7 levels of victory

**Experience new, higher victory**

**Monday**

Read 1 John 5:13-15, Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 1:9, 1 John 2:17, James 1:20, Romans 12:2

Level 4 victory is when you finally know God’s will, which gives you unshakable confidence when you pray. **Ask** God to fill you with a knowledge of what He wants.

**Tuesday**

Read 1 John 5:16-17, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:1

Level 5 victory comes when you realize your sin (as a Christian) doesn’t lead to death. **Meditate** on God’s incredible mercy and grace.

**Wednesday**

Read Acts 3:19, Lamentations 3:22-23, Romans 14:17, Luke 19:1-10, 1 John 1:9

Repentance is far more than an act, “your life is repentance.” Every day, joyfully turn away from selfish sin and turn towards God. **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Thursday**

Read 1 John 5:16-18, Romans 6:14, 1 John 3:1-10

When you realize your sin doesn’t lead you to death (as a Christian) because of Jesus’ blood spilled for you, you can finally stop sinning. **Pray** that you would take advantage of this opportunity and be free.

**Friday**

Read Romans 6:15, Galatians 5

Don’t ever take advantage of God’s goodness and grace. **Journalize** your interpretation of Galatians 5.

7 levels of victory - part 2

**1 John 5 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**4**For everyone born of God is victorious *and* overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered *and* overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].

**Level 1 victory begins when you are born again**

These scriptures not only describe an event but an ongoing lifestyle of being born again, and therefore a lifestyle of victory.

Born again - Entering a new spiritual life where Jesus is Lord and Savior. Being born of the Spirit. Coming into a new diminsion where you become of aware of God and His love for you. Realizing that He has a purpose and plan for your life.  Where finally you are able to follow Jesus!

If you have been a Christian for a while and you’ve lost your initial enthusiasm, don’t wish you could go back…look up to next levels of victory!

**5**Who is the one who is victorious *and* overcomes the world? It is the one who believes *and* recognizes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. **…7**For there are three witnesses: **8**the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three are in agreement [their testimony is perfectly consistent].

**Level 2, you begin to accept God’s testimony given to you (what He tells you) over what others say, their experiences or even what you yourself think.**

Are you going to listen to your own fears or God’s promises?

Are you going to listen to your own distractions or follow God’s direction?

Are you going to listen to your temptations or are you going to leap out through God’s escape plan?

Are you going to rehearse your deficiencies and limitations or are you going to listen to God’s grace, forgiveness and power?

**11**And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him]. **12**He who has the Son [by accepting Him as Lord and Savior] has the life [that is eternal]; he who does not have the Son of God [by personal faith] does not have the life.

**Level 3 victory happens when you realize your eternal life makes you fearless**

You have eternal life! Why are you scared? Enter into a state of fearlessness through your eternal life.

**13**These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [which represents all that Jesus Christ is and does], so that you will know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have eternal life. **14**This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. **15**And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears *and* listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

**Level 4 victory is when you finally know God’s will, giving you unshakable confidence when you pray**

It is incredible to know positively what God wants (that is, His will).

This brings unbelievable victory because you can finally pray confidently, knowing positively that you are praying in the same directly of God’s sovereign will AND that your prayers are going to be answered.

Don’t you wish…

that you could pray for healing and know for sure God was going to answer you?

Or don’t you wish you could pray for His rich provision in your life and be completely confident that He wasn’t going to let you down?

This is level 4 victory…you have have this level of confidence…you can know what God wants! You know His will!

What does it take to know God’s will?

**Ephesians 5:17 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

What is foolishness? It is being self-led. The opposite of foolishness is wisdom…What is wisdom? Being Spirit-led. If you are Spirit-led you will know the will of God.

**[Colossians 1:9](https://biblehub.com/colossians/1-9.htm)**

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Ask God to fill you with a knowledge of His will.

**1 John 2:17 New International Version (NIV)**

**17**The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

**James 1:22 New International Version (NIV)**

**22**Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

You say, “I don’t know where to start!” Start with what you know

Also, look at God’s word and you will discover His will.

**Romans 12:2 New International Version (NIV)**

**2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will **be able** to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

These scriptures instruct us as to how to achieve this higher level of victory:

1. Stop being foolish, and be Spirit-led.
2. Ask God to fill you with a knowledge of His will.
3. Read the Bible to find out what God wants
4. Practice the part of God’s will you already know about.
5. Don’t conform, be transformed.

How can you begin to be transformed?

….gain victory in levels 1-3…Be born again by accepting Jesus into your heart as Lord…and Savior. Accept God’s testimony over other’s, your own and the enemy’s. Let your eternal life make you fearless.

Those three things are pretty transformative!!

Let’s look at level 5 victory.

**16**If anyone sees his brother committing a sin that does not *lead* to death, he will pray *and* ask [on the believer’s behalf] and *God* will for him give life to those whose sin is not *leading* to death. There is a sin *that leads* to death; I do not say that one should pray for this [kind of sin]. **17**All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not *lead* to death [one can repent of it and be forgiven].

