

LIVING
VICTORIOUSLY

Victor Paul Wierwille

edited posthumously by
Christopher C. Geer

LIVING
VICTORIOUSLY

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Jesus Christ Is Not God

Jesus Christ Our Passover

Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed

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The scriptures used throughout this book are quoted from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. All explanatory insertions within a scripture verse are enclosed in square brackets. All non-English words are printed with English letters and italicized.

The reader is kindly requested to note that a prerequisite for the participants of *Living Victoriously* was the foundational Biblical research class entitled *Power for Abundant Living*. Should the reader find that background or explanation is needed he is referred to *Power for Abundant Living* or alternatively to the two volumes which accompany it: *Power for Abundant Living* and *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today*.

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To
The Household of
The Way believers in Europe,
with loving thanksgiving
for their love and kindness

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Preface

In 1982, during the 40th anniversary year of The Way International, from 19 June through 4 July a special teaching series entitled **Living Victoriously** was held at The Way International Headquarters, New Knoxville, Ohio, U.S.A. Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, the then Founder and President of The Way International, delivered the keynote teaching of God's Word each evening during that time. His teachings were by no means the sole content of **Living Victoriously**. There were two classes, *Witnessing and Undershepherding* and *Our Spiritual Contest*, which were taught during that time and recorded on audio and video media, as well as numerous other teachings of God's Word which all, together with Dr. Wierwille's evening teachings, went into making up **Living Victoriously**.

And yet, it was Dr. Wierwille's series of teachings that were the high point and heartbeat of the days that were **Living Victoriously**. These teachings are here presented for your spiritual enrichment and your growth.

Christopher C. Geer
Bonn, West Germany
May 1987

CHAPTER ONE

The Foundation for Living Victoriously

The Foundation for Living Victoriously is brought to fruition in the victoriously living Christ. There is a time for all things, the time for Living Victoriously has arrived. God, at this time in history, His-story, has blessed us by His grace, His mercy, His peace, His love and His power—I thank God for His living victorious Word and for it living world-wide, in Christ's name.

There is a time for all things, but there is one thing for all times, and that is love. It is love that has made it possible for us to live victoriously in believing, in unity, in service and in hope. I thank God that He has invited us into the living-room of His heart so that we might live with and for Him.

In the Gospel of Matthew, as well as in the Gospel of Luke, we are told that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and that we are to love our neighbour as our self. The Gospel of John also informs us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

Jesus Christ, in the Gospel of John, said to love one another as I (Jesus Christ) have loved you. And he said that by this (love) shall all men know that you are my (Christ's) disciples. And Jesus said that greater love

hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ephesians tells us God's will is for us to be rooted and to be grounded in one thing, love. According to the first Epistle of John, God is love that we may serve Him, and one another, with the hope of his return being foremost in our thoughts. And it also says in I John that if we love God, we will keep His Word. Love covers a multitude of sins, the Word of God says, and most of us need a fantastic covering.

So, the greatest thing for all times is love.

I Corinthians 13:1-5:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity ["charity" throughout this passage is the Greek word *agapē* meaning, "the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation"], I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have *the gift of* prophecy [The words "the gift of" should be deleted. It is not a gift, it is a manifestation.], and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith [believing], so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned [which means "an utter spending of self"], and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself...

The love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation does not push itself ahead of somebody else.

...is not puffed up,

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Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked...

The love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation does not fly off the handle every two seconds.

...[the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation] thinketh no evil.

If the Word of God says that this is possible, then it is possible. It is possible to so live with the love of God in the renewed mind that you think no evil.

Verses 6-8:

Rejoiceth not in iniquity [seeing something happen wrongly or hurtfully to somebody else], but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth [covereth] all things, believeth all things [all things according to God's Word], hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth...

The love of God in the renewed mind never faileth; and never faileth means never faileth.

Verse 8:

...but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

But, the love of God in the renewed mind never faileth.

The Word of God is **The Foundation for Living Victoriously**. The Word of God is the will of God. Sometimes I think we ought to stop after the word "is". The Word of God IS. The Word of God is not a

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"has-been". The Word of God is not a "to be" word. It is a Word of God that IS.

The Word of God IS.

It is a living reality in the eternally present now. The Word of God IS, and that is where we must stand, upon the integrity and the accuracy of God's Word.

The Word of God IS the will of God.

No man will ever know the will of God without knowing the Word of God, for the Word of God is the will of God. That is why in *Living Victoriously*, we are again going to God's Word to look at that Word in the light of its inherent as well as its inerrant accuracy. Inherent means within; inerrant means no error—integrity.

The one great object of *Living Victoriously* is the same as the record that I cover in depth in the foundational class on Power for Abundant Living from II Timothy 2:15.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We are to study the Word of God to show ourselves approved unto God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed by doing one thing, and one thing only, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

It does not say count your beads; burn your incense; bring your offering; kneel in the front row; come to the mourners' bench. It says one thing, and one thing only:

II Timothy 2:15:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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I have taught in the Foundational Class that the usage of the Greek word, *orthotomounta*, translated as "rightly dividing", means there is only one way to rightly divide it, and that all other ways are wrong ways.

There is only one way to stand approved before God and that is to rightly divide His Word. Wherever we rightly divide the Word of God, we will have the true Word. Wherever we wrongly divide it, we are going to have error. We are to study it to the end that we can rightly divide it and stand approved before God.

It is the written Word that makes known the Father and His wonderful Son Jesus Christ. That is why the preached Word, or the taught Word, has to make known the written Word. Whenever the preached Word or the taught Word makes known the written Word, then the written Word makes known the Father and it makes known His wonderful Son, our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

There are some people who know all this and they rightly divide a lot of the Word of God but their day-by-day living is not in alignment and in harmony with the rightly divided Word.

They know the rightly divided Word, they even talk about it, but they do not live it. They talk the Word but they do not walk the Word. You and I must not only talk the Word, we must walk the Word. We must walk our talk and we must talk our walk. These people, who know this rightly divided Word and then do not walk it, hold the truth, but they are not held by the truth. People can hold the truth but the truth does not hold them if they do not walk on it.

In Acts, chapter 1, the Word of God records the last command by Jesus Christ just before he ascended. That has to be very important because, if I knew that this was to be the last time that I would ever be with you, I would want to be sure that what I said would be the most important thing that I could say. Would you not be in the same position, if you knew it was to be your last time?

