

# “Victory that Lasts a Lifetime”

By Brother Parrish Lee

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It is wonderful to be in the House of the Lord today. All you have to do is *not* be in the House of the Lord for a little while, let you miss it for a little while, then you kind of store it up, and say, “You know what? I would kind of like to get back to that.” I could worship on my own—and I do worship on my own. If my car could talk, it would say, “We need him to shut up sometimes.” And prayer—I have prayer on my own; you’ve got to have prayer on your own. And, Lord knows, we have to read His Word; we have to do that; you can’t just wait for church to do it. But there is something about the blessing that God commanded when we gather together. He said where two or three are gathered together therein, he will be there in the midst. We have to gather in His name. He also said, “How good and pleasant it is for them to dwell together in unity, for there God commanded the blessing.” (Psalms 133) There God commanded the blessing.

It’s wonderful to be in the House of the Lord today. We’ve taken as a thought for this month: Victory that lasts a lifetime. Our scripture for the month is:

**1 Corinthians 15:57** *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

If you could just bow your heads with me for just a moment. Lord, we thank you at this time. Lord, who is there that is liken unto You? That does for us what You do? We thank You for the blessings that You’ve bestowed on us this morning; that You put the sun in the sky. You clothed us in our right mind, You allowed us to walk across the floor, open our eyes, and know that this is the day that You have made. It’s before You that we come, our Savior, our Maker, our Creator, our Lover of our souls, the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, our Daystar, the Bright and Morning Star. We come to You, the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, and we bring a thanks; we bring a thanks to you, first, and we ask, we ask, God, that You look over us. We thank You for those that have gone on before us, Lord, that You have prepared Your Word all down through the ages. We thank You for those over this ministry, from our founding pastor, and his family, to our pastor, and his family. We thank You for all that have been able to make it here today, and we ask, God, we ask that, as we have spent time in worship, we ask now that we spend time with Your Word, and that You would do exactly as You have said in the Book of Isaiah, that Your Word would not return unto You void, but, accordingly, Lord, that it would do what You sent it to do; to accomplish that which You sent it to do. So, therefore, we come and present ourselves to You and thank You for all that You’ve done for us. This we do pray and claim in Jesus’ name, and everyone said amen. Amen. Amen.

What a wonderful opportunity. What a challenge; what a challenge. We said we’re going to talk about the victory that last a lifetime, and, wouldn’t you know it? Our place of worship—this building—closed for the first Sunday of that. Whenever you talk about—you ever notice that whenever you go, and you try and get bold about doing something right, something for God, somewhere along the line you meet opposition? Somewhere along the line, something tries to stop you or sway you, throttle you back, try and make you compromise that? It is the truth; it is the truth.

So, here we talk from:

**1 Corinthians 15:57** *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

What a concept. What a marvelous idea—to obtain victory; to obtain victory.

Victory is defined as ---

1. a success or triumph over an enemy in battle or war.
2. an engagement ending in such triumph:
3. to utterly vanquish

But if victory is the destination, then what is the journey? What is the procedure? What precedes us in obtaining our victory? And, how do we hold on to it? How do we hold on to that victory?

I'm going to ask a few young people to read; I notice that Brother Jose Armando went to class, didn't he? No, that's all right; dad, you're going to have to fill in for your son. Yeah. And, also, Miss Savannah, if she would come, and Jose, if you would come. And, I need an usher up here, please, to help. I needed some help with this first part, and what they're going to do is, they're going to read something for us.

If we're going to talk about something like victory, we don't want to belittle it. We really want to—because, let's face it, when God shows the victory, it's a big deal; it's a big thing. It's lasted from creation, from the fall of man; it's lasted. So we want to definitely, definitely highlight it as important as we can. I pray that the blessing of God, that has been just pushing my life, is able to be flowed out and even bigger; even bigger than the blessing that God gave me—the blessing that he will give to all of us.

**SAVANNAH:** Holocaust survivor salutes his liberator, an 89-year-old WWII veteran.

**JOSE:** WWII veteran Daniel Gillespie received an honorary salute from Holocaust survivor Joshua Kaufman during a reunion planned by a German documentary crew.

**SAVANNAH:** The two men who met in Huntington Beach, California, lived only an hour away from each other.

**JOSE:** Kaufman and Gillespie exchanged salutes,

**SAVANNAH:** then Kaufman paid an unexpected thanks to the WWII vet. He took his hand, kissed it

**JOSE:** and fell to Gillespie's feet. He said, "I have wanted to do this for 70 years. I love you, I love you so much..."

