

THE LANGUAGE OF VICTORY

Life is filled with obstacles, challenges and battles. God wants us to be winners and overcomers, not whiners and losers. It takes faith not doubt.

'Everyone born of God has overcome the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. - 1 John 5:4

The above references to the world refer to the fallen systems of this world. It is through faith that we can be overcomers. Faith is conceived in our heart and our minds. It comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and it is released through words.

'I believed, therefore I have spoken. With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak.' - 2 Corinthians 4:13

Anybody can speak what is visible or evident through natural senses. However, faith speaks forth what is not yet seen, just as if it had already arrived or happened. Such speech is not make believe but is based on what God has already spoken. Here is an example.

'...because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.." So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?' - Hebrews 12:5-6

It is likely that all of us have prayed for persons at times, "God be with _____" This is not necessary if that person is a Christian, for God has already said that He would never leave them. It would be better to affirm His presence with them and that they would trust in that. Throughout the Bible, we see **faith talk** on display in various situations. It is reflective of the example set by God himself.

'...the God who gives life to the dead, and calls things that are not as though they were.' -Romans 4:17

Based on the work of Jesus at the cross through his shed blood for humanity, God sees and speaks of His people beyond what they are now. Sometimes when people ask me at church how I am, I do not give typical answers. Several years ago when someone asked me how I was, I responded with one word.....**perfect!** Just before coming to church that morning I had read:

'By one sacrifice He (Jesus) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.' - Hebrews 10:14 NIV

(I had to explain what this meant. The word **perfect** in the Bible, **teleios**, means: to accomplish, make complete, finish, fulfill, reach full maturity.) God, who lives in the infinite realm, sees the end from the beginning. He made a covenant with **Abram**, which means **exalted father**, and said that He would make him a father of many nations. Therefore, God changed his name from Abram to **Abraham**, which means **father of a multitude / many**. Thereafter, God had him hear

his new name, identity and destiny as he and others called him Abraham (father of a multitude) Even before this God had moved Abram to faith by giving him a vision and telling him that his ancestors would be as many as the stars in the sky.

In a similar way God wants us to see ourselves in the completeness of our new identity in His image. We are being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ who is perfect in character (Romans 8:29). It is true that we still sin but **God calls us saints**. The New Testament letters often are addressed to the saints in a particular city even though they are not living perfect lives.

I am not suggesting that you go around publicly proclaiming I am perfect! I am perfect! This is inside information for us to ponder and treasure in our hearts and minds and confess to ourselves. Our transformation to full maturity takes place by renewing our minds according to God's opinion of us. It is a process, as the verse read.....'who are being made holy'. We are to wear the helmet of salvation for it is the mind of Christ and the helmet of victory! (Corinthians 2:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:8) The word **victory** in the Bible is **nikao**, which is related to the word **nike**. The voice of victory is the language of faith.

Zechariah He was serving as a priest in the temple when he was startled as an angel of the Lord appeared next to him and told him that his prayer had been heard and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. They were to name him John and he would be like the prophet Elijah. Zechariah then asked how he could be sure of that since he and his wife were very old. The angel then identified himself as Gabriel, sent from the presence of God, who then spoke these words.
(read Luke 1:5-18 for the complete account)

'Now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at the proper time.' - Luke 1:19-20 NIV

Zechariah remained a mute for his remaining service in the temple and until after his new son was born. At the circumcision, Zechariah's family and friends asked him what he would like to name the child. He wrote these words down on a tablet: 'His name is John'. Right after this, Zechariah was able to speak and began to praise God!

Faith Lesson:

- * If you doubt God's Word, don't speak it out.....keep your mouth shut!
 - * Believe God's supernatural Word is greater than your natural circumstances
- The angel's words were based on scripture promises -Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6. They revealed that this child to be born was an answer to his prayer and would bring Israel back to God. Zechariah believed that he and his wife were too old to have kids. We can learn from the faith of Abraham who was in a similar situation but his eyes were on God rather than his body.