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Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive power [*dunamis*], after that [when] the Holy Ghost [*pneuma hagion*] is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Here in the last statement: "and ye shall be witnesses unto me," was his last command.

And, the word "shall" is in the absolute tense. It does not say, "You will be" or "You may be," it says, "Ye shall." That puts his last command in the absolute tense, "You be a witness unto me."

The Roman Catholics, through the centuries, have endeavoured to indoctrinate everyone to believe that the word "protestant" is a negative word, that the word "protestant" means "protester". The teaching has been that they are always negative.

The word "protestant" comes from two words. The first syllable is "pro" which means "for". The second is "testant", which comes from the word *testes* and that word means "witness". "For witnessing" is what the word "protestant" means. Protestants are men and women who are "for witnessing".

II Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he* is a new creature ["creation" is the text]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

That man is no longer a man of only body and soul, he has Christ in him. That is why old things are passed away.

Verse 18:

And all things *are* of God...

All things new within that man of body and soul are of God.

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...who hath reconciled [past tense] us to himself by Jesus Christ...

And if God reconciled us then we are reconciled. No matter what the world says; no matter what a government says; no matter what anybody says. God's Word says He has reconciled us, and if God reconciled us, then we are absolutely reconciled.

...and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

He has given us the ministry. If He gave it to us then who is responsible for it? We are, as the recipients.

If I give you a gift, then who is responsible for that gift? You are. Now, since you are responsible you could take it and throw it on the floor and mistreat it, because it is a gift. You would be the one responsible for it.

He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation, so who is responsible for it? We are, and we can do with it what we want to. Well, why not do with it what God wants us to do?

Why not dare to believe that the Word of God means what it says, and that it says what it means; that God has a purpose for everything He says, where He says it? Not only do we have the ministry of reconciliation but He has committed to us the Word.

Verse 19:

...God...hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God committed it to us. God cannot move now until you and I move. God gave to us not only the ministry, but He also committed to us the Word. So, if we do not move the Word, the ministry will never move.

He gave it to us! I am amazed that God so loved that He would entrust the whole ministry of

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reconciliation, as well as the word of reconciliation, to us, but that is what it says, and the Word of God IS. It means what it says and it says what it means.

Verse 20:

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ....

Most Christians are not ambassadors in manifestation, they are burdened down. That is religion, not true Christianity. Religion has always enslaved people and pushed them down. It has made them feel incompetent. It has degraded them and told them how sinful they were and how worthless. But the ministry of the Word has brought us up to tell us who we are in Christ Jesus. It tells us what he bought for us, what he paid, what he is in us, and what he was for us—so that we in turn could be for him.

The Foundation for Living Victoriously is God's Word and that is what we witness. We are witnesses to the greatness of the integrity of God's Word. We are spokesmen of His Word.

A prophet is a spokesman, a witness, for God, one who speaks for God. Like a protestant, he is one who witnesses for God. Both are witnesses for God. What a fantastic ministry we have and what a wonderful life we have.

Now, in order to witness the Word, or to witness for God, there are some basic principles you have to adhere to.

II Timothy 3:16:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine [right believing], for reproof, for correction, for [which is] instruction in righteousness.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, not by the local theologians. "Given by inspiration of God" is the Greek word *theopneustos* which means "God-breathed". All Scripture is God-breathed.

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Verse seventeen gives us the reason.

Verse 17:

That the man of God may be perfect...

Then what is the will of God? The Word of God is the will of God and it says, "that the man of God may be perfect".

...thoroughly furnished [equipped] unto all good works.

The purpose of God's Word is that the man of God, the one who speaks for God, who witnesses for God, may be perfect. A protestant is one who witnesses for God and His Word. And God wants that one perfect—through and thoroughly perfected, through and thoroughly equipped, with nothing missing—unto every good work.

In I Corinthians 10 is that wonderful scripture that teaches us that all Scripture from Genesis through to Revelation is addressed to one or the other of three groups.

I Corinthians 10:32:

Give none offence, neither to the Jews [which is "Judaean"], nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.

You must always remember that the interpretation of God's Word is specifically to those to whom it is addressed. The application can be utilized in any administration in as far as it agrees with that which is addressed and written to them. So be very careful of that.

For instance, you and I are not sheep of His fold. Sheep were in the Gospels; Jesus Christ was the good shepherd and Israel were the sheep. You and I are not sheep. Jesus Christ is not our good shepherd. He is our brother; he is the head of the Body of the Church to

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which you and I belong.

So the interpretation is always to those to whom it is written; then the application can be utilized in as far as it agrees with the Scripture that is addressed to the Body of the Church. All Scripture is addressed either to Judaeans, Gentiles or the Church of God.

We are not sheep; we are sons of God. Yet the pastor, one of the five gift ministries, is one who shepherds; one who takes the people and binds up their wounds, who loves them, who tenderizes them, who takes care of them. As a pastor the application is that he can still love you; he can still be tender to you; he can bring you into his arms; if you are hurt, he can bind up your wounds. So you must be careful about the interpretation and the application.

You have to note to whom it is written.

I Corinthians 10:11:

Now all these things happened unto them for examples [examples]: and they are written [things before the day of Pentecost] for our admonition....

They were written for us, not to us, and were written for our learning.

Romans 15:4:

For whatsoever things were written aforetime [again, before the day of Pentecost] were written for our learning....

If you get a letter addressed to you, it is specifically to you and the information in it is addressed to you. But I might be able to learn something from that letter; it could be for my learning.

All Scripture is addressed either to the Judaeans, the Gentiles or the Church of God. And, all Scripture before the day of Pentecost is for our learning. The Gospels were before the day of Pentecost, so they too are for our learning. But there are a lot of things in the Gospels that can be applied to the Church of the

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Body in the day in which you and I live.

Another thing to remember, as workmen of God's Word, is that things that are similar are not identical. If there is one divergence at all, even just one small thing, then it cannot be identical, it could only be similar. That certainly has caused a lot of problems for people.

All through the years people have confused believing and faith.

Galatians 3:23:

But before faith came...

Then there must have been a time when faith had not come, when it was not here. "Before faith came," it goes on to tell us when that was.

...we were kept under the law....

Faith did not come until the day the fullness of the law had been totally put away, and that was on the day of Pentecost. So, there could be believing before the day of Pentecost, but there could not be faith, for faith came with the new birth. Before faith came we were kept under the law.

In translation, the Greek word *pistis* is translated both "faith" and "believing". You can always tell from the context whether it should be believing, which was available before the day of Pentecost, or faith, which was available after the day of Pentecost.