**SAVANNAH:** Kaufman, 87, was a prisoner at the Dachau concentration camp, where over 35,000 people were killed before it was liberated.

**SAVANNAH:** Gillespie, 89, was a machine gunner with 42nd Rainbow Division when he and fellow WWII soldiers marched into the camp.

**JOSE:** The first person Daniel Gillespie saw when he walked into block 11 of the Nazi concentration camp was Joshua Kaufman, a Hungarian Jew. Kaufman and several others were hiding in the latrine, not knowing if the boot steps they heard belonged to Nazi guards or American soldiers.

**SAVANNAH:** "We were confined to barracks by the guards. This meant most of us were marked for death. Then I saw the white flag flying from the watchtower and I realized then that

the torture was at an end. When the Americans smashed in the door, my heart did somersaults,” [Kaufman] said.

Thank you, my sister. Thank you, my brother.

So, the story goes—it is the story of a concentration camp survivor; a concentration camp survivor. And he said, “Sixty-nine years ago I was rescued from the concentration camp, and I’ve been waiting, those sixty-nine years, to salute the man that I saw come in and save me.” So, in the first picture, we see he salutes him, sixty-nine years after his rescue.



But he didn't stop at a salute; he kissed the hand of the man that rescued him, that liberated him, that saved him.



He didn't stop at kissing his hand. The next picture, he bows down to kiss the feet of the man, and kiss the ground that he walked on.



Can you imagine, can you imagine being so thankful for something that somebody has done for you that sixty-nine years later, you say, "I've been waiting for this opportunity to come and show you how thankful I am to my rescuer, to my liberator, to my savior, the one who saved me?" Sixty-nine years, "Yes, I've gone on to have children; I have grandchildren. I've worked jobs. I've had a house, a car, and whatever. I've done all of that, but I've waited to thank him, because this truly is my victory." You might say, "You know what? the Holocaust was such a long time ago..." "I got saved such a long time ago; why, why, why should I be so thankful today?" Because, to this man, it wasn't that long ago. To this man, none

of those sixty-nine years would have existed had not his rescuer, his liberator, his savior come into the picture. This is a victory that has lasted his lifetime, but we're talking about a victory that will last our lifetime. Even bigger, and, as decimating as the holocaust was, our Savior came and saved us with even a greater victory.

## Part 1: Victory Is Preceded by Conflict

One thing that always precedes us in our victory is going to be opposition, or conflict. I've heard it said that, that is why you need enemies, because if God is going to prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies, the more enemies you got, the bigger the table. I've heard that said. If you've got some enemies, you ought to be saying, "Thank You, Lord, that means You're going to be making a big table for me, a great feast, a wonderful time of victorious triumph!" You could have a victory over something and you might be standing next to somebody that it doesn't mean a thing to. Your victory might only mean something to you. I had the opportunity, about three years ago, I was over at Brother Chris's house, and we were watching a football game. Welcome back, Brother Chris Ulrich. We were watching his New England Patriots—congratulations, I say that—we were watching his New England Patriots play my Baltimore Ravens—yeah!—and seventeen seconds to go, the pass was thrown, a receiver on the Ravens caught the ball in the end zone; I immediately jumped up, "Yeeeah-eh-eh-eh!" while Chris went, "No-o-o-o-o!" Unbeknownst to the receiver, a defender comes along and breaks up the pass. My exultation went from "Yeah-eh-eh-eh!" to "No-o-o-o-o!" while his went from "No-o-o-o-o!" to "Yeah-eh-eh-eh!" So, my victory meant nothing to him, and vice-versa. You could be standing next to somebody whose victory doesn't mean anything to you and that is going to be my only football reference this morning. Amen; amen.

But it can also—our victory can also be misunderstood. We aren't given this victory from the Lord for us to be slack. We aren't given this victory for us to forget even the battle that we've come through, for as it is said, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. They are doomed to repeat it. So, it is mindful, it is necessary for us to remember the battles and the deliverance, so that we are mindful that we were victorious over that through the Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

I have overcome the world; I have conquered the world. I have prevailed against the world! I have subdued the world. The victory the Lord gives us, it says, makes us to overcome. We have to keep ourselves in the mindset that when the Lord rose, those things of the world didn't have power over His victory anymore. They still existed. There was still debt in the world; there was still sickness in the world, there was still false friends in the world, and there was still death in the world. They no longer had power over Him. Though they existed, they didn't have the power. After all, we have to ask ourselves, which is greater, never to get sick, never to have an issue, never to be in debt, never to have a problem... Which is greater, never to face something that you just don't know what the outcome is going to be, you just don't know how you're going to be delivered, or to have to go through it and to be victorious, to be able to look back and say, "You know what? though you came at me, you could not prevail against me?" Yeah, a false friend can make you feel bad, but you can overcome that through the Lord Jesus Christ, with a greater love. Yeah, that can make you just swell up your mind, but when you receive the victory, you're like, "Thank You, Lord!! Thank You, thank You, thank You, and I know God is going to supply all my need, according to His riches and glory." So, it is better to face everything and know that, through anything that comes along, God will give the victory.

