Living in Victory

It’s not just a statement; it’s a Lifestyle. – Jesus made sure it will be possible.

Pastor George Lehman

**“Long lasting victory can never be separated from a long-lasting stand on the foundation of the cross” – Watchman Nee**

Lastweek we spoke about power and authority and the fact that Jesus did not only come to display this power and authority, but to deposit it into our lives.

I want us to look at the power we have in the New Covenant.

The reason I’m focussing on this is because it’s easy for us to live far below what God has for us, to live with far less than God intended for us.

It’s easy to settle for things that God never intended for us to settle for.

So often you see Christians battling with…..

* the same old addictions,
* the same bad habits,
* the same critical attitudes,
* the same negative mind-set,

they settle for things that God never intended for them to settle for.

God didn’t create us to keep battling with the same problems and habits and addictions, He never created us to be average or to barely get by.

**Isaiah 30:18** The Lord earnestly waits, looking and longing to be good to you, who expect and look for, and long for His goodness, His favor, and His victory. AMP– We only use such a small percent of what God has for us.

God doesn’t only want to bless you and be good to you but He wants to give you victory.

He created us to live an abundant life, not under our circumstances or under our problems but on top of it, and He’s empowered us to do that.

**Psalm 44:3** “They did not conquer by their own strength and skill, but by your mighty power and because you smiled upon them and favoured them.”

God’s power is available to you and me to live in victory.

As God’schildren there’s **a special power**that’s available to us and it’s called the covenant, andit’s been there ever since the resurrection of Christ!

Explain what this New Covenant means.

The Bible is made up of **two covenants**; the **old covenant** and the **new covenant.**

The first covenant was formed between **God and Abraham**, through circumcision.

The second covenant was formed between **God and us**, through Jesus.

This all started because Adam and Eve were disobedient in the Garden of Eden, and from then on the relationship between God and man was strained.

And so God devised a plan to restore this broken relationship.

It’s interesting how it all happened. Has it ever occurred to you that Nothings ever occurred to God?

God told Abraham that He was going to form a blood covenant with him.

**In Genesis 17:10 God said to Abraham; From now on, you and all the male descendants will be circumcised. (All males from 8 days old were circumcised.)**

Through this act of cutting, through the act of the flowing of blood a covenant will be established.

God went on to say; Abraham, you and I will become blood brothers.

You will be a **‘Covenant Man,’** you will be a **‘Friend of God!’**

Abraham obeyed and at the age of 99 he was circumcised and he entered into that covenant.

The **moment a covenant** is established, everything that belongs to one blood brother is available to the other brother.

God was saying in effect; now that we’re in covenant relationship, everything I have is yours.

God told him in **Deuteronomy 28**that as long as he keeps the covenant he will be blessed in the city and he will be blessed in the country.

The fruit of your womb will be blessed, your crops, your livestock, your herds and your flocks, it will all be blessed!

You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

And so it carries on and on; blessings upon blessings, all because of…… the covenant!

Notice they had rights and privileges because of the covenant.

They had a right to supernatural blessings, \*supernatural protection,supernatural favour, all because of the covenant.

\*Think about: Daniel, Sadrakh, Mesakh and Abednego

**Think about David,**a descendant of Abraham, 13 generations later.

* He’s a great example of somebody that understood the power of a covenant.
* Even as a young man he knew that God was with him and that he was well able to defeat his enemies.
* Goliath was over 9 feet tall. He was the champion of the Philistine army and he was out there mocking the Israelites and their God.
* David’s brothers and all the other men were so scared that their swords and spears were virtually rattling in their hands!
* What’s amazing is that the young David wasn’t afraid at all.
* He says to king Saul, keep in mind this is the king, and this is probably the first time that he has ever spoken to the king.
* And obviously King Saul is not in the best of moods, with a huge battle threatening. But David says to him;

“Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” **1 Samuel 17:32 NIV**

What a thing to say to the king! He’s basically saying to the king, don’t be scared! And yet David is just a young teenager, a young shepherd boy, not a warrior in training, not some young gladiator……he’s a shepherd boy!

**How come he was so confident? He knew about the covenant!**

He knew that God was with him and that the Power and Authority of Almighty God was upon him!

