, all things are possible.

You see, there's a difference between possibility thinking and thinking with the mind of Christ. Without a doubt, the human imagination is incredible. Some people have produced extraordinary accomplishments by harnessing their human creativity and making it productive.

But the difference between human possibility thinking and the renewed mind concept is in the motivation. Human thoughts are often self-serving and self-centered. They like to exalt me, my, and mine. Human thinking robs God of His glory and exalts man. Our sinful, carnal mentality is to take the credit and exalt ourselves instead of giving God the glory.

But when you listen to the Holy Spirit and use your sanctified imagination, you can see far beyond human possibilities into the faith realm and God's kingdom realities. Your motivation becomes not to serve your self-interests or personal goals but to live your life in surrender and submission to God's purpose and plan.

As you begin to think with the mind of Christ, you begin to live your life in obedience to the vision you receive from God through His Word by the Holy Spirit. And like the first century's disciples, your whole life becomes centered around living and sharing Christ with your world.

II. See Yourself in Christ

The Bible says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7) That makes us the sum total of our thoughts. That means we cannot become anything

more than we think we are because how we think and feel about ourselves dictates what we will accomplish.

What we think and feel about ourselves is what we call the self-image. The picture you have of yourself either keeps you in bondage or catapults you to victory and success in Christ. You can't believe positively and think negatively at the same time.

Romans 12:2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." ([Romans 12:2 NKJV](#))

Your life can be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Our mind still needs to be renewed after we get saved! That doesn't mean that as a Christian, I never have negative thoughts or don't ever face negative circumstances. There's a world of difference between having a negative thought and thinking negatively. All of us have times when we're not as positive as we ought to be or when we're not as encouraged or not as vibrant as we want to be in Christ. But I'm talking about a lifestyle filled with positive faith instead of negative thinking.

Jesus wants us to be victorious in faith. He doesn't want us to go through life seeing and experiencing only negative and adverse situations of life. Jesus lives in our spirit through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. And Jesus wants us to express His life, and His love, and His help, and His faith to others through us! And He can do it because Jesus is the source of faith.

Hebrews 12 says, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." ([Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV](#))

Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of faith. Jesus is the source of faith! And Jesus is living in us! Christ within us has no doubts. Jesus within us has no limitations, no fears, and no insecurities. Jesus within us believes all things are possible.

If you allow Christ within you to live the Christian life through you, you can walk and live in victory. But if you try to do everything in your own strength and natural thinking, you can experience anxiety and become frustrated and fail. So don't try to do God's will your way because that doesn't work.

Only as we yield our will to Christ's will can he live his life through us. And as we renew our minds through the word of God, it transforms our very lives. That's why Paul says: " Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." ([Philippians 2:5 NKJV](#)) Because we have the mind of Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:16)

As you begin to think with the mind of Christ and see yourself in Christ, you will experience His success and His victory in your situation. Don't let insecurities, weaknesses, or shortcomings limit God's glory and dominion over your circumstances. Those negative circumstances will pale into insignificance as you begin to view the glory, majesty, dominion, and power of the living Christ when He stands up to declare His victory over your life.

Every morning when you get up, picture God's glory, majesty, and power over your life for the rest of the day, and say, "Thank you, God, for watching over me today!"

III. Cleanse Your Mind With the Word

Finally, if you want a victorious faith, cleanse your mind with the Word of God. Find the book of Joshua in your Bible, the sixth book of the Old Testament. Joshua 1:8.

Let me share something I learned about the subconscious mind. Did you know that the subconscious mind can not distinguish between an actual experience of reality and an experience of your imagination? For instance, have you ever remembered a dream in such vivid detail that you could almost believe it really happened?

Psychologists have developed a technique of programming the subconscious mind by suggesting you listen to positive messages while you sleep. Transcendental meditation, Yoga, and Eastern religions use this same means to program the subconscious mind to believe it can triumph over the material world. They say a person who's afraid to speak in front of audiences can program their subconscious mind to help them overcome a sense of inferiority and shyness by simply imagining themselves being confident and in control.

Since your subconscious mind can't distinguish between reality and imagination, it will accept whatever you think with your conscious mind as being true. So if you think you're going to fail and send that down to your subconscious mind, your subconscious mind will accept it as the truth. If you tell yourself you're ugly, your subconscious mind will begin to believe it's true. If you think you're fat, your subconscious will believe it's true, even if you only weigh 98 pounds soaking wet. That's the problem with eating disorders like Bulimia and Anorexia. And no matter how hard you try to convince a person in that state that they're starving themselves to death, they still see themselves as fat!

But if we can think who we are and what we have through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can renew our minds by the word of God. Whatever issues and problems you deal with, you can wash your mind with the promises and blessings of God's word and send thoughts of health and victory from your conscious mind down to your subconscious mind, which will accept them as truth.

I'm talking about the Holy Spirit inner guidance system that all believers have. And when we send the positive, faith-filled Word of God down to our inner spirit, the Holy Spirit of God begins to influence our thinking and believing until it gives us a sense of spiritual healing and help and divine guidance. That kind of direction from

the Word of God puts us on target and gives us a sense of the personal destiny we have in Christ.

Let's look at what Joshua 1:8 says., "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1:8 NKJV)

The book of the law is the Bible. We need to share with others what God is teaching us through His word. That's what locks in renewed mind thinking. It's what confirms our victorious believing.

Notice the order. If you shall meditate in it day and night – meditate in what? The Word of God. If you observe and do according to all that is written in it. – If you listen and obey the Word of God. Then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Another word for meditate is think! Joshua says if we use our mouths to declare God's promises, it renews our minds and makes living what God thinks and says in His Word possible.

There is power in the spoken word? God spoke the worlds into being. There's enough power in the spoken word to split atoms and create a whole universe. That's exactly what God did in Genesis Chapter 1.

The New Testament truth this morning is that if you will begin to fill your mind with the mental pictures that God creates in your sanctified imagination, and you hold that picture firmly in faith, you can see that picture become a reality in the natural – and you will prosper and have good success!

Conclusion

Humanistic thinking rejects this. So, when you start cleansing your mind of all the humanistic and ungodly thinking you've been exposed to, at first, you will reject it. At first, you'll find yourself resisting it and having reservations about whether it can really work for you. But it won't be long until you start to believe and receive it. Your life will be renewed by it. And your daily living will become a thrilling reality of success and victory in Christ.

You'll find yourself expressing a new boldness and confidence where, before, you were hesitant and reluctant to talk about your faith and God's miracles. You'll begin to share with others what God's Word says because you want more than ever to see your family and friends experience this victorious and dynamic life in Christ. And it won't be long until the picture that God is painting for you through His word impresses itself upon your mind and imagination until it becomes a reality of success to the credit and glory of God.