## Part 2: The Lord's Victory Is Not the World's Victory

The Lord's victory is not as the world gives. It's not as the world gives; you can't compare the two. There is also a difference between worldly victory, and Godly victory. One is temporal, temporary, you know? You could win something, and the exultation will last for a while, and then, later, you're looking for something else to give you that euphoria. But when God gives you victory, it kind of settles into your soul, and you are free to remember it, and call back, and, as the Lord said, it is like a well of water springing up within you constantly giving you life. Worldly victory is more surface, whereas a Godly victory is more internal and over-encompassing. And the things that our Lord vanquished never had power over Him again. Think about the Lord rising from the dead—you think—can you imagine, can it enter in that He might have been afraid of death anymore? He conquered it; now death itself has no more power. How great is that? Those things no longer have the power unless he chooses to give them the power.

It is important to realize that this victory that the Lord gives us, yes, it is a lifetime victory, but it is lived one day at a time. It is lived one day at a time. We cannot allow ourselves to get caught up in the trap of trying to live our whole lives today. We can't allow ourselves to get caught up in thinking, "Well, I don't know how we're going to fix everything that's going on out there!" when today, the Lord said, take no thought for all that stuff; sufficient is the evil of the day (Matthew 6:31-34). Seek ye the Lord while he may be found and call on Him today while He is near (Isaiah 55:6). He will take care of you today; He will take care of you tomorrow; He will take care of you next week, one day at a time. Have you ever found yourself in a place where you didn't know, and maybe it even came up to the very second, you didn't know, and you thought you were facing the music, and it just seems like God sent a messenger to answer, right there, right on the spot. It would be easy to forget that. It would be easy to move past that, and say, "Wow, that was kind of neat the way that whole thing worked out," rather than saying, "God, I thank You! Look what You did, and I realize now that You will always be able to do that if I only believe." Sometimes we can notice a great triumph, also, being given. Sometimes we can notice a great victory being given. Yes, we've seen it before, where, maybe somebody has been on the receiving end of receiving that job that was wonderful, or receiving that family being restored together, or receiving the bill that they didn't know, and it was going to be paid—they didn't know how, and, from nowhere at all it seems—they never even had it in their mind—God comes through with an answer. I have to say, I have to say I've seen so much of that. I'm in a ministry, I'm in a church where there's people with beautiful hearts, and I've seen them cry out to God; I've seen them ask, and I've seen God answer. I've seen Him answer many times! I've seen Him answer miraculous ways. And every now and then, every now and then, I see them forget that God brought them the whole victory in the first place. Every now and then, I see them turn from it, they all of the sudden no longer seek God with that same fervency; He doesn't mean as much to them as He meant in the middle of tribulation. "What is God to me?" I've seen it happen!

And, Saints, I would have to say, if I'm honest—if I'm honest—I've been there. I've been to the place where I might have thought my victory was in something else. God would bring that great victory, and I would think, "Aw, man, that was great! It was great to have it, but, it's a little empty, because I haven't put as much God in it as I should have. God fulfilled His end of the bargain; I need to fulfil mine." Yes, I've been there, where I thought my victory would be in more money, and, in fact, if I were to listen to my family, they would say, "Parrish, you want to know what your victory's in? I'll tell you where your victory is: Your victory is going to be in that you can get a couple of million dollars; that will make you safe. Finish your college degree; that will make you smart. And, you know what? you need to have a better job and a bigger house. That will make you happy. And you need to have a better car..." Maybe an F-150... "But you need to have a better car; that will make you look a little better." Yeah. Yeah, I've been there. "You know what else you need, Parrish? you need some more suits." That's what my family