And so he says to his brothers;“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” **1Samuel 17:26 NIV**

The devil goes around like a roaring Lion but he is defeated

What did he mean with ‘uncircumcised?’

David was saying; How dare this man that is not in covenant relationship with Almighty God think that he can defeat us?

**I love what David said**; You come against me with a sword and a spear and a javelin, but I come against you **in the name of the Lord God of Israel!**

You see, he knew that he was a covenant man, and that Almighty God, the creator of the universe was backing him up!

**The good news** is, you and I are in a **much better** covenant than that one.

**NB!!**But it’s important that we understand our rights and privileges.

It’s not going to do us any good if we’re ignorant and we don’t understand this covenant relationship that we’re in.

**Galatians 3:14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus.

The same blessing that was on Abraham is available to you and me.

You may have **some powerful enemies** harassing you;

* an enemy of sickness,
* an enemy of addiction,
* an enemy of discouragement,
* an enemy at lack and poverty,

In the natural you can’t see how you’re going to overcome it, remember that you too are a covenant child and you have Almighty God backing you up.

The bible says **1 Samuel 17:47**“…the battle is the Lord’s…”

**Joshua 1:5**“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Because of the covenant you have rights, you have privileges, you have protection, you have His poweravailable to you!

In the Old Testament they **understood the power of a covenant**, they understood the power of the blood.

That’s why they had so many different sacrifices of animals.

But in this new covenant that you and I are in, the price has already been paid once and for all.

Not by the blood of bulls or rams or goats, but by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When **Jesus hung** on that cross, just before He died He said; **it is finished!**

He was saying, the old covenant is over, and the new covenant has begun, and the bible says in Hebrews that the new covenant is a better covenant!!

**Hebrews 7:22 (NLT)**Because of this oath, Jesus is the one who guarantees this better covenant with God.

Because of what Christ did 2000 years ago He paid for us to live a life of victory and success **and not** a life of mediocrity and failure.

He didn’t say you’ll barely get by and you’ll just exist, no, you’ll excel.

**John 10:10** “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

**Maybe you’re saying;**It’s been like this for a long time, I can’t see how I can ever change!

You’ve got to get rid of that defeated mentality and start seeing yourself as God sees you – a covenant man, a covenant woman.

*Because of the covenant your freedom has already been paid for!*

You need to learn to stop speaking defeat over every area of your life

You need to start saying;

I’m in a covenant relationship with Almighty God and I’ve got His power, Authority and favour available to me…..I can do all things…

**What about you’re past failures?**

Don’t talk about the way you used to be, talk about the way you’re going to be!

“Whom the Son sets free is free indeed.” **John 8:36**

**You may be thinking;**

* I know I’m negative, but I don’t feel like having a good attitude today!
* I know I’m doing the wrong thing, but I don’t feel like doing what’s right.

It’s easy to be passive.

It’s easy to learn to function in our dysfunction, and to keep on making excuses and to justify what we’re doing, but that’s not who God has made you to be.

We shouldn’t be in the same place next year as we are right now.

God wants us to constantly be growing and coming up higher and walk closer to Him!

**The Story of the Circus Elephant tied with a thick chai when it was young**

**When it was old they tied a thin rope around is leg which it could break easily but the Elephant was conditioned to think it was still chained**

God has loosed the chains of defeat, of addictions, of bad attitudes, of bad habitsand fear and lack and discouragement,

but the problem is that we’re not taking that step forward and walking away from the nonsense in our lives!

Maybe you’re thinking; I’ve always had a problem with my temper,

I’ve always had this or that addiction!

You need to realize that you were set free 2000 years ago!

God has already loosened the chains that held you back!

It’s up to you to walk away from it!

**You have power and authority** overeveryenemy in your life!

* The enemy of worry,
* The enemy of depression,
* The enemy of addictions,
* The enemy of lack and poverty.

You have power and authority over all of them because of the covenant!

The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work on the onside of every one of us!

**Romans 8:1** “…the Spirit of Him who raised Christ from the dead is living in you…”

**There is nothing** in your life that you cannot overcome;

* There is no hurt too big to forgive.
* There is no failure in your past you can’t let go of.
* There’s no medical report that God can’t change.

I’m asking us today,don’t settle for things that are less than God’s best for our lives!

* Your chain has been loosed!
* The price has been paid!