Another thing to watch is the times and administrations.

Watch, too, the places that are mentioned in God's Word.

Also watch: who, what, where, why and numbers.

Remember to take into account that circumstances may alter situations. For instance, in one place Jesus Christ said not to take any money or anything else and then later on he says to. Circumstances change; and when circumstances change revelation may change.

Another great thing to observe: all Scripture interprets itself either in the verse or in the context, or where it has been used before. Every word has to fit in the verse. The verse must fit into the context. Always watch the first occurrence of a word in the Word of God, and watch where the passage occurs. Is it in Romans, Ephesians or Thessalonians or is it in Deuteronomy? Watching that helps to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Another thing you have to be very careful of is that you dare never read the past into the present administration or into the future. You dare not read the past of one particular time into the past of another, nor the present into the present of another, nor the future into the future of another.

Another great truth is that if a passage is simple and clear, then any other word, verse or passage could never be in opposition or repugnant to that simple and clear passage of God's Word.

When it says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," it is simple, it is clear, it is plain. No other verse of scripture would dare to be in opposition to it or repugnant to it for then it could not be God's Word.

These are some of the principles of **The Foundation for Living Victoriously**. The foundation is the Word of God.

The psalmist tells us:

Psalms 119:162:

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

He rejoiced at God's Word; not what somebody said about it; not what somebody thought about it; but it had to be the Word.

He rejoiced at the Word, most people rejoice at finding a favourite programme on the television. We ought to rejoice at the Word of God as the psalmist did. How you feel about God's Word, and how you

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rejoice or do not rejoice at it, will tell where you are spiritually. The psalmist said he rejoiced at the Word, as one who found great spoil.

Jeremiah 15:16:

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart....

That does not mean they found the scrolls and then Jeremiah took them home and cooked them and then ate it! The scrolls were found after they had been lost for years and years under the debris of the destruction of the Temple. When they dug up the debris they found the scrolls and Jeremiah said, "Thy words were found." And when he found the Word, he read the Word. He ate it, eating it to the end of digesting and assimilating it.

It is just not hearing the Word in your head; it is putting it on in your heart and living it. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart."

For the most part the Bible is not understood; and, because the Bible is not understood it is not believed. Therefore, people do not believe that there is a Word of God. That is why they do not read it.

Religion has made the Word of God of non-effect by its tradition. That is why today men and women are living in deserts of spiritual despair and they drink from the stagnant pool of tradition instead of the fountain-head of God's revealed and written Word.

All natural knowledge comes via the continuance of learning and the liberty to do so. Likewise, the knowledge of the Word of God comes via the continuance of learning and the liberty, the freedom, to work the Word.

The truth, which is the true Word of God, today is unsettling to men's minds because it is the truth and it contradicts tradition. In the Book of Nehemiah it says, Ezra "opened the book". He allowed the book, the Word

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of God, to speak. The Word of God will speak more loudly for itself than any man can ever speak on its behalf. The Word of God, the true Word of God, is always unsettling to the minds of religious people because it is the truth, and that contradicts tradition.

Romans 8:28-30:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus Christ] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Have you been called? Certainly you have, if you are born again. Then, you have been justified. And if you have been justified, it says you have been glorified. We are what the Word of God says we are; we have what the Word of God says we have; and we will be what the Word of God says we will be.

The Foundation for Living Victoriously is God's Word and what that Word says.

Romans 8:35-39:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay [And nay means nay. It is absolute. It means no.], in all these things we are more than

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conquerors [The words "more than" are the word "super". We are super conquerors.] through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded...

As long as you have one iota of a doubt, you are not persuaded. That would be similar but not identical.

...that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Ah! But some religious fellow says, "Oh! But be careful—" So what! Nothing can separate us. And, "nothing can separate us," means nothing can separate us. When will we dare to believe it?

The Foundation for Living Victoriously is God's Word. You will always live below par if you go by tradition, or by religion, or by what people say. You have got to go to the Word of God, and specifically that which is addressed to us.

Romans is addressed to us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our lord. If nothing can separate us then nothing can separate us. For, in Christ Jesus, we are more than conquerors, we are super conquerors.

You see why the adversary is so mad with those who rise up to believe this Word of God? If I were him I would be mad too. I would try everything to stop the move of the Word, and he always does. But he will never stop us as long as we do one thing, literally believe God's Word rightly divided.

This Word of God is **The Foundation for Living Victoriously**.

CHAPTER TWO

The Victoriously Living Christ

There is a time for all things, but there is one thing for all times, and that is **The Victoriously Living Christ.**

Living Victoriously is victorious living, it is radiant living.

There are three words which enable us to see the greatness of **The Victoriously Living Christ.**

The first word is "believing"; believing is the genus of Christianity.

The second word is "love"; love is the badge of Christianity.

And the third is the word "Word"; it is God's Word, the Scriptures, which is the foundation of Christianity.

Have you really ever considered the dignity you have because of God's spirit that is in you? How fortunate, blessed and honoured you are that you have your name written and recorded in the lamb's Book of Life. As it says in the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 21:27:

...but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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It is interesting to note that there are two books of generations in the Bible.

Genesis 5:1:

This is the book of the generations [plural] of Adam....

This is the first of the two, it is the book of the generations of Adam. Now let's look at the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 1:1:

The book of the generation [singular] of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

We have the book of the generations of Adam but we have the book of the generation of Jesus Christ. The reason "generations" is in the plural in Genesis is because genetically the families got all mixed up. But when it comes to Jesus Christ, nobody can get mixed up because there is only one seed of Christ in every born-again believer. That is why it is "generation" in the singular.

Let us look at Romans chapter 8.

Romans 8:9:

...Now if any man ["man" is an inclusive noun and means "anyone", man or woman] have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

He would be of the generations of Adam but not of the generation of Jesus Christ. If any man has not the spirit of Christ he is not of God; he is not of us; he has not got Christ in him, the hope of glory.

There is a tremendous difference between religion and Christianity. Religion is based on human reason, human philosophy. Christianity is based on God's divine revelation.

Isaiah 55:8:

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

Religion is based on human reasoning, human ways, human philosophy. God says His thoughts are not those kinds of thoughts; neither are God's ways the ways of men.

Verses 9-11:

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my [God's] ways higher than your [man's] ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth [fruit] and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void [it will produce fruit], but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

These are not man's word, not a philosophical doctrine, not a theologian's word; but, they are God's Word. God says, "My Word".

