

VICTIM MENTALITY

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Victim or Conqueror?

- The **world and Satan** train all of us to be a **victim** of the “slings and arrows” of **natural life**
 - “To be, or not to be, that is the question; whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to **suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune**, or to **take arms against a sea of troubles**, and by opposing end them?” (William Shakespeare, Hamlet)
- The problem with this **natural world** viewpoint is that we **cannot “end them”** no matter how much we **war against them** on our own (or in league with other like-minded humans)
 - “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*” (Proverbs 14:12)
 - “*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,*” says the *LORD of hosts.* (Zechariah 4:6)
 - “*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*” (Romans 8:37)

Programmed (i.e. Brainwashed) by the Devil

- We spend our time **avoiding the arrows** and **anticipating the worst** because that is the lesson we learned **early in life** – to **merely survive**
 - This **early-life training** becomes a **subconscious mind and heart program** that **undermines ourselves** through a **fear of failure** or a **fear of success**
- Whether we are victims of **SRA (Satanic Ritual Abuse)**, **childhood abuse**, or simply **imperfect parents** and **worldly afflictions**, the **Devil** tries to implant the **very same lies and programs**, namely:
 - **Lie: Satan is more powerful than God** and you’d better **fear the Devil** more than you “**fear**” **God**
 - **Lie: Jesus is the weak son of God** and **Satan is the strong son of God** (i.e. Lucifer was Jesus’ brother)
 - **Lie: Where was God/Jesus** when you needed Him? See, **He can’t/won’t help you** – you’re **on your own** so you’d better take matters into **your own hands**.
 - **Lie: I don’t deserve** to be **healed/delivered/prospered**
 - **Lie: There’s something wrong with me**, so the **promises of God** don’t/won’t **work for me**
 - **Lie: Everything always goes wrong for me** – that’s just **my lot in life**

Re-Programmed by God

We can attempt to **undo the core beliefs** programmed into us by the **world and the devil**, but we will have only **limited success without the assistance of the Lord**

- *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”* (2Corinthians 12:9)
- *“... without Me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5)
- *“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19:26)

So, we must **re-program** ourselves with the **Truth of God**

- This requires us to **fully believe without doubting us or God** that God’s Word is **always true**
 - *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (2Timothy 3:16-17)

- Thus, we must do more that just **read the Word** – we must **program it into our core** to replace the **lies of the Devil** -- because the **lies block God’s blessings!**
 - “Behold, You desire **truth** in the **inward parts**, and in the **hidden part** You will make me to **know wisdom.**” (Psalm 51:6)
 - “Let not **mercy and truth** forsake you; **bind them** around your neck, **write them on the tablet of your heart**, And so **find favor and high esteem** in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3)
- We must **replace the lies with the Truth of God**
 - **Truth:** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.” (Psalm 111:10)
 - **Truth:** “How you are **fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How you are **cut down** to the ground, you who weakened the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12)
 - **Truth:** “Then I saw an **angel** coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²He **laid hold of the dragon**, that serpent of old, who is the **Devil and Satan**, and **bound him for a thousand years**; ³and he **cast him into the bottomless pit**, and **shut him up**, and **set a seal on him.**” (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - **Truth:** “And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the **only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and **truth.**” (John 1:14)
 - **Truth:** “He Himself has said, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5)
 - **Truth:** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.** ³⁰**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**” (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - **Truth:** “The thief does not come except to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy.** I have come that they may **have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**” (John 10:10)
 - **Truth:** “Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that **He may exalt you** in due time, **casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**” (1Peter 5:6-7)
 - **Truth:** “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through **faith** in Jesus Christ, **to all and on all who believe.** For there is no difference; ²³for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God” (Romans 3:21-23)
 - **Truth:** “And my God shall **supply all your need** according to His **riches in glory** by Christ Jesus..” (Philippians 4:19)
 - **Truth:** “Beloved, I pray that you may **prosper in all things** and be in **health**, just as your **soul prospers.**” (3John 1:2)
 - **Truth:** “**Blessed** is the man who walks not in the counsel of the **ungodly**, nor stands in the path of **sinners**, nor sits in the seat of the **scornful**; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. **He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.**” (Ps. 1:1-3)
 - **Truth:** “**In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**” (John 16:33)
 - **Truth:** “Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the **power that works in us**, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Reverse the Polarity

