

# Kids Can Know Victory

*“But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ..”*

1 Corinthians 15:57

## New Life in Christ:

Once a child receives Christ as Savior from sin, this is the beginning of a lifetime relationship. The Christian life is a daily walk. It will be helpful to begin teaching your child daily steps toward a victorious life in Christ. For the young child, simply understanding that Jesus loves them and will forgive them if they do wrong is sufficient. You can begin teaching the young child Bible memory verses appropriate for their age. They can also begin to learn how to “talk to God”. Once a child reaches the age of nine or ten, they become more analytical. They will enjoy learning basic principles for the victorious life.

## Step One—Memorize Scripture

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness He was able to overcome Satan through the power of quoting God’s Word. Begin memorizing key verses with your child. Make it a game and have fun. Perhaps you can reward your child with a favorite treat after memorizing several verses.

### Key verses to learn:

Matthew 22:37 (Love the Lord)

Galatians 2:20 (Christ lives in me)

1 Corinthians 10:13 (A way out of temptation)

Ephesians 6:11 (Put on the armor of God)

Colossians 3:9-10 (Put on the new, take off the old) (see also Ephesians 4:22-32)

2 Corinthians 10:5 (Control your thoughts)

James 4:7 (Submit to God)

1 Corinthians 15:57 (Claim the victory)

Other key scriptures are: the ten commandments, the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Psalm 1, 23, 100, and 119: 9-16.

## Step Two—Prayer

Teach children the simplicity of prayer. Asking God for help in times of trouble. Has there ever been a time you have given your child a task that he was not able to accomplish on his own? What did you do? Did you punish the child or rebuke him? Most often, an understanding parent will come to the child’s assistance and help accomplish the task. Our heavenly Father is so ready to come to our aid in times of trouble.

Help your child understand that he can quietly call on God and ask for his help any time of day. Perhaps you can share a time when you asked for help and God answered your prayer. Children can also learn to begin their day with prayer, asking for God’s help and ending their day with prayer, thanking God for how He helped them.

Older children can begin to learn how to pray scripture at times of temptation. Perhaps the child is tempted to disobey his parent. Scripture teaches: “Children obey your parents...” The child can silently prayer, “Dear Lord, I am tempted to disobey my parents but your Word says, “Children obey your parents...” I want to do what you want, give me the strength to obey. Thank you for the victory! In Jesus name, amen.”

## Step Three—Submit to God

In **James 4:7** scripture exhorts believers to submit to God and resist the devil. This simply means you want what God wants in your life. It would be helpful to role play different scenarios with your child. Perhaps you could pretend you are in a grocery store and see some candy. Pretend that the thought comes to you, “Oh, that’s my favorite candy bar. I know Mom won’t get it for me. No one is looking, I can take it...” Ask the child what he should do? What Bible verse

could he use? Role playing will help you and your child learn how to submit to God in times of temptation. **Ephesians 4:25-32** list several areas a believer needs to submit to God.

### Step Three—Obey

A child can not have victory in their life until he learns obedience. A parent modeling a consistent lifestyle will be most helpful for the child. Proper discipline is important too. If a child learns he is not expected to obey his earthly parents, he will have difficulty obeying his heavenly father. Some children are much more impulsive than other children, A parent will need patience and God's grace when teaching children obedience.

There are loads of verses in the Bible that are commands to obey. Here are a few:

Mark 16:15 (Go and tell)

I Thessalonians 5 (Pray without ceasing)

Ephesians 6:1 (Children obey your parents)

Matthew 22:37 (Love God with all your heart)

Discuss the meaning of these verses with your child and talk about ways to obey them. Teach the child that God's Holy Spirit lives within them and can give them the power to obey. He really can!

Some children are naturally more rebellious than others. A prayer that I have found helpful when I am feeling stubborn is: "Lord I am not willing to obey you in this area right now, please make me willing." This prayer can teach a child that he can be very honest and open with God and that God is very willing to help the child.

### Step Five—Give Thanks!

When you see your child walking in victory in areas of his life, be sure to praise him for this accomplishment. Demonstrate to him how to give thanks to God for His help. Remember: "It is God that worketh in you both to will and to DO of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) Scripture teaches that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) So many people try to live the Christian life in their own strength. Pretty soon, they burn out because it cannot be done. Let's teach our children early that the power to live the Christian life comes from God.

### Confession of Sin

It is important to teach children that they can "tell on themselves" to God. Often times, children will feel defeated when they sin. Some children may feel hopeless. God has promised to forgive our sins, if we confess. (1 John 1:9) Not only will He forgive our sins but He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea and He will remember them no more! (Jeremiah 31:34 and Micah 7:19—kids love this truth.) It is helpful to share some of your simple shortcomings with your child (do not share "grown-up" problems). You can pray for your child and your child can pray for you. James 5:16 says, "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (woman and child) availeth much.*"

### The Armor of God

God has not sent us into battle without provision. Ephesians 6:11-18 describes the Christian armor. Children will enjoy learning about the different parts of the armor and what each one represents. This will provide a mental picture for children (and parents) of God's provision for spiritual warfare. You can purchase cheap play armor sets at toy stores. You may want to take one part of the armor each week and discuss what it represents. From time to time you can pray with your child, putting on the armor like this: "Thank you father for my helmet of salvation, help me remember today that I belong to you...etc."

#### God's Armor:

**Belt of Truth**—Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the light" (John 14:6)

**Breastplate of Righteousness**—"Through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:1)

**Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace**—"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace..." (Isaiah 52:7) "Peace I leave with you..." (John 14:27)

**Shield of Faith**—"...I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

**Helmet of Salvation**—*"Neither is there salvation in any other ..."* ( Acts 4:12)

**Sword of the Spirit** (the Word of God) - *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*(John 1:1) The sword is the only offensive weapon of the armor.

**Importance of Prayer**- *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."* Ephesians 6:18

It is comforting to realize that each part of the armor is provided in Christ Jesus!

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