

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

August, 2022

Triumph in Christ

Before you start reading this article, STOP. What was the first thought that came to your mind when you read the word TRIUMPH?

When I picked the theme "Triumph" to write about, one of the first thoughts that came to my mind was the victory (battle) that was won at Calvary, when Christ died on the cross for you and me. We received remission when we came to Christ and repented of our sins; we were given a new life and hope for our future, a reason we can triumph and give praise to God.

Curious to find out what others thought the word triumph meant, I asked a couple of people. My thoughts were soon to be broadened by their responses. One person said, "a victory or battle won." "Okay..." I thought their thought was like my thinking; but then I wondered, are "victory" and "triumph" the same? I shared with another person my thoughts on triumph. Their response to me was "Yes, the victory was won on Calvary, but the BATTLE is still raging." These responses brought several thoughts to my mind, which I would like to share with you.

After researching the meanings of victory vs. triumph, I concluded they are connected, but not quite the same in meaning. Victory is different from Triumph.

Victory is used to highlight the fact that someone achieved the highest possible rating from a competition or a war. In simple terms, you have won by competing against a competitor, or defeating an opponent or enemy. Thinking about victory from a spiritual perspective, this is what Christ did for you and me. He went up against the flesh and Satan in a war for us, defeating them so that through Him salvation could be offered to all. His blood was shed on Calvary. He paid for our sins the ultimate price for our redemption as the Lamb of God, as the sacrifice for our sins. The victory was won, but my colleague is right, "the battle is still raging."

If Satan was so bold to tempt the Son of Man, Jesus, God in the flesh, how much more is he willing to tempt us as easy prey?

With that in mind, Peter instructs us, "*Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*" 1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)

And Paul reminds us that we are in a war, and he gives us the recipe on how we are to arm ourselves for the fight. ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:10-13 (KJV)

But wait, there's more! Here's where another important part comes into play: the triumph we can and will experience through what Christ did for us!

Imagine yourself climbing a mountain and the goal is to reach the top. You would put forth effort and determination to conquer fears, obstacles, and even overcome disasters perhaps. Being willing, or unwilling, to do what it takes will define the outcome as a success or a failure as you attempt to reach the top. Yet, if you are successful, and make it to the top, it's called a "triumph."

Jesus gave His all, including His life, to finish His mission, and, on the cross, declared, "it is finished." Success in the eyes of God!

Since we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, there can be no "true" success

(Continued on next page)

TRIUMPH

apart from Christ. There can be no triumph until we engage in His work, and live through His victory in our own lives. He is the one that empowers us to be victorious.

Don't allow yourself to believe in Satan's lie that says, "you are not succeeding." If we stay connected to Christ – Christ living in us, trusting and obeying, following God's written word - we will always triumph. We learn. We conform. We grow. We work. We overcome.

¹⁴ Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ... 2 Corinthians 2:14a (KJV)

The key word in the Scripture above is **"always."** Knowing that we *always* triumph in Christ eliminates the false statement, "win a few—lose a few." Just because it is God's will that we always triumph doesn't ensure that we will never be attacked, or have trouble come knocking at the door in our lives.

In God's mind, victory belongs to us. No matter what kind of persecution, adversity, or attack you may come under, God's plan results in triumph when we are obedient to Him. So, even when things seem difficult, aren't always perfect, nor easy, you can rest assured that you'll have the victory in the end through Christ.

Remember these promises:

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." *Romans 8:28 (KJV)*

We must rest on this truth, knowing that even "bad" circumstances will somehow work together for our good.

So therefore...

Hebrews 12:1-3 (KJV)

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so

great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

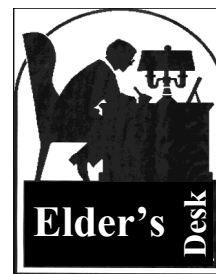
One last thing: when thinking about the word TRIUMPH, I was reminded of my youth while growing up at Sunny Place where we often sang songs that were based on Scripture. And I want to share one of them with you, which was written by James Lloyd Owens in 1972, based on verses written in Psalms 47:

*"Clap your hands, all ye people
Shout unto God with a voice of triumph
Clap your hands, all ye people
Shout unto God with a voice of praise*

*Hosanna, hosanna
Shout unto God with a voice of triumph
Praise Him, praise Him
Shout unto God with a voice of praise"*

The psalmist was acknowledging God's greatness, His Kingship, His relationship to the earth and the people. Let's raise our voices to Him in praise and TRIUMPH!

In His service,
Phyllis Clark



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TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group Via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held July 6, 2022

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$ 1,797.19; Giving \$13,488.24; Expenses \$20,749.12; Faith Promise \$20,020

Worship & Prayer: On July 20 Worship Wednesday will be at Ruth Beierwaltes home. The Prayer Ministry team is contacting people regarding on-going prayer requests for themselves, people in our congregation or those family or friends who are not attending Sunny Place Church. We are certain He hears our prayers and answers according to His will.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The Thursday evening Bible Study on Zoom and in person at church is now studying faith and doubt. The Sunday morning Bible Study continues on the Sermon on the Mount. Pastor Pete has asked Jacob to begin leading the Sunday morning Bible Study in the fall.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: The Ministry team sends out cards for birthdays, anniversaries, illness and encouragement. There will be a luncheon for ladies on July 27 at Aurelio’s restaurant.

Outreach & Missions: The Second Saturday Senior luncheon will be held July 9. The Ministry will hold meetings every other month rather than monthly. We are encouraged to pray for our Missionaries.

Stewardship & Support Services: The air conditioning was repaired for the church offices.

New and Old Business

- The Natural Church Development Survey was sent and Pastor Pete is waiting for the last few responses before the survey result can be reviewed. Pastor Pete will be making the arrangements to share the survey results and recommendations.
- On August 4 and 5 Pastor Pete and Sam will attend the Global Leadership Summit in South Barrington IL.

Next Elders meeting: August 3, 2022 at 7pm

Sunny Place Church — August Events



all church
WORK DAY

**Saturday
August 6th
9:00—1:00 p.m.**

**SECOND SATURDAY
SENIOR LUNCHION**
August 13th, 11:30 A.M.

Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and
activities. Free event for
Seniors 55+. Space is
limited so register now at
630/398-2314



lunch date

Ladies Lunch
Aurelio's Pizza
1455 Lake St., Addison
When: Wed. August 24th
Time: 11:30 a.m.



Wednesday Worship

Come fellowship with your Church Family,
and share a meal, a song or two, and good
times in a relaxed atmosphere.

Wednesday, August 17th, 6:00 p.m.
Sam & Ann Jacob are hosting.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Jesus' Teaching for the Blessed"

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount.

Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



"Faith & Doubt"

Practicing Kingdom Principles

Led by Pastor Pete

7:00 p.m. In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information
to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:
sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.