Verse 12:

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

This is for our learning, but in application it would apply like we covered from the principles of handling the Word in the previous chapter.

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Verse 13:

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree,
and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle
tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for
an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.

Christianity is the way of a Father with His family. God is our Father; we are His children. Religion is the ways of men. Christianity is what God wrought in Christ Jesus, and what He does in and for all believers. Religion is what men do to men.

Things in this world are made to be used; people are made to be loved. You never use another individual. You can use things but not people; people are to be loved. Christianity is love; religion is selfishness.

In Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, we have the record of how God formed, made and created man. Then in Genesis, chapter 3, we have the record of the fall of man. In Genesis, chapter 4, the way back to God is revealed. Abel followed God's way, but Cain followed man's way. There are only two ways, it is either the way of God or it is the way of Cain.

Acts 18:26:

And he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

That is one of the two ways, the way of God. The other is the way of Cain.

Jude 11:

Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain....

There are only two ways: one is the way of God, the other is the way of Cain. The way of God is the true way and that is expressed in the words of the hymn: "Nothing in my hands I bring." The way of Cain

is the false way and it could be expressed in the words, "Something in my hands I bring."

Every religion maintains, as does the amount of religion that has crept into Christianity, that man must do something; he must be something; he must feel something in order to merit God's love and God's salvation. Yet, the Word of God declares that God finds every imagination, every reasoning, every thought of man's heart evil continually.

Genesis 6:5 and 12:

And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his [God's] way upon the earth.

Job 21:27:

Behold, I [God] know your thoughts, and the devices [the ideas] *which* ye wrongfully imagine against me.

God knows man's thoughts, his devices, which he wrongfully imagines and puts up against God.

Proverbs 15:26:

The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the Lord: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words.

Mark 7:21-23:

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

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Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness [lust], an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

II Corinthians 10:5:

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

You have to cast down all the false things, all the sense-knowledge reasonings, which are against the knowledge of God, and you bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. You bring your own mind into control to the greatness of the knowledge of God's Word, "every thought to the obedience of Christ".

Man has always thought himself a critic of the Bible; but, the Word of God says that it is the Word of God that is the critic of men.

Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful [energetic], and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner ["discerner" in the text is "critic"] of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is the critic. Man is not the critic of the Word; the Word of God is the critic of men. The Word of God is the critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 3:3:

...Verily, verily, I [Jesus] say unto thee

[Nicodemus], Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

I sometimes think that it should have said, "except a man be born again he cannot see" and stopped there. He is in darkness because if a man does not have the spirit of God in Christ in him he is none of His; he does not have eternal life.

Verses 4 and 5:

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily ["verily, verily" can also be translated "amen and amen"], I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water [natural birth, the breaking of the embryonic sac] and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

You must be born the first time in order to be born again, the second time, of the spirit.

Verse 6:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

The natural man of body and soul is flesh, but when that man, who is body and soul, confesses the Lord Jesus Christ and believes in his heart that God has raised him, Jesus Christ, from the dead then he is born again. He becomes "born of the Spirit". That which is born of the Spirit is eternal; that which is born of the flesh is temporal.

Verses 7 and 15:

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

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That whosoever believeth in him [Jesus Christ] should not perish, but have eternal life.

"That whosoever believeth in him should have eternal life," is the original text. Whosoever means whosoever; it has nothing to do with your background or any other natural qualification, it only has to do with do you believe in him for, "whosoever believeth in him" shall have eternal life.

Verse 16:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

If I had been God, I would not have done it. But praise God He did it. God so loved the world that He gave.

The reason it is everlasting life is because you did not have it from the beginning which would have been eternal. You have it from the time of the new birth and from that moment onwards it is everlasting. That is the difference between everlasting and eternal.

Verses 17-19:

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 4:24:

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must [absolutely] worship *him* in spirit and in truth [truthfully via the spirit].

God is Spirit. Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, lived here upon earth and was a man of body and soul in whom the spirit dwelt; but, God is Spirit. Spirit does not have a form or comeliness.

God is Spirit and they that worship Him must absolutely worship Him in spirit and in truth, or truthfully via the spirit. There is no other way that God can be worshipped other than by the spirit. You cannot bring God any money in heaven, it is impossible, for God is Spirit. The Word of God is so simple and it is so easy.

John 16:6-11:

But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

And when he is come, he will reprove ["reprove" is "convict"] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

We ought to believe that with all our heart, soul, mind and strength for it is the Word of God. The

prince of this world is already judged, it has already happened. He—the one who if he had known what the revelation of the Mystery was, would never have crucified the lord of glory—has already been judged. That is the Word of God.

Verses 12 and 13:

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he [that spirit of truth, which we now know is Christ in you, the hope of glory] will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

This is what Jesus Christ did for us. Jesus Christ came and he gave his life; he laid down his life for us. He, who knew no sin, became sin so that you and I could become the righteousness of God in him.

Jesus Christ lived and he walked in the realm of the miraculous. Jesus Christ made miracles commonplace. His conception was a miracle. His life was one miracle after another. His death was a miracle. His resurrection was a miracle. His post-resurrection appearances were miracles. His ascension was a miracle. Pentecost was a miracle. The new birth in you is a miracle. And, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be a miracle. You and I are brothers and sisters of the miracle worker.

Hebrews 2:9-11:

...that he [Jesus Christ] by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he [Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son] is not ashamed to call them brethren.

If God and Jesus Christ are not ashamed of you, not ashamed to call you Christ's brother or sister, what are you ashamed of? That is the greatness of The Victoriously Living Christ, in you; that is radiant living.

By sense-knowledge reasonings, by the ways of Cain, it seems to be a mark of recognition, even of scholarship, of piety and fantastic brains to deny God, the Scriptures and the miraculous. But, when you take the supernatural out of Christianity all you have left is religion.

All the great Old Testament men of God, starting with Abraham, are recorded as miracle workers.

Hebrews 11:1:

Now faith [believing] is the substance [title-deed] of [to] things hoped for [prayed for], the evidence of things not seen [the evidence that they are yours before they are seen].

A literal translation according to usage of verse 1 is: "Now believing is the title-deed to things prayed for, the evidence that they are yours before they are seen."

Verse 2:

For by it [believing] the elders obtained a good report [the text says, "were made witnesses"].

"For by believing the elders were made witnesses." We have already covered that the word "protestant" meant: *pro*, meaning "for", and *testes*, meaning "witness". Believers witness for God, as the elders mentioned in verse 2 were made witnesses.

