The Spirit leads you to victory. God never intended you to live a defeated life

**Experience God-given victory**

**Monday**

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14, Jeremiah 15:19-21

Your victorious life starts today. You just need to hear from God, so get serious with Him. **Memorize** one of these verses today.

**Tuesday**

Read Genesis 21

Your victory continues when you ‘give birth’ to what God has promised you. God wants to answer your prayer! So **pray** for your answer from God.

**Wednesday**

Read Genesis 21:6, 1 Timothy 6:17, Psalms 30

Victorious people are joyful people; they laugh like Sarah laughed. **Praise** God throughout the day for His victory in your life.

**Thursday**

Read Genesis 22, John 1:29, 1 Samuel 15:22, Revelations 5:6

You need victory over your selfish self, but only God’s sacrifice can save you from yourself. **Study** these scriptures and **journalize** your thoughts.

**Friday**

Read Revelations 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:57, 1 John 5:3-5, 1 John 2:14

When Jesus is victorious over something, you are victorious with Him over that same thing. **Journalize** the victories you still need in your life.

The Spirit leads you to victory. God never intended you to live a defeated life

**2 Corinthians 2:14 New International Version (NIV)**

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.

**Genesis 21 New International Version (NIV)**

**21**Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah **as he had said**, and the Lord did for Sarah **what he had promised**. **2**Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

When can your victorious life begin? Does it begin when you get what you ask for from God or when you hear from God?

When you start hearing from God! Abraham’s victorious life started when he heard from God 25 years earlier before he had his son. His victorious life started at that time! God lead him to victory by speaking to him.

When can you start hearing God?

When you start getting serious about God.

So what does it look like for someone to get serious about God?

They start paying attention to Him, reading their Bibles, gathering with other believers, turning away from other spiritual feeding sources and plugging into God to be fed and sustained.

How is victory furthered? When you give birth to God’s unique promise—> make God’s promise a reality

God’s has promised you joy. Give birth to joy.

God has promised you peace. Give birth to peace

God has promised you self control. Give birth to self control (which by the way means God control over your self)

God has promised healing. Give birth to healing

God has promised salvation for your family you have been praying for years.  You are going to give birth to that answered prayer.

God has promised He is going to supply for all your needs according to His riches in glory. You are going to give birth to supernatural provision to take care of your needs and even your wants.

Stay faithful in prayer until you give birth to what God has promised - Miwa’s package

**3**Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

You know what Isaac means right? ‘Laughs’…with victory comes joy, happiness, celebration, fun, enjoyment..even silliness!

**4**When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. **5**Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

BTW..*I am so glad that the men of faith described in the Bible didn’t all receive they were promised in a day* (Moses, Abraham, David, Paul).

There are foolish people out there who claim that if God hasn’t answered your prayer, its your fault because you don’t have enough faith. That’s crazy!!

The example of men and women we see in the Bible were full of faith but didn’t always visibly receive what God gave them right away….BUT…they started their victorious life when they listened to God.

Did Abraham wait to be victorious before he received a son? Did he languish in inactivity and depression until God fulfilled His promise?  NO!!!!!

He walked the breadth and length of the promised land. He took care of what God had given him. He interceded and rescued those he cared for. He spent time with God, enjoying His presence. You have the victory before you see God’s promise by getting involved in what God gives you to do!

**6**Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”

When you are victorious, you laugh, you are carefree, you enjoy.

**1 Timothy 6:17 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**... to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Do we go through times of sorrow, loneliness, misery??  Of course, but God wants to give you victory so you can laugh again. He doesn’t want you to stay in the place for very long.

**Psalm 30:5 New International Version (NIV)**

**5 ...**weeping may stay for the night,

    but rejoicing comes in the morning.

**7**And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**8**The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9**But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, **10**and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”

When you receive God’s promise, you immediately see the stark contrast with all your own schemes and attempts to make things happen.

*When you experience victory, you can easily decide to break with your past, to send off everything you have illegitimately brought into existence.*

Attitudes, dangerous friendships, business ventures, plans that are already in motion, decisions and commitments that you know you should make a 180 on

**11**The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12**But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. **13**I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

**14**Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy.

Your victory is complete when you make tough decisions that you know you need to make and break with the things and people you know you need to break off from.

So we see that victory starts when you hear from God and when through God’s power and strength you birth His promise.

But there is another aspect to victory that is crucial to understand.

You need victory over your selfish self.

**Genesis 22 New International Version (NIV)**

**22**Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

**2**Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Parents tend to re-live their lives through their children. So to lose their child is to die they themselves.

As a parent, I would far rather suffer myself than to see any one of my kids suffer.

In asking Abraham to sacrifice his son, God was asking Abraham to sacrifice himself, in essence to get rid of his selfish self.

But what seemed a horrible mandate, God was leading Abraham to incredible victory…the best victory which is victory over selfish self.

**3**Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. **4**On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. **5**He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we **will** come back to you.”

How much confidence do you have in God?

**Jeremiah 15:19 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**19**Therefore, thus says the Lord [to Jeremiah],

“If you repent [and give up this mistaken attitude of despair and self-pity], then I will restore you [to a state of inner peace]

So that you may stand before Me [as My obedient representative];

And if you separate the precious from the worthless [examining yourself and cleansing your heart from unwarranted doubt concerning My faithfulness],

Stop your unwarranted doubt concerning God’s faithfulness and be confident in God.

How does a God-confident person deal with uncertainty?

**Hebrews 11:17-19 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, **18**even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” **19**Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

**6**Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,**7**Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

**8**Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” (stop doubting God’s loving nature and be confident in Him) And the two of them went on together.

With every step you take of getting victory over your selfish self, the stronger and greater your confidence in God grows!

Your own sacrifice cannot save you!

The way for us to be victorious over our selfish selves, is that God himself must provide a lamb to be sacrificed instead of us, on our behalf, the lamb of God.

**John 1:29 New International Version (NIV)**

**29**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin (selfish self) of the world!

**Revelation 5:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6**Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne,

*Think of the selfish, out of control part of you (your attitudes, your habits). Jesus paid the price for you to live victoriously over these things!!!*

**9**When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10**Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11**But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

**12**“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” ….I see that your selfish self is not in control of your life

Will you give your whole self to God?  And not withhold anything from God?

God doesn’t want a dead sacrifice…He wants a living sacrifice!

**Romans 12:1 New International Version (NIV)**

**12**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ——> Available

God doesn’t want dead sacrifices, he wants active Spirit-led obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22 New International Version (NIV)

**22**…To obey is better than sacrifice… (your own sacrifice won’t save you)

**Romans 6:11 New International Version (NIV)**

**11**In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**13**Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns.He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14**So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

…go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Many theologians believe that this event occurred very close to the place where Jesus was actually crucified 2000 years later.

**15**The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time **16**and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17**I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,**18**and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Victory:

* When you hear from God
* When God fulfills His promise to you
* When you die to your selfish self and live for Jesus

When Jesus is victorious over something, you are victorious with Him over that same thing.

**Revelation 3:21 New International Version (NIV)**

**21**To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

**1 Corinthians 15:57 New International Version (NIV)**

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

**1 John 5:3-5 New International Version (NIV)**

**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.

**1 John 2:14 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**…I write to you, young men (young Christian),

    because you are strong,

    and the word of God lives in you,

    and you have overcome the evil one.

Just as Jesus is victorious over:

Addictions, you are victorious over addictions

Negative thoughts of doubt, lies

Sickness

Poverty

Laziness and complacency