

Session 8: Victory, Disappointment and Faith

INTRODUCTION - VICTORY

Living Free helps us recapture an understanding and vision for a church that shares in Christ's victory.

'God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.'

Ephesians 2:6

Victory Over What?

- **Sin**

'For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.'

Romans 6:14

- **Death**

'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.'

Romans 8:1-2

- **Satan**

'For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.'

Colossians 2:9-10

- **Flesh**

'Those who belong to the earth are like the one who was made of earth; those who are of heaven are like the one who came from heaven. Just as we wear the likeness of the man made of earth, so we will wear the likeness of the Man from heaven.'

1 Corinthians 15:48-49

- **The World**

*'For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even **our faith**.'*

1 John 5:4

- **Sickness and demons**

'When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.'

Luke 9:1-2

- **The created order**

'But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"'

Mark 6:37

'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.'

2 Corinthians 2:14

RECOVERING A SUPERNATURAL MINDSET

The Devil's Tactics (Genesis 3)

- a. The devil tempts them to doubt God's word. - "Did God really say..." v1
- b. The devil tempts them to doubt God's goodness. - "... you must not eat from any tree in the garden?" v1
- c. The devil tempts them to doubt God's truthfulness - "you will not certainly die" v4
- d. The devil tempts them to doubt God's otherness - "you will be like God" v.5

GOD SPEAKS TRUTH

- 1) *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*
Jeremiah 29:11
- 2) *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*
Matthew 11:28-29
- 3) *'Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.'*
Isaiah 40:30-31
- 4) *'And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.'*
Philippians 4:19
- 5) *'You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit.'*
Romans 8:9
- 6) *'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*
Romans 8:38-39
- 7) *'Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.'*
Proverbs 1:33
- 8) *'The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.'*
Luke 8:27
- 9) *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."*
John 14:27
- 10) *'With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.'*
Psalms 91:16

DISAPPOINTMENT

The now and the not yet of the Kingdom of God

- **Kingdom** (basileia in Greek) means literally realm or sphere of rule

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Revelation 21:4

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.'

Ephesians 6:12

FAITH IN DISAPPOINTMENT

'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.'

Psalms 23:1-4

'The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.'

Psalms 97:5

Faith is a dynamic, supernatural reality that seeks to lay hold of the invisible and supernatural resources of heaven and bring them into the natural realm. Faith was never designed to be a static confession of truth.

Hebrews 11 is one of the great chapters on faith.

'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'

Hebrews 11:1

GROUPWORK

Victory

- 1) Share with the group how you are feeling about your own identity in Christ.
- 2) In your group discuss how you found the exercise on page 2.
- 3) Was this the first time you have spoken God's word to someone in this way?
- 4) How could you grow in confidence in listening to God and sharing it with others?

Disappointment

- 5) How do you typically respond when you pray for something and you don't see an answer to that prayer?
- 6) What have you understood by the term 'the now and the not yet of the Kingdom of God' – what did you know before, and has your understanding changed?

Faith

- 7) 'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' – What do you now understand this verse to mean, and what impact does it have on your walk with God?

HOMEWORK

- 1) First and foremost, come up with a plan to continue to look at and invest in the teaching over the last 8 weeks. It's very easy to go home and think that we've ticked the box and done the course, but living free is not, fundamentally a course – it's a way of life.
- 2) If you don't have a journal, get one and begin to keep a track of your quiet times and how you're doing with listening to God. Use the scales from a couple of weeks ago and date them. Regularly review how you're doing.
- 3) Continue to pray into what may be coming against you stepping into your identity in Christ (strongholds). If you're struggling to know how to recognise them, or pray through them, seek help, either from the prayer ministry team at St Paul's or The Well.