BIBLE STUDY RECAP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

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Lesson Overview – Moving Onward and Upward in Victory

This Bible study focused on the theme of **Moving Onward and Upward in Victory**, grounded in **1 John 5:4–5** and **1 Thessalonians 5:18, Amplified**. Pastor Mel emphasized that victory is predicated on **faith in Jesus Christ** and a personal relationship with Him, rather than external circumstances. Participants were encouraged to embrace change with joy, cultivate a community of love and grace, and maintain a victorious mindset regardless of political, personal, or social challenges.

Scriptural Foundation

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18:** "In all things give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you." This was presented as a foundational scripture for November.
- **1 John 5:4–5:** "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." This passage establishes that victory is available to those who believe Jesus is the Son of God.
- **Colossians 1:13:** Used to describe how believers have been rescued from the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son.
- **Matthew 5:13–16:** Referenced to remind the group that they are the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world," and should not lose their "flavor" or faith despite societal pressures.
- **Revelation 2:7:** Cited to emphasize that those who overcome the world

through faith in Jesus are granted the privilege to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God.

Key Points Breakdown

Core Themes and Teachings

- **Victory in Christ:** Pastor Mel emphasized that believers are "victors" and "winners" in Christ because Jesus paid the price on the cross, providing access to God and the ability to conquer any situation.
- **Overcoming Differences:** The group discussed overcoming differences in race, education, and social status, asserting that these factors should not determine whether someone is seen as a brother or sister in Christ.
- **Cultivating Love and Grace:** Pastor Mel shared a story about meeting a pastor from a different ethnic background and emphasized the need to cultivate a community of love and grace, both within the church and in the broader community.
- **Renewing the Mind:** Renewing the mind was described as a process of "deprogramming" from worldly or incorrect teachings and "reprogramming" with the absolute truth of the Word of God.
- **Resilience and Faith:** Pastor Mel encouraged the group to be resilient, to see God's sovereignty in all situations, and to trust that "better is on the way" even during seasons of change or trial.

Personal Reflections and Testimonies

- **Family Change:** One participant shared that they are enjoying getting to know their adult children as young adults with their own minds and beliefs, which they described as a positive change.
- **Health and Retirement:** Participants shared their fear and uncertainty surrounding a health diagnosis, and the decision to retire after 33 years, leading to a discussion on trusting God through transitions.
- **Personal Growth:** Pastor Mel shared a personal story about a period of

financial struggle and humility that eventually positioned them for something better, illustrating that what may seem like a setback can be a "setup" for future growth.

Action Items

- Put the word **"victory"** somewhere visible in your household (e.g., post-it note, phone screensaver) as a reminder of their identity in Christ.
- Continue to study, meditate on, and apply the Word of God to renew your thoughts, attitudes, and actions.