



Communion

September 29, 2024

Victorious in Christ

Learning from a friend's Prayer ministry

Bob prays with people and their lives dramatically change.

They find freedom in Christ and victory over struggles

Sometimes Bob would ask us to join him.

Most often Bob would find something in their past that was holding them back.

We came to realise forgiveness is most often the first step to a victorious life.



Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die



Jesus taught his disciples to “*pray like this:*”

- ⁹ . . . ‘*Our Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy.*
- ¹⁰ *May your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.*
- ¹¹ *Give us the food we need today.*
- ¹² ***Forgive us what we have done wrong,
as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.***
- ¹³ *And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. For kingship, power and glory are yours forever.*
- Amen.’ Matthew 6:9-13 Complete Jewish Bible*



Jesus went on to say

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will not forgive yours. Matthew 6:14-15 Complete Jewish Bible



When asked a question on the 10 Commandments

*²⁹ Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; ³⁰ and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, **‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’** There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Mark 12:29-31 (NASB 1995)



CS Lewis in “Mere Christianity” explains

“loving your neighbour as yourself” involves

- Forgiving your neighbour in the way you forgive yourself.
- Just as we do things that we are not proud of and then forgive ourselves for doing them so we should be prepared to forgive those who offend us even though we may not like what they have done or are doing.

**We don't need to like everything they do but
we can still love them!**



Searching for “Never forgive” on NZ Herald

'I hate you and I'll never forgive you' - grieving mum's strong words to the ... The mother of a teenager killed in a car crash told the driver: "I hate you and I'll never forgive you... 17 Mar 2022

Prince Harry interview: Why King Charles may never forgive his son for attacks on Camilla. 2023

Athletics: I will never forgive Ostapchuk - Adams Valerie Adams... 26 Jul 2013

Karen Aim's aunt will never forgive killer aunt of murdered Scottish backpacker. 16 Apr 2008

'I can never forgive,' says store owner's widow of slain liquor store owner... 15 Jun 2008

'We will never forgive killer' parents of teenager run down and killed on beach... 06 Jan 2008

I will never forgive Jackson, says LOTR actor Actor Christopher Lee... 30 Apr 2006



Positive “forgive” headlines on NZ Herald search

Sydney church terrorist stabbing: Bishop says he forgives accused teenage assailant ... 18 Apr 2024

Carlos Santana forgives man who sexually abused him daily when he was a kid.. 17 Jun 2023

Father of Kaoss Price has ‘forgiven’ police for fatal shooting, blames himself instead ... 18 Mar 2023

Crate Day tragedy: No conviction - Family forgive man after girl dies from ute fall. 08 Jul 2022

Victims forgive rugby sevens player charged over Wellington on-field brawl... 13 May 2022

Hammer attack: Mosgiel dairy owner forgives assailant who bashed him over the head... 10 Mar 2022

Injured workers whose mate died in crash forgive Hawke's Bay driver... 16 Mar 2022

'I have no room in my heart for hate': Daughter forgives driver who killed her 23 Feb 2022

'My whānau forgives you': Tainui Oti sentenced for murder of cousin... 16 Jul 2021



Are you finding it hard to forgive?

Selwyn Hughes, EDWJ:

Trust is a pillar of wisdom and forgiveness is a key to trusting God.

The first thing we must do to enhance our ability to trust at a spiritual level is demonstrate a willingness to forgive those who deprived us, hurt us, betrayed us.

(July/Aug 2024)

God has forgiven you. When people have told me during a counselling session, 'My problem is that I can't forgive,' I have usually responded by saying, 'No, that's not your problem. Your problem is that you don't know how much you have been forgiven.'

It may be difficult for some to see this, especially those who have experienced betrayal and gone through deep hurt, but nothing others have done to us is as awful as what we have done to God.

If you have difficulty with that last statement it is because you do not understand the true nature of sin. Sin is taking the Creator of the universe and relegating Him to irrelevance; it is saying to the One who made us, 'I can run my life



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So, How much have we been forgiven?

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NASB 1995)

If you're brave enough watch the film "The Passion" – it graphically portrays the love of Jesus and what it cost Him to forgive us





Communion

Proclaiming Christ's death

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Complete Jewish Bible

²³ that the Lord Yeshua, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; ²⁴ and after he had made the b'rakhah he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial to me"; ²⁵ likewise also the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant effected by my blood; **do this, as often as you drink it, as a memorial to me.**"

²⁶ **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes.**



1 Corinthians 11 (continued vs 27-30)

*²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the Lord's bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of desecrating the body and blood of the Lord! ²⁸ **So let a person examine himself first**, and then he may eat of the bread and drink from the cup; ²⁹ for a person who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. ³⁰ This is why many among you are weak and sick, and some have died!*

