

Faith is the Victory

Scripture Text: I John 5:4

Bible Verse Story

The words that we listen to in life are important. The Words found in the Bible are more important than any other words we could ever hear in this life.

They are the words of life.

A song that is frequently in the worship is "Faith is the Victory."

1. Written in 1891 by John Henry Yates (words) and Ira D. Sankey (music).
2. First appeared in the *Christian Endeavor Hymnal*.
3. Published in over 175 different hymnals.
4. Drawn from Song of Solomon 2:4, Eph. 6:17, I Jn. 5:4, Rev. 3:5
5. Each verse depicts the Christian as being in battle and working hard to win the fight!

In this lesson, we will examine the title of this song to see how we can actually overcome the world.

1. Faith

- a. Definition
 - i. Webster: belief, word or honor pledged, credibility or truth
 - ii. Bible: Hebrews 11:1
- b. The word faith appears 336 times in Scripture.
 - i. That works out to almost once per day if we needed to be reminded about faith. Each time we could be reminded of a different example.
 - ii. It is not an accident the frequency.
 - iii. Even the false teachers teach that faith is required. They all claim you need faith.
 - iv. Sadly, they stop at faith; God's Word keeps going. Stopping short does not equal full obedience.
- c. Some great examples – Hebrews 11
 - i. V.3 – Abel
 - ii. V.5 – Enoch
 - iii. V.7 – Noah
 - iv. V.8 – Abraham
 - v. V.11 – Sarah
 - vi. V.20 – Isaac
 - vii. V.21 – Jacob
 - viii. V.22 – Joseph
 - ix. V.23 – Moses
 - x. V.31 – Rahab
 - xi. V.32 – the Judges
 - xii. More exist outside of Heb. 11 – just a good list to use as a reference.
- d. Why?
 - i. Why is faith important? Hebrews 11:6

ii. It all starts with faith!

2. Is

a. Definition

- i. 3rd person singular present indicative of be
- ii. Verb
- iii. One of the most used verbs that is out there.

b. Active

- i. Remember the definition – present!
- ii. You have to be doing something.
- iii. Active vs. Passive

c. Examples – James 2

- i. V.10 – have the keep the whole thing. You cannot pick one part and ignore the rest.
 1. “The Ten Commandments are not a multiple choice.”
 2. Not cafeteria style religion
- ii. V.14 – Must have faith and works
 1. In order to have both, must be active!
 2. Cannot just have one and hope it rounds the other up.
- iii. V.17-19 – Dead
 1. Lifeless
 2. Useless
- iv. V.24 – “Faith Only”
 1. Many in the “Religious World” claim that all one needs is faith.
 2. Bible says that faith only is dead.
 3. Only time “faith only” appears in Scripture.

d. **Don't be upset with the results you didn't get with the work you didn't do. (REPEAT)**

- i. Compare to Matthew 7:21-23
- ii. You cannot pick and choose what you want to do in order to be saved.

3. The

a. Article

- i. “A,” “An,” & “The”
- ii. Designates the number or location of an item.

b. Definite

- i. You can know for certain.
- ii. No sense of doubt.

c. John 14:6

- i. One way
- ii. One truth
- iii. One life
- iv. Only through Jesus, cf. Eph. 4
- v. The only way to God is through Jesus Christ.
 1. How?
 2. Remember Words are important!

4. Victory

- a. Definition
 - i. An act of defeating an enemy or opponent in a battle, game, or other competition.
 - ii. Winning
 - 1. Everybody wants to win, from simple things to large things.
 - 2. People do not go into a game or event hoping that they lose.
- b. Celebration **after** the victory
 - i. Victory lap
 - ii. Winner's circle
 - iii. No one celebrates before they've won
 - 1. Too full of themselves
 - 2. Might not be victorious
 - 3. Romans 12:3
 - iv. Spiritual celebration after the victory
 - 1. Rev. 2:10
 - 2. "Keep your eyes on the prize"
- c. Biblical examples
 - i. II Tim. 4:6-8
 - 1. Paul is nearing the end of his earthly life, writing in prison
 - 2. He knew the end of his life and he is ready to go!
 - a. Under persecution from Nero.
 - b. "House-Arrest."
 - 3. Paul was looking forward to the end, he knew his reward.
 - a. Are you looking forward to the end of life/return of Jesus?
 - b. Or, are you dreading it?
 - c. People that love sin dread the return of Christ.
 - ii. I Cor. 9:24-27
 - 1. Paul once again uses the illustration of a marathon runner
 - 2. Note the Christian life is not a Sprint, it is a Marathon
 - 3. V.26 – not uncertainly – he knows where he is going.
 - 4. No one will win a marathon is they do not know where the finish line is.
 - 5. Our finish line is in Heaven.
- d. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Have you started the marathon?

How are you going? Starting out strong? Mile 3? Half way? Nearing the end? Keep going!

Phil. 3:14 – pressing toward – long for the goal!

Why not start this morning? What is keeping you this morning?

If you've gotten sidetracked, why not get back on the right path.

In all races, there is only one right way that leads to the finish line. Are you on that path?