

Stop Acting Like You're a Victim!

Excerpt from Sparkling Gems of the Greek: Rick Renner

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it”. [Colossians 2:15]

Introduction:

One of the most prevalent attitudes in the body of Christ today, is that of feeling like a victim.

Instead of acting, talking and walking in the glorious victory purchased for us by the blood of Jesus, and accomplished thru the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ - many have the tendency to see themselves as a victim instead of a victor!

If you are one of those who find themselves being deceived into thinking anything other than the fact that you are 'more than a conqueror thru Christ' - then this study will help you (if you are willing to read it - meditate on it - and apply it.)

A Basic Fact:

You can count on the fact that there are unseen evil forces that have been assigned to kill, steal and destroy everything good in our lives. The Bible clearly teaches that these devilish forces band together to commit acts of aggression against the saints - and that includes you and me!

This truth is quite evident in Scripture, for Paul wrote many verses about spiritual weapons, spiritual armor, and how we are to resist these unseen, demonic forces. Yet it is very important that we approach this subject with the right attitude!

Victory 101:

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead, the forces of hell are already defeated. However, even though they have been legally stripped of their authority and power, they continue to roam around this earth, carrying out evil deeds like outlaws, criminals, bandits, hooligans, and thugs. And just like criminals who refuse to submit to the law, these evil spirits will continue to operate in this world until some believer uses his God-given authority to enforce their defeat!

We need to get a tight hold of this truth:

These demonic forces are legally stripped of their authority and are defeated! We are not puny, struggling believers who are somehow trying to learn how to cope with the devil's attacks against us. We're not merely trying to learn how to scrape by or survive. Jesus' death and resurrection gave us the legal authority to keep Satan under our feet, so we must always make sure we approach spiritual warfare as victors and not victims.

Get Wisdom:

To gain a greater revelation of the victory Jesus has already accomplished for you and me through His death, burial, and resurrection let's examine Colossians 2:1-5. Paul tells us that Jesus **'...made a show of them openly....'**

The word 'openly' is taken from the word 'parresia', a word that is used throughout the books of the New Testament to denote 'boldness or confidence'.

By using the word 'parresia', Paul declares that when Jesus was finishing His dealings with Satan, His victory over the devil was no quiet affair. Quite the contrary! Jesus boldly, confidently, and loudly exposed and displayed this now-defunct foe to Heaven's hosts. Make no mistake! When Jesus 'made a show of them openly,' it was quite a spectacular show!

A Triumphant Affair:

The verse continues, **"...He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it."**

The word 'triumph' is taken from the Greek word 'triambeuo', which is a technical word used to describe a general or an emperor returning home from a grand victory in the enemy's territory. Specifically, the word "triumph" was used to describe the emperor's triumphal parade when he returned home.

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Stop Acting Like You're a Victim *continued...*

When a returning emperor or general came striding through the gates on his big, powerful, and beautiful horse, He was accompanied by his fellow victorious warriors that also appeared glorious after their triumphant battle. As the parade followed, the weaponry and treasures seized from the enemy's territory were grandly displayed for all to see.

The grand finale to this triumphal procession was the foreign ruler himself. This ruler had been beaten and bound in chains and was now being forced to walk in disgrace, shame, dishonor, embarrassment, and humiliation as crowds of people came to celebrate his defeat and to get a peek at a once-powerful, but now totally defeated opponent.

So when Colossians 2:15 declares that Jesus triumphed over evil powers, it is explicitly declaring that Jesus took the enemy apart piece by piece as He thoroughly "**Spoiled principalities and powers.**"

In other words - When Jesus was finished with those demonic forces, they were utterly plundered and 'stripped to bare nakedness' and left with nothing in hand to retaliate!

Because of the words 'parresia' and 'triumbeuo', Colossians 2:15 conveys this idea:

"He gallantly strode into Heaven to celebrate His victory and the defeat of Satan and his forces. As part of His triumphal process, He flaunted the spoils seized from the hand of the enemy. Yet the greatest spectacle of all occurred when the enemy himself was openly put on display as bound, disgraced, disabled, defeated, humiliated, and stripped bare...."

Jesus' victory over Satan was a momentous affair!

When Jesus returned, He was totally triumphant! The party Heaven threw that day was enormous! All of Heaven's hosts came to celebrate Jesus' victory and Satan's downfall and demise! Right there in front of everyone, Jesus displayed the devil and his cohorts, so all could know that this enemy no longer had the legitimate right or the necessary arms to prolong his rule of terrorism.

Remember! Satan is not a force we are trying to defeat; he is already defeated.

But because very few believers know how to effectively use their God-given authority to resist Satan, he tries to continue illegally operating and doing damage to the souls of men and even to the creation itself.

No matter what demonic strategy may come against you this day or how many demons are assembled together for your destruction, you never have to go down defeated because Jesus plundered the enemy when He rose from the dead!

So when you look into the mirror, you need to learn to see yourself as one who already has the victory. You already possess the authority necessary to keep Satan under your feet where he belongs. Remember, you are no longer a victim -you are a victor!

Never forget that every trial is your golden opportunity to see a demonstration of God's power in your life - and whether or not you will see the victory rests entirely on how you deal with a situation!

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, I thank you for the victory you obtained by your resurrection from the dead! No one else could have done what you did for us. You invaded hell - broke the power of its demonic forces -seized their artillery and every weapon they might have used against me - and bound the devil. And because you did all this, you set me free! You are our great Victor, our great Champion, and you are the Lord of all lords. Thank You for cleansing me with your blood and granting me the honor to be called a child of God and a joint heir with You.

I boldly confess that I possess the authority necessary to keep Satan under my feet where he belongs! Satan is not a force I am trying to defeat because he is already defeated.

I use my God-given authority to resist him, and he flees from me. No matter what demonic strategy may come against me how many demons may try to assemble together for my destruction, I NEVER have to go down in defeat because you have given me the victory! When I look into the mirror, I see someone who already has the victory because Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world! I am victorious thru you lord. I pray this in Jesus' Name - Amen!