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Verse 3:

Through faith [believing] we understand that the worlds [ages] were framed [prepared] by the word of God, so [to the end] that things which are seen were not made [came not into being] of things which do appear [by things which are seen].

The ages were prepared by the Word of God for God said it and it came into being.

A literal translation according to usage of verse 3 is: "Through believing we understand that the ages were prepared by the Word of God to the end that things which are seen came not into being by things which are seen."

Verse 4:

By faith [believing] Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he [Abel] obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he [Abel] being dead yet speaketh.

Even though Abel is dead, he is still speaking by what his witness was here upon earth while he was living.

Verse 5:

By faith [believing] Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him...

By believing Enoch was translated. The word "translated" can be translated either "transported" or "transferred". It simply means that God took him from one place upon earth and put him in another place, I can understand that; He did that to Philip once in the Book of Acts and I think He could do it now if you needed to be some place, if you were the only one that could handle the situation, God could get you

there without an airline. He is still the same God today.

It is interesting also that this word "translated" is the one which the theologians and the sense-knowledge men have all talked about as if to say, "You know, he is dead now and we hear voices coming back from the dead places."

This word "translated" is also used in both the Anglican Church and in the Roman Catholic Church whenever a bishop is given a bishop's seat. He may be the Bishop of New Orleans and live in London, England. It would simply say in the text of the transfer of his responsibility that he was translated to New Orleans.

They could not find Enoch because God took him from one place over to another place, because God had transferred him. They went looking for him and they could not find him. God hid him, and when God hides something, you cannot find it.

...for before his translation he had this testimony [he bore witness], that he pleased God.

A literal translation according to usage of the latter part of verse 5 is: "For before his translation he bore witness that he pleased God."

Before he was translated he had never seen death. He did not see it then; he just died. When God took him from one place to another place, he had never seen death. He had this witness, that he pleased God.

Verses 6 and 7:

But without faith [believing] *it is* impossible to please *him* [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he [God] is, and *that* he is [became] a rewarder of them that [who] diligently seek him.

By faith [believing] Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear [reverence, respect, awe], prepared an ark to the

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saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith [believing].

The greatness of these men is almost unbelievable. Do you know that Noah did not have a blueprint on how to build a ship? No one had ever built one. But, God said, "Build one!" Noah said, "Okay, what is the plan?" And God told him:

Genesis 6:14-16:

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

And this is *the fashion* [the scheme] which thou shalt make it *of*...

God is giving Noah the blueprint on how He wanted it all built.

...The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it.

Never had anyone ever built one before, there was not even a blueprint for it!

God told Noah in verse 19 and following what he was to put in the ark, two of every kind (He did not say species, He said kind, genus); and then it says in verse 22:

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Noah believed God. He walked the Word; he talked the Word; he obeyed it. He was a wonderful man.

Genesis 7:16:

And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

I like that, the Lord shut the door! He shut the door for two reasons. Number one, so that the unbelievers could not pry it open and crawl in. Number two, so that Noah would not open it for them. Had Noah closed the door then when those unbelievers came along he might have been tempted to open it.

You see, when the water first came up to their knees, they said, "That is not too bad." When it got up to their waist, they said, "Well, it still is not too bad, we can still walk around." But, by the time it got over their heads, they would have had to swim. And you know, after a period of time, you get tired of swimming. And about that time, whom do you think was trying to get inside that boat?

"Oh! Noah, we love you. We are sorry for all the time before, but look, Noah, we will never do it again. Noah, we will stand with you, we will back you up. Noah, we will; we promise. We will absolutely do anything if you would please open the door." Noah said, "God, I cannot open the door!" God said, "I closed it shut, Noah."

What would you have done? I know what I would have done, if I could open the door I would open the door. Hardly anybody ever sees that great scripture is in there, but it is the truth. It says, "and the Lord shut him in." I want to tell you, when the Lord shuts the door nobody opens it.

No more so than on the morning of the resurrection when, it says, the angel had rolled away the stone from the door. It just does not mean he pushed it off the top, although that is all that would have been

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needed to get Jesus Christ up and out. But, when God does something, He does it right. It was rolled well out of the way and the angel was seated on top of it and said "Now, come on boys. Who is going to move me?" And for fear of him the keepers did shake and those soldiers dropped like dead men, because God had moved.

That Noah, wasn't he a wonderful man? At times we think that we have believing. Noah built something that had never been done before, and that was quite a boat that he built! All by believing God at His Word.

Hebrews 11:8:

By faith [believing] Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive [*lambanō*] for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham obeyed—for him the Word of God was the will of God. God said it; He meant it; Abraham believed it and walked on it.

Verses 9-11:

By faith [believing] he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Through faith [believing] also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged [she considered] him [God] faithful who had promised.

The Word of God was the will of God. He had promised, and He was "faithful who had promised."

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Verses 12 and 13:

Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

These all died in faith [believing], not having received the promises...

They all died not having received the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They saw that city; they believed what God said, but they never got the fulfillment of Christ's coming. We did, we have Christ in us, the hope of glory. We have got it, but they did not have it.

Look what they did by believing in the first coming. We have Christ in us; we ought to believe in the second coming, the return.

Verses 13 and 16:

...but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

God is not ashamed to be called their God, because they believed Him. Even though all of them died never having received the promises, God was not ashamed of them because they did one thing: they believed God. That is why He prepared for them a city.

The record of the believing of the elders continues.

Verses 17,20-24:

By faith [believing] Abraham....

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By faith [believing] Isaac....

By faith [believing] Jacob....

By faith [believing] Joseph....

By faith [believing] Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents....

By faith [believing] Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He could have had the whole kingdom but he refused it.

Verses 25-31:

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt....

By faith [believing] he forsook Egypt....

Through [by] faith [believing] he kept the pass-over....

By faith [believing] they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*....

By faith [believing] the walls of Jericho fell down....

By faith [believing] the harlot [the word "harlot" is "innkeeper"] Rahab perished not....

And then verse 32 says, "I just have not got the time to tell you about Gideon and Barak and Samson

and Jephthae and David and Samuel and the prophets."

Verses 33-35:

Who through faith [believing] subdued kingdoms,
wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped
the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge
of the sword, out of weakness were made strong,
waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies
of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again:
and others were tortured, not accepting
deliverance...

They could have had it but they did not accept it.

...that they might obtain a better resurrection.

