In or Old Testament reading this morning, Deuteronomy 20 begins with instructions for Israel’s going into battle with their enemies, a set of principles regarding warfare. The passage states that once the land of Canaan is conquered and settled, the Israelites will still face enemies, but they need not fear. They have one important truth: God is with them (20:4)! Moses does not minimize the size of the enemy; he maximizes the truth in the face of the enemy, that God is with them. We need to learn how to fight from that position of strength. Many of us here this morning are in the midst of some battle(s). These challenges create in us fear, doubt, uncertainty, bitterness, and spiritual fatigue. Family, listen. You need to be reminded of the simplest but most profound truth: Your god is with you! Christian, your victory has been won! R.C. Sproul puts it this way: “By His life, death, and resurrection, our Savior has conquered our enemies and by His Spirit, He has granted us to share in the victory. We fight *from* victory, not *for* it.” It’s already been won! (1 Corinthians 15:57\*). Christian, this is your reality. Christ did it! And I’m not trying to minimize your battle. I just want to remind you of your position (2 Corinthians 2:14\*\*): triumph in Christ. Christ Jesus empowers us to live in victory from a place of thanksgiving.

In Christ, we have victory over sin, hell, death, and the grave. That’s great, Pastor Chris, but what about this battle, the one I’m fighting now? Well, here’s the answer: You need the right strategy, offered clearly in Deuteronomy 20:1-4. You can focus on what you see, or you can focus on what God says: “4 For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.” Church, listen. This is what it means to be a Christian—be dependent upon God for salvation, for provision, for sanctification, for peace, and yes, for victory over this world., Victorious living is living a life of submission, having an awareness of our position in Christ. It requires recognizing the glorious

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\*1 Corinthians 15:57

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*\*2 Corinthians 2:14

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

hope we have as children of God. A victorious Christian life is the result of living a life by faith, according to what God says is true. Trust God. Depend upon God. This trust and dependence will remove fear and doubt. Deal with doubt by holding on to God’s truth. Victory is an act of love! It’s an act of God.

And our receiving His love and His victory is an act of faith. Victory in Jesus is not about more stuff. It’s about more Jesus (Ephesians 3:20-21\*). Fight your battles the fight way. Remember who you are, your position because of Christ, believing in His Word, above all the noise of this world, making yourself strong in the strength of His might (Ephesians 6:10\*\*). Victorious living is living to please God. Victory is collapsing into grace. This faith is not a “hope-so”. It is an unseen certainty: I *know* where I will go when I die! The principles of victory are founded in and molded by our faith. Relying on God in and for all things requires a right view of Him. The awesomeness of God is foundational to every promise of God. In everything, every day, I can choose to be moved by the news of the world, by circumstances—loss, fear, doubt, dread, OR I can be molded by the Good News of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. I can seek Him. I can carry out His commands: “For in him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). Victorious living is living to please God. It means yielding to His Lordship. He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me before I know Him. I can trust Him to come through for me.

With what is it that you need to trust the Lord today? Circumstance? Unhealthy feelings? A faltering relationship? An undeveloped personal ministry? A troubled marriage? A concern for your eternal soul? Perhaps, you have forgotten THE victory. Victory is found only in dependence upon God. And that dependence

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\*Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

\*\*Ephesians 6:10

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

emerges from intimacy:

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2 Peter 1:3-4

The Lord your God is with you, to fight for you. Maybe, you’ve failed to recognize His presence in your life. Thank Him, trust Him, yield to His Lordship. He will give you victory and free you from fear, just as He did for the Israelites. If I can trust Jesus to take my soul to Heaven, surely, I can trust Him to navigate for me while I’m here on Earth! Remember His faithfulness!!

Passages in support of this sermon:

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. 2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. 3 He shall say: “Hear, Israel: Today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not panic or be terrified by them. 4 For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”

1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.