

HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF VICTORY

by Marcia Greenwood

Have you ever thought about what it takes to have a happy, successful, fulfilled life? Why do some people seem to have a "good life" and others seem to live in a world of "whatever happens?"

God wants His children to be blessed in their lifetime. He doesn't want us to just "wade through life" until we go to heaven. He created the earth *for us*; all the beauty, all the trees, all the animals, all the food, *all* for our enjoyment.

God cares very much for us and how we live and our *quality* of life. He wants to give us everything. He desires to be our Father, our Provider and our Protector in every way. He doesn't want us to worry or have any concerns.

In Luke 12:22-31, God tells us to think about how the birds are taken care of. They don't have any cares, yet He still takes care of them. What about the lilies? How do they grow? They do nothing for themselves, but God gives them great splendor and beauty. He says that pagans worry about how to do everything in life. He tells us that He knows what we need and if we seek Him and His Kingdom, then all of these things (food, clothing, shelter, health, finances, etc.) will be given to us.

So, we should be asking ourselves "how do we seek God and His Kingdom?" If God says He will take care of all our needs; food, clothing, shelter, and finances when we seek Him and establish a relationship with Him, then we should learn how to do this and please Him.

Jesus says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He does not expect something of us that is difficult for us to do! It is easy to obey God, because by doing so we are blessed and reap the benefits, and we show our love for God.

God knows that His way works! We just have to learn this! Many people want to do things "their own way," or "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps." But why? *God's way works, all the time, every time, without fail!*

For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us (2 Cor. 1:20).

We need the knowledge of *how* to put God first. How do we obtain this knowledge? Prov. 11:7 says that the fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of knowledge. Now, does this mean that we have to be afraid of God? Do we have to cower around Him, thinking if we do wrong, He'll "get us?" NO!

The meaning of fear in this verse means to have respect and reverence for God.

So many of us need to learn that God, our creator and Father, is a *good* God! He created us because He wanted a family. He wanted fellowship with us. He wanted to bless us with good things, *now*, in our lifetime!

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He sent His Son, Jesus into this world to take our sins upon Himself. Jesus, because of His love for us, became a sacrifice for us. He took our place, He took the penalty for our sins. We no longer have to live under the penalty of spiritual death. God wants us to spend eternal life with Jesus and Him.

Yes, we are to die once, for a penalty for sinning. But, if we are born again Christians then we have eternal life waiting for us.

The Bible says that Jesus died for us, while we were *yet* in our sins. We don't have to clean up and become perfect *before* we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It's when we become born again and turn our lives over to Jesus, that He comes to live within us and helps us change.

God wants us to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and when we do this we are telling God that we want to be like Jesus. We want to pattern our lives after His and follow His example.

While Jesus was on earth, He said that He and His Father were one. Jesus spoke nothing, except what the Father said!

We need to make our relationship with Jesus and God just like that. That is seeking God and His Kingdom!

When Jesus died for us, He opened the way for us to come directly to the Father and speak to Him in Jesus' name. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

If we desire wisdom in how to follow the way that God wants for us, then all we have to do is ask, and believe by faith that we have received (James 1:5). We don't have to beg God, just ask! God won't tell us to do something and then hold back the answer from us on how to accomplish it!

If you, being evil want to give good things to your children, how *much more* will your heavenly father give you good things (Mat. 7:11).

Proverbs 4:20-22 says to pay attention to my words (the Bible), do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart, for they are *life* to those that *find* them, and *health* to a man's *whole* body.

The word health here means *medicine*. God's words are truth, and when we put them into practice in our lives we receive the blessing or healing to our whole make up; spirit, soul, and body; spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally etc.

This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:26).

The Holy Spirit was sent to earth after Jesus was resurrected. He was sent to teach us, and to remind us what Jesus taught. He comforts us, exhorts us, and convicts us. He convicts us, not so we'll feel guilty or shameful, but so that we will want to repent and change and turn our lives around so we'll receive the blessings God wants for us to have.

The Holy Spirit will give us a hunger to follow God, a hunger to read and learn from the Word of God. He will draw us closer to Jesus and God. He will never push or force us to do anything that is not God's way. He teaches us the way, but it is our *choice* to follow His lead or not.

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God says that He sets before us life and death, blessings and cursings, therefore *choose* life. God gives us the correct answer, but He won't force us to choose it! He wants our love and respect to come from our hearts, *freely!*

Psalm 91 tells us that if we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, then we will *rest* in the shadow of the Almighty.

So many of us don't take the time to get to know God or Jesus. Oh, many will go to church once a week, thinking they are being obedient to God. But God wants more. Much more! Don't we all want more of our families? Would you prefer just living in the same house with your parents and brothers and sisters, or do you want a good relationship with them? You want to know you have a place of protection, refuge and love with them and fellowship with them.

God is the same way. When we enter into a close, loving relationship with Him then He draws us close to Him. We are protected, safe and loved.

Continue in Psalm 91: God is our refuge and our fortress. He protects us. Why would God do this for us? In verse 14, God says *because we love Him, I will rescue him, I will protect him for he acknowledges my name.* When we call on God, He answers us and delivers us. *This is victory! This is the way to live!*

Yes, Jesus does say that we will have troubles in this world. This is because Satan is in this world and tries to steal, kill and destroy. But when we know and follow God's promises given in His Word, then we'll have victory every time. *Every time!* God says that He will deliver us from all our troubles.

The shield of faith protects us from *all* the fiery darts of Satan (Eph. 6:16).

Praise God! He thought of everything!