The better resurrection is the resurrection of the
just. There will be two resurrections, one of the just
and the other of the unjust, and the resurrection of
the just is the better of the two.

Verses 36—12:1:

And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scour-
gings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were
tempted, were slain with the sword: they
wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being
destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they
wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens
and caves of the earth.

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And these all, having obtained a good report through...

One thing:

...faith [believing], received not the promise [of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ];

God having provided some better thing for us...

Which is God in Christ in you, the hope of glory.

...that they without us should not be made perfect.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...

Those of whom we have just read are the witnesses. They are dead, but while they were living what they believed—what they accomplished for God; witnessed for God; stood for God—is the witness even today.

Verses 1-4:

...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

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I told you that all the great Old Testament leaders starting with Abraham whose records are recorded in the Word of God were all miracle workers.

Joseph went from prison to being the second in command in the greatest nation of the history of the world at that time. That had to be a miracle.

The crossing of the Red Sea was a miracle.

Imagine two and a half million people, or more, surviving for forty years in a wilderness. That had to be a miracle.

The capturing of the city of Jericho was a miracle.

All the prophets and all the kings of Israel who believed God did miracles.

Israel returned from the Babylonian captivity by four great miracles.

Jesus began his public ministry with a miracle.

Every outreach of God's Word since the day of Pentecost has revered and has honoured the name of the man from Galilee; and every outreach has been set forth by miracles.

The greatest of all theologians, preachers, philosophers are never going to rescue religion from its sterility. It is going to take humble men and women of God who have a knowledge and a love of **The Victoriously Living Christ** in them to carry the ministry of reconciliation, for they carry the Word of reconciliation and the power of Christ in them, who is the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Man was created by a miracle-working God. And man, really, in his heart, in the innermost part of his being, yearns for the miraculous, for the supernatural. He yearns to live in the atmosphere of men and women who are moving in the category of the miraculous and the supernatural.

The miracle realm is man's genuine realm; it is his perfect realm for he is—by creation, by the miracle of the new birth—the son of the miracle-working God.

It is sin that makes believers into believer-workers without the miraculous. Sin dethrones the spirit and it enthrones and crowns the intellect. God's grace, God's

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mercy, God's peace, God's love and God's power enable believers to live in the realm of the miraculous. Believing is not a fighting struggle. A believer should be as unconscious of having exercised believing as he is when he writes a cheque knowing that he has got the money in the bank.

The **Victoriously Living Christ** in you is the power of God, it is His personal guarantee of the record in John, chapter 14.

John 14:12:
Verily, verily...

"Verily, verily" is a double "amen" in the text, "amen and amen". The word "amen" means "so be it", "so is it surely and absolutely".

...I [Jesus Christ] say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he [that believer] do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Because he went to the Father and is seated at the right hand of God, he sent "forth this which you now see and hear" on the day of Pentecost. It is the Christ in us and Jesus himself said that the works that he did we shall do also. The reason we have not done them is because we have been talked out of them. Tradition has nullified the truth of the greatness of God's Word for us and so we have felt incapacitated, unworthy, and so on.

Jesus Christ paid the price and he is the one who said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do and greater works than these shall he do."

That is **The Victoriously Living Christ** within us. We are heaven-bound and all hell cannot stop us from going. We ought to walk with the greatness of the power of God.

CHAPTER THREE

Living Victoriously in God's Grace

There is a time for all things, but there is one thing for all times, and that is God's grace.

Grace is God's unmerited favour. The justice of God demands judgement and thus mercy is God's withholding of merited judgement.

Genesis 6:5:

And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

In this verse it does not say "continuously"; it says "continually". The thoughts of man's heart were first a little bit of evil, then a little bit of good, then evil, then a little bit of good and then evil. That is evil continually as opposed to evil continuously.

Verse 7:

And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth....

The justice of God demands, and it requires,

judgement; but, the love of God demands and requires grace. And in Genesis 6:8 you have that grace.

Verse 8:

But Noah found grace [unmerited divine favour] in the eyes of the Lord [*Jehovah*].

You must ask yourself, "Why grace?" The answer is, because of God's foreknowledge. Genesis 6:8 is the first occurrence in the Word of God of this word "grace". The first occurrence basically always gives its complete meaning throughout the rest of the Word.

It is used because of the foreknowledge of God. He knew that Noah was going to believe and so Noah found grace, unmerited divine favour, in the eyes of the Lord.

The word "Lord" in this eighth verse is *Jehovah*. Whenever the word *Jehovah* is used it is always God in relationship to that which He has created.

The first occurrence of the word "grace" in the New Testament is in the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 1:30:

And the angel said unto her [Mary], Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour [The word "favour" is the word "grace". "You have found grace."] with God.

Grace is unmerited divine favour, perpendicular from God to man. Mary was not good enough and yet God overlooked that and He saw her heart. The angel said unto her, "Mary, do not be afraid. For you have found grace (unmerited divine favour) with God."

And in chapter 2 of Luke, in verse 40, is its second use in the New Testament. This is regarding Mary's son, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, our lord and our saviour.

Luke 2:40:

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit,

filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

I can hardly believe it, but there it is, the grace of God was upon him. Jesus Christ would not have needed grace had he been God, but Jesus Christ was the Son of God, tempted in all things like as we are, he was a human being. Yes, he was God's only begotten Son, but yet it says "the child, (Jesus Christ), grew and he waxed strong." The words "in spirit" are omitted by most Greek texts but are included in the Aramaic text. Thus if included it would literally mean "waxed strong spiritually". Jesus Christ grew spiritually, he "became strong spiritually, filled with wisdom; and the grace (the unmerited divine favour) of God was upon him." God would not have needed His Own unmerited divine favour.

In verse 52 is the third use in the New Testament.

Luke 2:52:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour [the word "favour" is "grace"] with God and man.

Logically speaking, if Jesus Christ was God then how is God going to increase in His Own favour? You can begin to see that it is scripturally illogical to believe that Jesus Christ was God.

That wonderful verse says that Jesus Christ increased in favour, which is grace, unmerited favour with God and with man.

The last occurrence of grace, by the way, is in Revelation, chapter 22. It is in the last verse of the Word of God, which is remarkable.

Revelation 22:21:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

Without God's grace, mankind would have been

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discontinued after the fall in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:24:

So he [God] drove out the man [from the garden of Eden]; and he [God] placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Without God's grace mankind would have perished, it would have been discontinued after the fall. God drove man out of the garden and then God, because of His grace, placed the flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.

