



ESTABLISHED: In Christ we're POSITIONED on the VICTORY side.

→ *When did you first get taught about victory in Christ? How did that change your theology? Did it also change your life? If so, how?*

EXPECTATION? 1 John 5:4, Romans 8:37, 5:17 → The CLOSER we WALK with Jesus, the more VICTORY we should EXPERIENCE.

→ *Are you likely to greet Monday morning with sigh or a Tigger bounce? For you, is there a sense failure is inevitable or the recurring expectation of victory in Christ? In your eye, is the NT dry rules and demands or full of rich, exciting, life-giving promises? Which of those pairs is it and which should it be? What would it take to change that expectation?*

→ *"The closer we walk with Jesus, the more victory we should experience." Discuss!*

EXPERIENCE: What does victorious look like?

→ *What does 'victorious' look like for you? What sort of victory should we be winning? Does it look like the list below? In which of those areas are you winning? Where would you like a little more victory? How do you think you might get there?*

- a) You can break the stranglehold of that SIN.
- b) Live without GUILT & SHAME.
- c) Find HEALING for your pain.
- d) Know secure IDENTITY.
- e) Experience PEACE in the storm.
- f) Live FREE from fear & anxiety.
- g) Sleep at night with CLEAR CONSCIENCE knowing you've done what God asked you.
- h) Enter His PRESENCE in worship & prayer, with boldness & confidence, and be filled there with all you need.
- i) Have clear PURPOSE & SIGNIFICANCE.
- j) Walk around in a positive, godly, contented ATMOSPHERE.
- k) Use spiritual weapons to see significant CHANGE & BREAKTHROUGH in the world around you.

→ *This should be 'normative Christian experience.' Do you agree? Or is it reserved for the super-elite or mature?*

1 JOHN 3:8 → *The Son of God appeared for this PURPOSE, to DESTROY the WORKS OF THE DEVIL.*

1. PURPOSE

- * Everything Jesus said/did was SHAPED AROUND His purpose = 1 John 3:8, Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18-21.

→ *Can you give any examples of Jesus clearly following His purpose? Where might He have done it differently had His purpose been different? What did He practically do to demonstrate that purpose? What did He teach to confirm it?*

2. DESTROY

- * Everything Jesus did was intentionally in DIRECT OPPOSITION to what the enemy was doing.

- * Systematically UNDOING, REVERSING & DESTROYING the enemy's works.

→ *How do you destroy the works of the enemy? Read Luke 4:18-21 and discuss how and what Jesus did.*

3. THE ENEMY'S WORKS

- * We know the enemy is AT WORK ... And we know WHAT THOSE WORKS ARE (Romans 1:18-32, Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5-10).

→ *What are the works of the enemy? (You could read through those three passages for clues). What does he seem to be concentrating on in the modern day? What is he trying to achieve through those works?*

- * We're here for this PURPOSE: To STAND AGAINST and DESTROY all of that.

- * Jesus STARTED it; we get to CONTINUE it

- * Our commission is to love God, love our neighbour, make disciples and DESTROY THE ENEMY'S WORKS!

APPLICATION

- * Jesus's purpose has BECOME OURS.

- * Our task is to UNDO & DESTROY the enemy's works around us ... You're an AGENT of Jesus.

→ *What does an agent of Jesus look like? What do they do? Are you effectively operating as one?*

- * Every time you enter a room, you have the opportunity to DESTROY the works of the enemy and CATALYSE the works of the Spirit.

- * Sadly, rather than being a CHANGE=AGENT, Christians are often guilty of ADDING to problems, even CAUSING them, or at least using them for their OWN AGENDAS.

→ *How do Christians do that? What traps do they fall into? How can it even become a habit for a Christian? How do their good intentions get corrupted?*

- * Bottom-line: If it's from the FLESH it will bring DESTRUCTION; only if it's SPIRIT-LED will it bring LIFE (John 6:63).

- * We're called to actively RESIST the enemy and his works (James 4:7).

- * Question becomes, How can I instead DISCERN what the enemy's doing and DESTROY it (Matthew 16:19, Luke 10:19).

→ *Can you give some examples (actual or hypothetical) as to what that might look like?*

- * Similarly, what is GOD doing and how can I JOIN IN?

→ *Can you give some examples (actual or hypothetical) as to what that might look like? What's God likely to be doing in the room? How can you join in?*

- * You have the ability to CHANGE the ATMOSPHERE of the room.

→ *Is it possible to change the atmosphere positively and negatively? How do you do that? How can you increase the spiritual temperature in a room?*

→ *When you walk into a crowded room, the lens you look through to see what's going on will affect how you respond to it. Possible lenses are: God's or the enemy's, flesh or spirit, what I can get v what I can give, advancing your kingdom or His, coming out swinging or as a peace-maker, to be the big noise in the room or to make sure someone hears the still small voice. How do each of those work? Any others jump to mind? How do you make sure you're peering through the right lens?*