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

The devils works are destroyed! He just wanders about seeking those whom he may devour. If you know God's promises and walk in them, you won't be devoured! You will walk in victory!

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Mat. 4:4).

The Bible was written for us, it is our instruction manual We'll see victories in our lives when we follow those instructions!

If you have a problem assembling a certain appliance, you take out the instruction manual and follow the steps and you will have success. Most men learn this the hard way, they don't read the manual first!

Jesus wasn't taken by the lies of Satan or His temptations. He followed what God said every time, because God backs up His Word. *It will not fail!*

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If you need healing in your body, then follow what God says to do about healing. Look up the healing scriptures and speak them over your body. *I know firsthand that God wants us well. When we began to believe and follow what God says about healing, my husband was healed of a terminal heart condition.*

(We have several articles on healing and faith found on our web site www.tgm.org) You may also order the free booklet (Walking In Faith), a testimony of my husband's healing, at this site.

If you need deliverance from some oppression, then follow what God says to do. Oppression comes from Satan. It is when he tries to put burdens on you or cause you to be depressed. This does NOT come from God. Luke 4:18 tells us that Jesus came to release the oppressed. (In the King James it says to set at liberty those that are bruised.) Set at liberty means to set **FREE!** And who the Son has set free is free indeed!

Do you need restoration in your marriage? God tells us what to do to have a healthy, happy marriage. Follow what God says to do and you will see your marriage and life restored. (Now you can't force your will on your mate, but when you work together then God will restore what Satan is trying to steal.) You can pray that God will soften their hearts!

Are you currently experiencing financial problems? God says He wants wealth and riches in our homes (Psalm 112:3).

God tells us what to do in His Word to be blessed financially and be able to give unto others. God doesn't want you to be in debt for anything. He certainly doesn't want you to worry about how you'll get the money for certain things. God owns all the cattle, gold and silver and He knows your address. He knows just how to bless you and how to get the money to you. He will too, when you do what He tells you to do!

In Malachi 3:8-12, God tells us that we are robbing Him if we do not tithe. So in order to prosper and live in victory financially, you need to begin to tithe faithfully. (Tithing is giving a tenth of your income.) For instance, if your paycheck is \$1,000 a month then you should tithe \$100 into a church or ministry preaching and doing God's work.

You may say "I don't see how that would work, I barely make enough to cover my expenses now." Oh, but God says "**prove me**" in this and see if I will not pour out so much blessing to you that you won't have room enough to receive it. God is awesome, He know just how to do it too! You just need to trust Him! God won't lie to you about anything!

Do you have joy in seeing your children blessed, happy and fulfilled? Well so does God, even more so!

God has financial blessings for you, not just for you alone, but an overflow, so you can give to others and into God's work.

You **must** begin to look to God as your source, your **only** source and not to your paycheck! God has answers for every area of our lives.

How well do you get along with others? Jesus told us to love one another. Don't do harm to others, don't gossip. Do you follow this way of life?

Each of us has a right to choose how much of God's blessings we will receive! Some of us are satisfied with salvation, and knowing we'll have eternal life. Salvation is the most wonderful gift that Jesus has given us, but if you accept that gift only then you'll be missing out on so much more that God has provided for you through His Son.

Jesus said that He came that we may have life, and **have it more abundantly** (John 10:10).

We can receive more, when we believe what God says about a matter. As we step out in faith and **do** what God says about a certain matter, then we reap the benefits and blessings.

Believing comes by faith. We build our faith by reading God's promises in the Bible. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

(Rom. 10:17).

In Psalm 103:2 God says to praise Him and don't **forget** His benefits. One of the benefits is that He forgives **all** our sins. We can "choose" to believe that and when we repent we can live free from guilt. Some of us choose to limit God and live with the guilt and shame.

Another benefit is healing of **all** our diseases. We can choose to believe this and stand by this promise. Others say "this is not for our day" and they may end up dying from the disease. Hosea 4:6 says that My people perish from lack of knowledge.

Another benefit is being crowned with love and compassion. We can choose to believe this and live with this knowledge or we can beat ourselves up and say "we'll never be good enough."

Another benefit is being delivered from destruction. Satan has no hold over us, he just acts like he does. So, when we follow God's ways and act with the authority Jesus gave us, then Satan can't get to us.

Another benefit is He satisfies our mouth with good things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

You can see what I mean by saying we have choices. We can beat ourselves up and choose to live defeated lives in frustration or we can choose to live victorious lives when we believe and follow God's Word and **rest** in His promises and reap the blessings.

"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law, he meditates in it day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in season; his leaf shall not wither and **whatsoever** he does shall prosper.

When you meditate and read God's Word daily, and then apply that Word to your life then you are seeking God and His Kingdom.

So, if you want to be blessed and have a victorious life then you need to seek God's answers to your questions and put them into a daily routine in your life.

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This verse says trees will prosper when planted by the river. This is because they continually are being fed by soaking up the water. God is saying to us,

the closer we get to Him, the more we will be blessed and prosper. He is our source, Jesus is the foundation we are to build upon.

We need to build our foundation on rock, not sand. When the trials and storms come, we will continue standing. In other words, we will come through the victor.

God tells us to be a doer of the Word, not a hearer only!

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and **doeth** them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

But he that heareth, and **doeth not**, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great (*Luke 6:47-49*).

God watches over His Word to perform it (Jer. 1:12). So the more Word of God we get into our hearts and then speak it over the situations in our lives, the more victorious our lives will be!

God loves you, believe that He wants to give you life and life more abundantly. ***Receive it and live a victorious life!***