I would like to take you into God's Word, starting with Galatians, to show you God's grace in the life of a man named Paul.

Galatians 1:13-15:

For ye have heard of my conversation ["conversation" means "manner of life"] in time past in the Jews' [Judaean's] religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

And profited in the Jews' [Judaean's] religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace [unmerited favour].

God foreknew Paul's heart, even before the foundations of the world. We gain more understanding of God's grace in Paul's life in Timothy.

I Timothy 1:11-14:

According to the glorious gospel [gospel of the

glory] of the blessed God, which was committed to my [Paul's] trust.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy [God's withholding of merited judgement], because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

And [the word "and" is the word "but"] the grace [unmerited divine favour] of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith [believing] and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Paul obtained mercy and exceeding abundant divine favour. It is also interesting to note that grace, mercy, peace, love and believing appear together many times in the Word of God in groups of two or three. Now let us consider a record in Corinthians.

I Corinthians 15:9 and 10:

For I [Paul] am the least of the apostles, that am not meet [adequate] to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God [the unmerited favour of God] I am what I am....

In II Corinthians, chapter 4, there is a scripture which brings it further into our day and time.

II Corinthians 4:1:

Therefore seeing we have [In the Greek text "seeing we have" is one word, a participle form, "having".] this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.

Living Victoriously

Remember, mercy is the withholding of merited judgement, and whenever there is a withholding of merited judgement there always has to be grace, unmerited favour.

Verse 2:

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty [the text reads "the shameful secret things"], not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully...

Oh my! Oh my! So there must have been those who were handling the Word of God deceitfully at that time, even like there are men and women today who are handling the Word of God deceitfully.

"We have renounced the shameful secret things, not walking slyly nor handling the Word of God deceitfully."

Verses 2-7:

...but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

But if our gospel be hid [if it is veiled], it is hid [veiled] to them that are lost ["them that are lost" is "who are perishing"]:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants [*douloses*, your slaves] for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts [in the innermost part of our being], to *give* the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

That record certainly shows us God's grace, His unmerited favour. We have this treasure in earthen vessels, which certainly is unmerited divine favour, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.

Verse 15:

For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace...

Abundant grace is grace upon grace.

...might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

It is remarkable that many times the grace of God and the glory of God appear together in the Scriptures.

Verse 18:

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

II Corinthians 6:1:

We then...

Because of God's unmerited favour, His grace.

...as workers together *with him*, beseech you also that ye receive [*dechomai*] not the grace of God in vain.

Living Victoriously

I can hardly believe it. My mind can hardly fathom that we should be "workers together" with God. Can you imagine any greater employment?! It is God in Christ in you, the hope of glory and we, born-again believers, the Word says, are "workers together" with Him, God. God called you from before the foundation of the world to be a worker with Him.

You are a worker with God! Have you ever really realized the dignity of what you are, or have you allowed people to talk you down; tell you how bad you were; how terrible you were; how sinful you were? Why don't you believe God and refuse to be deceived by people!

Verses 3 and 4:

Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry...

The ministry of being workers together with God, by His grace—

...be not blamed:

But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God....

There is nothing that religion hates and fears more than the knowledge of the truth of the Word of God being made known. Thus the adversary, being very religious, and through religious people, will attempt to defame and destroy anyone or any group who believes in the integrity and the accuracy of God's Word, that would believe that the Word of God is the will of God. The adversary will do his utmost; our God, in Christ, in you, will do the utmost for His highest in you. God's Word tells us that we are more than conquerors. We must rise up to believe it.

I Corinthians 2:14:

But the natural man receiveth not the things of

the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man receives not the things of the spirit of God. The relationship of the Word of God and man reminds me of a sundial. A man may admire; he may appreciate; he may stand in absolute awe of the greatness of a sundial. But, no matter how much he may admire it nor how much he may shine his personal light on the sundial, even with all of his mental acumen, none of his personal abilities will ever reveal to him, nor to any man, the true time of the day. It is nothing but the true light of God's sun in the sky that can tell man the true time of the day.

And so it is with God's Word. A man may admire it. "Oh!" he says, "Isn't that beautiful. All the grammatical constructions; how beautifully it was written." And man can apply all his mental acumen to it but none of these things are ever going to reveal to man his standing or his state in relationship to eternity.

Only the Son from heaven, the Son of Righteousness, can tell him that relationship which is revealed in the light of God's Word. It is for us to believe God's Word and trust the Word of God. Even if I cannot explain it, it is still my responsibility to believe it. There are many things in life that I cannot explain. I cannot explain love, but I believe in it. I cannot explain light or life, but I believe in them.

It is for us to believe God's Word and trust the Word, even if we cannot explain it. I cannot explain God's grace, all I know is that it is unmerited favour.

"Well," you may ask, "what do you mean by unmerited favour? What kind of unmerited favour is it?" Well, when somebody extends unmerited favour to the poor, the world calls it pity.

When they extend unmerited favour to the sorrowing and the suffering, it is called compassion.

When they extend unmerited favour to the miserable, it is called mercy.

Living Victoriously

When unmerited favour is extended to the obnoxious, the obstinate and the rebellious ones, it is called patience.

All I know is that God's grace, unmerited favour, is all these and a lot more because all of God's creation is a work of grace.

From Genesis 1:1 through Genesis 2:3, the word "God" is used thirty-five times. Seven is the number of spiritual perfection, and five is the number of grace. Seven times five equals thirty-five, so the perfect God and perfect grace are in the opening chapters of the Book of Genesis.

It is interesting to note that in Genesis the first thing that occurred in Genesis 1:2 is that God moved. That is grace. Whenever God moves, it is always grace. The second thing God did is recorded in verse 3, "and God said." The third thing God did was, "there was light." God moved; God said; God light.

Whenever God moves the first most important thing is His Word. Then after God's Word there was light. And that is the first thing a man needs, light, for the natural man is in darkness, he needs light. When God moves then He gives His Word; then He gives light so man can get out of darkness into light, and that is the grace of God.

Grace is the seed of which glory is the fruit. Grace is the beginning; glory is the ending.

It was grace that gave Paul the gospel of the glory of God in I Timothy that we have already covered.

It is the Book of Romans, the first great Church Epistle, that lays the true foundation for the good news, the gospel of grace.

It is the Book of Ephesians which culminates God's grace with the gospel of the glory of God.

Whenever the gospel of grace and glory are separated the corruption in practice begins, and it culminates in corrupt doctrine which ends in spiritual darkness, decay and destruction.

