

Victory in Christ Jesus over Adversity

March 2017

God told us that we would face adversity in this life. "*I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you,*" (John 16:33 AMP).

So, we must not be surprised by the difficulties that we face. How has God told us to face them? "Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result *and* do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing," (James 1:2-4 AMP).

The gospel is seen magnificently by people observing you as you go through difficulties in life. You are not thinking about how your behavior is affecting other people while you are in the midst of a major crisis. When others see you with the peace that passes understanding and the joy of the Lord, they will want to know how you are able to have peace and joy in such a difficult situation. You may be the only representative of Jesus Christ that certain other people see. So, the way you respond to life's crises makes a huge difference in your life and as well as in bringing others to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. You are letting the light of Jesus Christ shine through you and bringing glory to God (Matthew 5:16).

That storms of life will come is established. That we can receive them in joy is not a normal human reaction at all. So, how can we view every issue of life with God's joy? We wrote the book, *Victory over Adversity* precisely to answer that question. We could not answer it briefly. Thirty-nine chapters were required!

In the first two chapters, we present to you the issue of today's world condition. We connect what is happening today with what God tells us in the Bible will happen in the last days before Jesus Christ appears in the air to take up all

who trust in Him (**I Thessalonians 4:17**). There is no denying that there is an exact fit. These very well may be the last days before great changes take place on earth.

Read II Timothy, Chapter Three. In fact, meditate upon it so often that it is written on your heart. You will be able to explain to people that today's world conditions were written in the Bible over 2,000 years ago. Check each item off. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. All of these conditions are part of our society today. Paul wrote this chapter with such love. Living in these conditions is not easy. Paul tells us to stay close to God through His Word. He tells us that our safety and well-being in the midst of a world in peril is found in God's Word, the Bible. Paul tells us to turn away from the world and turn to God in Christ Jesus with every breath.

God tells us through Paul that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (**II Timothy 3:12**). This is our cue to pray for our brothers and sisters in every land where they are suffering unimaginably for their faith in Christ Jesus. We must pray daily for them.

From Chapter Three through the Conclusion in *Victory over Adversity* we present God's tools for living close to our Father God. His plan is for us to live in the Holy Spirit and not live according to the dictates of the flesh (**Galatians 5:16**). Figuring out how to live in God's plan for us requires knowing His directions. We did the work for you! Our goal is to help you overcome adversity victoriously.

We present the way God has planned for us to be in the world but not of it. How can you jump into the water and not get wet? God has provided instructions for us!

Do you want to have a clearer picture of the power of the Word of God? Soon you will be speaking it all day long. You will be praying it back to our Father. You will be activating angels when you speak the Word of God. They are there to respond to the spoken Word of God. We spent twelve chapters on the Word of God. You will fall in love with God's Word as you experience this book, *Victory over Adversity*.

Would you like to think the way God thinks? It is possible. It is available to you. How can you implant the Word of God in your heart? What is Scripture meditation? How can you incorporate planting God's Word in your heart into your busy life? We had a delightful time finding answers to these questions and creating this book for you.

Each of our books explains to the reader that understanding the Bible is very difficult for anyone who does not know God through His Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that everyone who reads one of our books will be drawn by the Holy Spirit to come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, their Redeemer, their Messiah. The reader is invited to go the Appendix to learn about this magnificent Savior before continuing to read the book.

We invite you to join our Prayer Band to pray for every reader who reads a Lamplight book in any country in any language. We pray that God's kingdom will be increased and new believers will become grounded in their faith through Lamplight Ministries, Inc. books.

Our prayer for you is that you will "... *not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.*⁷ *And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours],"* (Philippians 4:6-7 AMP).