' And not being weak in faith , he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about 100 years old) and the deadness Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.'
- Romans 4:19-20 NKJV

Anybody can call things as they are in the natural and physical realm, but it takes faith to
'call things that are not as though they were' – Romans 4:17
'Let the weak say, I am strong' – Joel 3:10

Some people get that phrase backwards and call things that are as though they were not. For example, if you are weak, don't say; 'I'm not weak.' If you are sick, don't say I'm not sick. If you are broke, don't say, 'I'm not broke. Based on God's Word, speak things such as, 'I am strong. I am healed. I am blessed'. At the creation of the world, God did not say, 'It sure is dark here.' He said, 'Light, come forth!'

When I was young boy, I would walk out to the pasture behind our barn and call for the cows to come. 'Come boss. Come boss. Come boss'. I was calling for the cows to come because they were not at the barn. Slowly, but surely they made their way back to the barn. Some people call for their dogs or cats in a similar way. 'Here pooch. Here pooch!' or 'Here kitty kitty'. They are not with you, but you are calling them here. You are calling forth the desired result.

- * When God corrects us, it is not meant to put us down but to make us more fruitful for Him. A few days after the birth of his son John, Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave a wonderful prophecy about him. - Luke 1:67-80 If Zechariah had believed God and praised Him right after the first angel encounter, he would not have had to go 9 months without speaking. Regardless of our faith level, it is always good to praise the Lord.

Affirmations of Faith!

- * God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Just before he headed to the mount, he told one of the young men with him, 'Stay here with the donkey, the lad and I will go yonder and worship and **we will come back to you.**' - Genesis 22:5
- * As they headed to the place of sacrifice, Isaac carried the wood and his father Abraham carried the fire and the knife. Isaac asked his father where the lamb for the sacrifice was. He responded with words of faith: '**God himself will provide the lamb.**' Just as Abraham was about to thrust the knife into Isaac, the angel of the Lord spoke audibly to him not to do it, for he had now proved that he feared God. Just then Abraham spotted a ram caught by its horns in a nearby bush. Just a coincidence? No, God often displays His amazing sovereignty at times to supply what is needed just in the nick of time. This also happened at the Red Sea miracle.
- * Moses told the nearly three million trapped Israelites '**Do not fear but stand firm and see the deliverance God will bring you today.**' God gets the most glory when He turns a seemingly certain defeat into a miraculous victory.
- * How did Joshua take the fortified city of Jericho? God gave him the strategy, but it first began with a message of victory: '**See, I have delivered** Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.' - Joshua 6:2a
Later, Joshua and the armed men and priests marched around the city 7 times on the 7th

day. After the priest blasted the trumpets, Joshua inspired them with these words of faith: 'Shout, for the Lord **has given** you the city!' - Joshua 6:16 Immediately, the walls collapsed and they went in to take the city. *Archaeologists have discovered the walls fell outward and evidence of the city being burned with a fire, just as the Bible said.

- * Jericho was a great victory for God's people who had faith and obeyed his battle instructions. A previous generation missed out on the promised land because they were gripped by fear, unbelief and disobedience. God gave them what they confessed.

'If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert. Why is the Lord bringing us into this land only to let us die by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better to go back to Egypt?'

- Numbers 14:2-3

'The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So I tell them, As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do the very things I heard you say; in this desert your bodies will fall.'

- Numbers 14:26-29

***** It is just as wrong to peddle doubt as to peddle dope. *****

- * Joshua and Caleb had a different view from the 10 spies who also explored the new promised land. The 10 spies said: 'We ~~can't~~ attack those people, they are stronger than we are.....we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes'. Caleb said: 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.'

Caleb had a different spirit and followed God with all his heart. When we face mountains in our life, we should not run away from them but face them in faith. God has said:

'For without faith it is impossible to please God.....' - Hebrews 11:6a

Challenges are part of the adventure of living by faith, learning to trust God and to see Him glorified as the God who performs miracles.

An opportunity to exercise faith is an opportunity to please God.

SPEAK VICTORY! Shout! SING!

You Tube Songs: 1. Waymaker 2. Battle Hymn of the Republic)

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