Our **victim mentality** causes us to **possess a magnet that attracts the very things we fear**

- Just like a **real magnet**, there are **plus & minus poles** one of which **attracts** and the other **repels**
 - This is what happened to **Job who realized**: “*For the **thing I greatly feared** has come upon me, And **what I dreaded** has happened to me.*” (Job 3:25)
- Our **experiences** and our **emotional response** to past troubles **create a negative polarity that attracts more trouble**
 - This gets **programmed into our “inward parts”** (i.e. our **subconscious** and our **gut-level emotions**)
- We can **believe God’s promises** in our **conscious minds** and in our **hearts**, but when **stress mounts and problems grow**, it is what’s in our **“inward parts”** that determine how we **actually respond**
 - So, more than just **positive thinking and affirmations** are required
- What’s **really required is transforming faith & trust**
 - Where do we **get this from? God!!!** It is another of **His free spiritual gifts** that we can **all ask for**
- What we need is **positive expectation**
 - “*For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your **prayer** and the **supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**,²⁰ according to my **earnest expectation and hope** that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all **boldness**, as always, so now also **Christ will be magnified in my body**, whether by **life or by death**.²¹ For to me, to live is **Christ**, and to die is **gain**.”* (Philippians 1:19-21)
- And, we need to start **functioning in the authority** that Jesus has given to **all believers**
 - “*Behold, I give you the **authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***” (Luke 10:19)
- We need to shift the **polarity** from **negative reaction** to **positive proaction**
 - We not only have **armor**, but we also have **a sword** – and we need to **use it!!** (Ephesians 6:12-18)
- And, we need to learn how **to be content** no matter what our circumstances
 - “*I have learned in **whatever state I am, to be content.***” (Philippians 4:11)
- And, **don’t block** the flow of **God’s blessings** and **open the door to the devil** through your **complaining**
 - “*nor let us **tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; **nor complain**, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*” (1Corinthians 10:9-10)

A Victim: The Paralytic at the Bethesda Pool (John 5:1-9)

- **Problem**: “*I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.*” (v7)
 - A **victim** is **programmed** to believe that **things will not work out** because of **experience** and the **attempting to rely on worldly solutions**
- **Solution**: “*Jesus said to him, ‘**Rise, take up your bed and walk.**’ And **immediately** the man was **made well**, took up his bed, and walked.*” (v8-9)
 - The **supernatural power and authority** of Jesus Christ **transcends all worldly limitations**
 - **Faith** opens the **channel of grace** through which the **power flows**; **trust** allows us to **receive it** (and **distrust blocks the flow**)

A Conqueror: The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25-34)

- **Problem:** “Now a certain woman had a **flow of blood for twelve years**, and had **suffered many things from many physicians**. She had **spent all that she had** and was **no better**, but rather **grew worse**.” (v25-26)
 - This woman had tried for **12 years** to get her healing from **doctors** (i.e. the world) and had spent **all the money she had**
- **Solution:** “If only I may **touch His clothes**, I shall be **made well**.”... And He said to her, “Daughter, **your faith has made you well**. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” (v28,34)
 - This “**unclean**” woman **defied** the religious authorities and **went out in public** in her **faith and hope** that simply **touching Jesus’ robe** she would be made well

Conquerors, not Victims

- We **all** can be **conquerors** – but only **through Christ Jesus** (Romans 8:28,31-39)
 - “And we know that **all things** work together for **good** to those who **love God**, to those who are the **called according to His purpose**... What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give us all things?** ³³Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us.** ³⁵Who 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 Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**” ³⁷**Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- We **all** can be **overcomers** – but only **through the blood of Jesus**
 - “And they overcame **him** by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony**, and they **did not love their lives to the death**.” (Revelation 12:11)
- And what is **promised** to the **overcomers**?
 - “**To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.**” (Revelation 2:7)
 - “**He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.**” (2:11)
 - “**To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.**” (Rev. 2:17)
 - “**And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations**” (Revelation 2:26)
 - “**He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**” (Revelation 3:5)
 - “**He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.**” (Rev. 3:12)
 - “**To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.** (Revelation 3:21)