**Level 5 victory comes when you realize your sin, as a Christian, does not lead to death.**

*Christians: When you sin, this doesn’t lead you to the penalty of death…so stop condemning your self and heaping guilt and shame on yourselves.*

**1 John 1:7 New International Version (NIV)**

**7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**1 John 2:1 New International Version (NIV)**

**2**My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

There are Christians who think their sin has caused God to be displeased with them, or that they have committed the unpardonable sin.

*But if you are a Christian, your sin does not lead you to death, condemnation, shame and guilt. God has spread His cloak of grace over you by the blood of Jesus. Move into your level 5 victory!*

**Romans 6:14 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

What is this verse saying? When you get to level 5 victory, sin is no longer your master because you have learned and understood God’s grace…He is personally making sure that your sin doesn’t lead you to death.

This is one of the most explosive truths in the world.

In Paul’s time, this turned the Jewish religion upside down, its power fueled missionary outreach all over the world in a matter of a few decades. It burst onto the scene in Martin Luther’s day. And let me tell you, it is going to be what attracts fiery revival to our city.

You can flip this verse around to better understand it.  If you are struggling with the same sin over and over as a Christian and you can’t seem to beat it, *you need level 5 victory* because you think Jesus is throwing the law in your face and condemning you.

*But as soon as you accept God’s grace and acknowledge that because of Jesus’ sacrifice for you, your sin no longer leads you to death, and you repent of your sin, you will be free from that nasty sin that plagues you.*

**Very important: My repentance doesn’t cleanse me…Jesus’ blood cleanses me.**

Do I need to repent of my sins?  Definitely!!  the Bible is clear about that

**Acts 3:19 New International Version (NIV)**

**19**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

But my act of repentance doesn’t purify me from all sin…the blood of Jesus does…

repentance trusts that Jesus blood will do what it claims it will do

**Lamentations 3:22-23 King James Version (KJV)**

**22**It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Let’s consider an aspect of repentance that might really be overlooked:

‘Martin Luther opened the Reformation by nailing "The Ninety-Five Theses" to the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. The very first of the theses was: "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”'

Tim Keller

Repentance is not a ritual, it is a life style.

You could boil it down to this statement…”Repentance is far more than an act, My life is repentance.” In fact, repentance is simply my humble response to God’s wonderful grace!

Is repentance always: I’m sorry, I’m wrong, I’m bad, I’m worthless.  No!

Repentance is a life-long decision to “turn away from selfish sin and turn toward Jesus”.

Every day, making that same decision over and over…that is a lifestyle of repentance.

Repentance is empowered, joyful action!!!

**Luke 19 New International Version (NIV)**

**19**Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. **2**A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. **3**He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.**4**So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

**5**When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” **6**So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

**7**All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” - This is grace!!

**8**But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything,I will pay back four times the amount.”

**9**Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10**For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

First Zacchaeus He was glad to have Jesus enter His life - **Repentance produces JOY!**

Romans 14:17 King James Version (KJV)

**17**For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Look at Zacchaeus’ declaration…it wasn’t, I hate myself, I’m a failure…all the while feeling shunned by God. THAT is NOT repentance.

1 John 1:9 New International Version (NIV)

**9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

It was empowered admission (he stood up and talked to Jesus)… don’t dwell on the failure, dwell on the change you are going to make with Jesus’ help!

Example:

I’ve sleeping around, but I am going to live a pure life starting now!

I’ve been taking drugs for years, but now I am going to let Jesus be my addiction.

I’ve been neglecting my family, but from now one I am going to spend quality time (and quantity time) with them.

I’ve been lazy and playing a victim’s role, but I am going to go get a job.

He turned around and did the opposite of what he had been doing, being greedy and cheated people. And it was big…I’ll pay them back 4 times!

When your “life is repentance” you are empowered to turn around and you experience great joy.

When God’s grace meets with your repentance, it is a match made in heaven!!

David was a man after God’s heart not because he did no wrong but that he recognized his wrong doing and lived a lifestyle of repentance…turning away and turning toward

*Look what happens to the believer who realizes when they sin it will NOT lead to death and separation from God, practicing a lifestyle of repentance:*

**18**We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God does not *habitually* sin; but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps *and* protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

The power of sin is the condemnation that accompanies it. When the condemnation and penalty is removed, you are free and you STOP the sin that you previously loved.

Very few Christians make it to this level of victory because they think people will take advantage of God grace and will run off and do whatever they feel like and claiming that they are under God’s grace.

What shame to throw out this high level of victory simply because you want to be God’s sheriff and police for God!

Can a believer step out of God’s grace? Yes, and one of the first steps out of grace is to exchange grace for legalism!

What does the result of legalism sound like?

It asks this question:

If I sin the second before I die, do I go to hell?

Not if I am a Christian!

If I am living under God’s grace, the blood of Jesus contemporaneously cleanses me.

Do we want to be careful to not take advantage of God’s grace? Of course...

**Romans 6:15 New International Version (NIV)**

**15**What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

An additional side note about level 5 victory. God promises when you believe God’s grace and practice the joy of repentance, the enemy can no longer touch you…you are completely protected by Jesus’ power.

The secret to conquering sin in your life is God’s grace…period (level 5 victory).