Living Victoriously in God's Grace

Romans 5:2:

By whom also we have access [entrance] by faith [believing] into this grace wherein we stand, and [let us] rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

While some of the texts omit believing, it still would be true, "by whom also we have entrance into this grace wherein we stand."

"Entrance into the grace wherein we stand." So why not stand? Just stand! No matter what the world says; religious people say; the neighbours say; or anybody else says; just stand in the grace wherein we have been called, and with which we have been called, knowing that it is God's unmerited favour, His grace.

"This grace wherein we stand," let's just stand and then let's "rejoice in [the] hope of the glory of God." And the hope of the glory of God is the return of His wonderful Son, our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let us look at a record in the Book of Acts.

Acts 4:31 and 32:

...and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost [*pneuma hagion*], and they spake the word of God with boldness.

And the multitude of them that [who] believed were of one heart and of one soul...

The multitude who believed were of one heart, and to be of one heart is to be in unity of spirit. The Word of God says that we are to keep the unity of the spirit. It does not say to make it; it says to keep it. You do not make a unity by joining this group with that group, this denomination with that denomination, you keep the unity.

...neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Living Victoriously

It does not say, "communistic"; it says "common". They shared abundantly with each other what they had.

I believe that religion is the opiate of the people; I think that is true. That may be about the only honest thing the communists ever said but, truth on the heel of the Devil is still truth. Religion is the opiate of the people; Christianity is not religion, it is truth.

I recently stood at the grave of a long-time friend of mine. What I heard at that grave site was the opiate of the people. It was religion—Christianity is truth. My heart cries, it is burdened, it is torn out. Our God is a good God; and our God does not kill people. Death is of the adversary, not of the true God.

Verse 33:

And with great power gave the apostles witness of [one thing] the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...

Not his death; not that God killed him; none of that nonsense. God does not kill; God resurrected. And, God will send His Son for the return.

...and great grace was upon them all.

Not just grace, but great grace; grace in great measure.

Romans 3:23 and 24:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

The word "freely", whenever it is used in the Epistles, means: "without a cause". That is the way *dōrean* is translated in John 15:25.

There was no cause why we should have been justified. We were justified freely without any cause by His grace. It was unmerited.

Living Victoriously in God's Grace

Romans 5:17:

For if by one man's [Adam's] offence death reigned by one [Adam]; much more they which receive abundance of grace [God's grace] and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

That is why we have a more than abundant life, why we are more than conquerors. Everything the first Adam lost, we regained through the second Adam, with Christ in us the hope of glory. We regained the dominion, the authority, the power, and we "reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

Verses 18-20:

Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Jesus Christ] *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus Christ] shall many be made righteous.

Moreover the law entered [came in beside], that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound ["much more abound" is "super abound"].

Where sin abounded, grace (God's unmerited divine favour) did much more abound—it super-abounded.

Verse 21:

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace [God's unmerited divine favour] reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

In dealing with God's grace I am going to present to you a section in Ephesians, first as it is written in

the King James Version, and then I am going to give you the literal translation according to usage that I did in our studies with The Way Corps, as well as the expanded translation for an even fuller understanding of the verse.

Ephesians 1:6:

King James Version:

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Literal translation according to usage:

For the purpose of giving praise to God for His glorious grace in which He made us abundantly lovely and acceptable by means of His beloved Son.

Expanded translation:

For the express purpose of praise for the resplendent brightness of God's grace, which He poured upon us, making us lovely and acceptable by means of His beloved Son.

Ephesians 1:7:

King James Version:

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Literal translation according to usage:

That in him there is given to us redemption, and by his blood, remission of sin, according to the wealth of His grace.

Expanded translation:

That in and by Jesus Christ there is given to us redemption, and by Jesus Christ's blood, his life,

his death, his resurrection and his ascension, remission of sin and forgiveness of sins according to the wealth of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:5:

King James Version:

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;).

Literal translation according to usage (expanded is the same):

When we were dead in sins He made us alive together with Christ (by His grace He redeemed us).

So, we are as living as Christ. He made us alive together with Christ.

Ephesians 2:7:

King James Version:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Literal translation according to usage:

That in the ages to come He might exhibit the exceeding riches of His grace by His gentleness towards us through Jesus Christ.

Expanded translation:

In order that, throughout all ages to come God will exhibit for His own purpose the super-abundant greatness of the riches of His grace in His sweetness of disposition that was towards us and upon us by and in what Jesus Christ did for us.

Living Victoriously

Ephesians 2:8:

King James Version:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Literal translation according to usage:

Therefore, it is by grace we were saved through [the] believing [of Jesus Christ]; and this [gift] was not of you but the gift of God.

Expanded translation:

Therefore it is by, in, and through God's grace that we were saved, rescued, ransomed, made absolutely whole and complete by means of the believing of Jesus Christ; and this gift of God's grace, who is Christ Jesus, was not out of or from you, but, in contrast, the gift of God was the offering of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Because we are Living Victoriously in God's Grace:

Hebrews 4:16:

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne...

Into the throne room of God; into the very heart of God.

...of [His] grace, that we may obtain mercy [the withholding of God's merited judgement], and find grace [divine favour] to help in time of need.

That is Living Victoriously in God's Grace, and it is to every born-again believer.

About the Author

Victor Paul Wierwille spent many decades searching out the truths of God's Word. As part of his search he consulted and worked with many outstanding individuals in Christian studies for keys to power-filled, victorious living. Such men as Karl Barth, Joseph Bauer, Glenn Clark, Karl J. Ernst, Josiah Friedli, Louis C. Hessert, Elmer G. Homrighausen, E. Stanley Jones, George M. Lamsa, Richard and Reinhold Niebuhr, K.C. Pillai, Paul Tillich, Ernst Traeger, and many others were a part of Dr. Wierwille's quest to find the truths of the Word of God.

Dr. Wierwille's academic career included Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology degrees from Mission House (Lakeland) College and Seminary, graduate studies at the University of Chicago and at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned the Master of Theology degree in Practical Theology. Later he completed his work for the Doctor of Theology degree at Pike's Peak Bible Seminary and Burton College in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

For over forty years, Dr. Wierwille devoted his major energies to intensive research and teaching of the accuracy of God's Word. Beginning in 1953 he taught Biblical research and teaching classes on Power for Abundant Living. He was the founder and first president of The Way International, a non-sectarian, non-denominational Biblical research, teaching and fellowship ministry.

