

“VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST!”

- Four Keys to a VICTORIOUS LIFE!

> **KEY #1 – LOVE – GOD LOVES YOU!** - John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* (Luke 23:33-56)

- **VICTORY IN LIFE** comes through the **LOVE** of **GOD** our **FATHER** and His **SON JESUS CHRIST!** (Jesus said in John 14:23-24 - *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."*)

> **KEY #2 – FORGIVENESS – Ask God to forgive you of your sins, ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior!**

(What is the meaning of God's forgiveness? - As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God's pardon of the sins of human beings. No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin (Ps 51:1,9; Isa 38:17; Heb 10:17). The initiative comes from Him (John 3:16; Col 2:13) because He is ready to forgive (Luke 15:11-32). He is a God of grace and pardon (Neh 9:17; Dan 9:9).

Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God's holy character (Gen 2:17; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Peter 1:16), but His pardon is gracious (Ps 130:4; Rom 5:6-8). In order for God to forgive sin, two conditions are necessary. A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner (Lev 17:11,14; Heb 9:22), and the sinner must come to God's sacrifice **in a spirit of repentance and faith** (Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15).

Forgiveness in the New Testament is directly **linked to Christ (Acts 5:31; Col 1:14), His sacrificial death on the cross (Rom 4:24), and His resurrection (2 Cor 5:15)**. He was the morally perfect sacrifice (Rom 8:3), the final and ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament sacrifices (Heb 9:11-10:18). Since He bore the law's death penalty against sinners (Gal 3:10-13), those who trust in His sacrifice are freed from that penalty. By faith sinners are forgiven-"justified" in Paul's terminology (Rom 3:28; Gal 3:8-9). **Those who are forgiven sin's penalty also die to its controlling power in their lives (Rom 6)**. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- **VICTORY IN LIFE** is to know that your past, present and future sins are forgiven through the precious **HOLY BLOOD** of **JESUS CHRIST!**

> **KEY #3 – POWER – Believe in the power of JESUS CHRIST!** (Luke Ch. 24)

Jesus said in Acts 1:6-8 - *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **But you shall receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**"* (This power was manifest by the Holy Spirit on the **“Day of Pentecost”**, whereas, cowardly Peter became a courageous man of God preaching salvation in Jesus Christ! (Acts 2) We also read about the transforming power of Christ in the persecutor of the church, Saul of Tarsus as he comes to salvation on the Damascus Road and later becomes bold **Paul the apostle as he declares in Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.** Again in 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.***)

- **VICTORY IN LIFE** is discovered through the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** and the **WORD OF GOD!**

> **KEY #4 – HOPE** - Is a confident expectancy. Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1,7). Hope distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Indeed, a Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3). Christian hope comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His grace (2 Thess 2:16), His Word (Rom 15:4) and His gospel (Col 1:23). Hope is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1). Its appropriate objects are eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), salvation (1 Thess 5:8), righteousness (Gal 5:5), the glory of God (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7).

- **VICTORY IN LIFE is the blessed assurance that CHRIST IS RISEN!!! JESUS will take us to HEAVEN one GLORIOUS DAY!!! Let's finish in victory with 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; 51-58.**