

VICTORY AHEAD

Lesson 5

Do you or anyone you know enjoy living in defeat? Would you consider it an honor to brag about the fact that you cannot live the life of a Christian? Of course not. And yet there are many Christians who find themselves in total defeat in their Christian lives.

WHO OR WHAT IS OUR ENEMY?

We have three enemies to consider:

THE WORLD

I John 2:15 commands: "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him." What is this world that we are not to love and therefore is our enemy? In **I John 2:16** we read "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Perhaps you notice that the Bible says **all** that is in the world. Clothes, homes, televisions, cars, and etc. are all parts of this world. And Yes, my friend, all these things are the enemies of our walk with God. Perhaps you ask in wonder "Why is that?" **Because any thing in this world can be placed before God.** When you begin to think that all these things in the world are so great, remember **I John 2:17a** "And the world passeth away . . ." Nothing in this world will go with us to Heaven: **be sure that all your treasures are in Heaven.**

THE FLESH

Notice **Galatians 5:17** "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit. . .so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." "The flesh" is talking about our fleshly desires: that which we can see, that which we can hear, and that which we can feel. Can you see how these can be the enemies of your walk with God? If you are viewing images which are evil, listening to sounds that are sensual, or satisfying your feelings outside of the plan of God, you will never be victorious as a Christian.

THE DEVIL

Check out **I Peter 5:8** "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Satan has been the enemy of God almost from the beginning and became our enemy as soon as we were created. How does the devil work to keep us from walking with God? This may surprise you, but Satan cannot grab you (since he has no hands) and make you disobey God. He has no power to make you do anything. His main job is to deceive or trick us into disobeying God. He told Eve that she would become a god if she ate of the "tree." That was a lie, but she believed it and her desire for freedom from authority led her away from the will of God. Satan "whispers" to us that the things of this world are quite delectable and absolutely necessary to our happiness. **What a liar he is** and what an enemy of our walk with God. **Psalms 62:5** says "My soul wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him." My friend God is all you need for true happiness, peace and contentment, and be assured that **Philippians 4:19** is still true: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

GOD CAN GIVE YOU VICTORY

I Corinthians 15:57 says "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." If indeed we can have victory over anything, it must be through God. **God has never lost a battle with anyone.**

Satan is a defeated foe and will be in hell forever.

1. Jesus Christ defeated Satan in the temptation by correctly using God's Word to rebuke him.
2. Jesus Christ defeated the flesh in the temptation by refusing to yield to the supposed needs and desires of His flesh.
3. Jesus Christ defeated the world in the temptation when he refused to bow down to the devil in order to obtain the world.

HOW CAN YOU GET THE VICTORY?

Be in the Word of God daily and live what you read. **Colossians 3:16a** "Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom. . ."

Hebrews 13:5 ". . .and be content with such things as ye have. . ."

Galatians 5:16 tells us: ". . .Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Make sure that you have a daily walk with God when you talk to Him, when you ask Him to keep you from sin, and when you praise Him for His goodness.

If you have any questions for us, you may contact us at bmason6@bellsouth.net

or you may call one of our counselors at 864-498-1943