would say. If I were to listen to my doctor, my doctor would say, “Parrish, you know what you need to be successful, and to be victorious? You need to lose some weight! If you lose some weight, lose forty pounds, and then be able to bench-press over two hundred pounds, yeah, that will help your muscle structure. And then, you need to be able to run about four miles without getting too winded; that will help your respiratory system. Yeah, and then, you know what else you need? You need to lose about seven inches off your waist; that will help your whole frame. And then, you know what else you need? You need to drop your blood pressure, because, you know how it is when you reach a certain age; that’s your danger.” So, if I were to listen to my doctor, he would tell me that. If I were to listen to society, they’d say, “Yeah, Parrish, you know what you need? you need that wife that everybody can talk about. And you know what else you need? You need that nice house with the 2.5 kids, and you need a better, more prestigious job. That would be your victory. That would be your success.” Depending on who I ask, that’s what they would tell me. But, if I ask God, “God, where’s my victory?” He’ll say, “Rejoice not, Parrish, rejoice not that everything down here can be subject to you. Don’t even rejoice that the devils are subject to you. Rejoice that your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, because that’s a victory that the world don’t know nothing about. That’s a victory that lasts a lifetime.”

### Part 3: God Already Gave Us this Victory

God already gave us this victory.

**John 17:22** *And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one:*

Our Lord speaking, “And the victory, the victory which Thou gavest Me,” He says, “I have given them.” So, we want to present a quick question, here: Moses—and we know the story, Moses and the Red Sea—but the question would be: Did Moses get the victory after he crossed the Red Sea, or before? Or, we could ask about David—and we know about David and Goliath—Did David have this victory after he slew Goliath, or did he actually have that victory before? Or the Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, did they have the victory after they came out of the fiery furnace, or did they actually have the victory before they went in? the truth of the matter is, no matter what we're up against, saints of God, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the victory is yours no matter what the battle is, no matter what the opposition is, no matter what we are facing.

**Romans 8:31** *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us?*

What shall we say? If God be for us, who, what, where, when can be against us, if God be for us? That’s enough, right there. If I’ve got God on my side, amen, no matter what the issue is...

**Romans 8: 35-39** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long: we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors...” “For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus

our Lord.” So, yes, Saints, our Lord has overcome the world, all day, every day. All day, every day, He has overcome the world. That doesn't mean the world won't try and come—you ever see somebody small try to take on somebody big? Did you ever see that? And it's like, “Are you crazy? What are you trying...” You ever see that? That doesn't mean the world won't try and come and overcome you. The world knows that you've got the Lord on your side. That doesn't mean it won't try, you but it does mean that we have the victory that the Lord gave us to overcome.

That doesn't mean you won't cry, sometimes. It doesn't mean you won't hurt. It doesn't mean that you won't have spells of confusion. That doesn't mean that you won't encounter things where you just don't know what will happen. It means that it's already been given to you; it's already in your life. It might not be what you think it might be, but it is the victory that God has put in our lives to counteract everything. To face anything. The victory that overcometh the world. This, Saints, is the victory that lasts a lifetime.

#### **Part 4: As Long As We Have the Lord Jesus, We Have Our Victory**

When we talk about Victory, we have to talk about all our relationships. You may say, “Brother Parrish, how can I say I have the victory? You know, I face a lot of stuff. Shoot, I get distressed; I get depressed; sometimes I'm oppressed, and, sometimes my life is just a mess? How can I say I always have this victory? How can I say I have the victory when I still get tempted? How can I say I have the victory when I get angry? How can I say I have the victory when I have apathy, and I just don't feel like doing this or doing that? How can I have the victory when I feel like just leaving the situation, whatever it might be? Plus, Brother Parrish, you don't know; you don't know what I go through, speaking up there so bad. You don't know. You don't know what situations I face. You don't know what I go through.” And, you know what? that would be absolutely accurate, but I know the One who does know. We know the One who does know everything we go through, everything we face. He knows our hurt and He knows our pain. He knows our fear, and he knows our tears. He knows when we think we're strong; He knows when we think we're weak. He knows; he knows; he knows. He has said something to us, and it's back at our first Scripture:

**1Corinthians 15:57** *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“...Through our Lord Jesus Christ.” As long as we have our Lord, we have our victory. So, yes, our victory is in our worship, for as we praise Him, He inhabits the praises of His people. Our victory is in our humility, for, if we decrease, we give Him the room to increase. The victory is in our faith, knowing that every Word of God is true and He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Our victory is in the blood of the Lord Jesus, knowing that it washes away our sins. Our victory is in reading His Word that His mysteries might be revealed to us. Our victory is in His precious Love, which, Saints of God, changes everything in comes in contact with.

Yes, Saints, our victory is in everything that God gives us, and it lasts a lifetime.

We'd like to close this by singing the song that we started out with: “In the Name of Jesus, (We Have the Victory).”

Verse 1

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus

We have the victory!

In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus



Satan will have to flee.

Chorus

Tell me who can stand before us,  
When we call on His great name  
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus,  
We have the victory!