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 Complete Jewish Bible



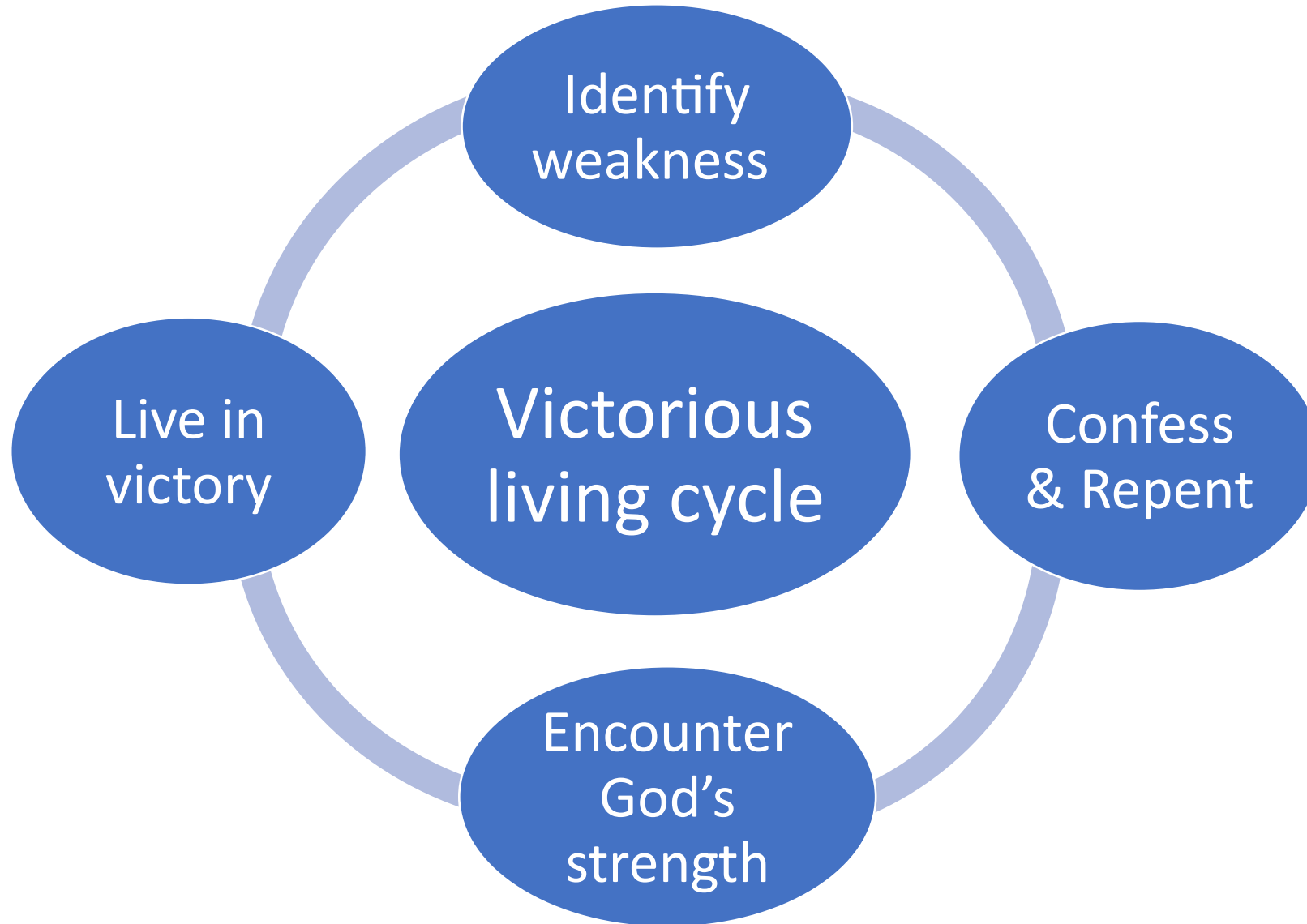
What happens when we examine ourselves?

We find things we need to deal with
– actions we need to take!

*³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ **Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:30-32 (NIV)***



Victorious living cycle in our Christian walk



Victorious living cycle scriptures

Identify
weakness

*²⁸ So let a person examine himself **1 Corinthians 11:28***

Confess
& Repent

*⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:9***

Encounter
God's
strength

*¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret . . **2 Corinthians 7:10***

Live in
victory

*⁹ . . my power is brought to perfection in weakness . . . **2 Corinthians 12:9 CJB***

*⁵⁷ . . . thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:57 (NASB 1995)***



What does judgement look like?

¹⁹ This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” John 3:19-21 (NASB 1995)



Gazing at the Lord and becoming like Him

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NASB 1995)



Our communion prayer

My Father in heaven! May your Name be kept holy! May your Kingdom on earth become like it is in heaven.

Give me the food and supplies I need today.

Bring to my mind and help me forgive those who have wronged me and I haven't forgiven yet **[pause]**

and forgive me for the wrong things I have done.

Do not lead me into hard testing but keep me safe from the Evil One.

Jesus, I confess you are Lord and believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead.

Kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.

