

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the book's gutter.

**Call to Worship**  
**Psalm 146:3-9**

**Psalm 146:3-9** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. **Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, **but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

# Sweet Hour of Prayer

## Hymn 439



# Under His Wings

## Hymn 412



# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Cor. 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came ... Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.”*

**R. A. TORREY**

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

**Today's Message**

**“Victory That Overcomes”**

**Scripture text: 1 John 5**

**1 John 5:2-5** By this we know that **we love the children of God**, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. **For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

**Not simply *obedience*—but *joyful obedience!***  
***1 John 5:3b*** *And his commandments are not burdensome.*

**Everything in creation—except man—obeys the will of God.** “Fire and hail, snow, and vapor, stormy wind fulfilling His Word” (Ps. 148:8). In the Book of Jonah, you see the winds and waves, and even the fish, obeying God’s commands; but the prophet persisted in disobeying. Even a plant and a little worm did what God commanded. **But the prophet stubbornly wanted his own way.**

**Disobedience to God's will is a tragedy**—but so is reluctant, grudging obedience. God does not want us to disobey Him, but neither does He want us to obey out of fear or necessity. What Paul wrote about giving also applies to living: “not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). What is the secret of joyful obedience? **It is to recognize that obedience is a family matter.** We are serving a loving Father and helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. **We have been born of God, we love God, and we love God's children. And we demonstrate this love by keeping God's commandments.**

A woman visited a newspaper editor's office, hoping to sell him some poems she had written. "What are your poems about?" the editor asked. "They're about love!" gushed the poetess. The editor settled back in his chair and said, "Well, read me a poem. **The world could certainly use a lot more love!**" The poem she read was filled with *moons and Junes and other sticky sentiments, and it was more than the editor could take.* "I'm sorry," he said, "but **you just don't know what love is all about!** It's not moonlight and roses. **It's sitting up all night at a sickbed, or working extra hours so the kids can have new shoes.** The world doesn't need your brand of poetical love. **It needs some good old-fashioned *practical love.***"

D.L. Moody often said, **“Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather.”** We show our love to God, not by empty words but by willing works. We are not slaves obeying a master; **we are children obeying a Father. And our sin is a family affair.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**One of the tests of maturing love is our personal attitude toward the Bible, because in the Bible we find God's will for our lives revealed. An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message (1 Cor. 2:14).**

**An immature Christian considers the demands of the Bible to be burdensome. He is somewhat like a little child who is learning to obey, and who asks, "Why do I have to do that?" or "Wouldn't it be better to do this?"**

**But a Christian who experiences God's perfecting love finds himself enjoying the Word of God and truly loving it. He does not read the Bible as a textbook, but as a love letter.**

**1 Corinthians 2:13-14** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but **taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God***, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, and **its theme is the Word of God**. Every verse but two (Ps. 119:122, 132) mentions the Word of God in one form or another, as “law,” “precepts,” “commandments,” etc. But **the interesting thing is that the psalmist loves the Word of God and enjoys telling us about it!** “O how love I Thy Law!” (Ps. 119:97) **He rejoices in the Law** (Ps. 119:14, 162) and **delights in it** (Ps. 119:16, 24). **It is honey to his taste** (Ps. 119:103). In fact, **he turns God’s Law into a song: “Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage”** (Ps. 119:54).

Imagine turning statutes into songs. **Suppose the local symphony presented a concert of the traffic code set to music!** Most of us do not consider laws a source of joyful song, but **this is the way the psalmist looked at God's Law.**

**Because he loved the Lord, he loved His Law.**

God's commandments were not grievous and burdensome to him. **Just as a loving son or daughter happily obeys his father's command, so a Christian with perfecting love joyfully obeys God's command.**

At this point, we can review and understand the practical meaning of “**maturing love**” in our daily lives. As our love for the Father matures, **we have confidence and are no longer afraid of His will.** We also are honest toward others and lose our fear of being rejected. And **we have a new attitude toward the Word of God:** it is the expression of God’s love, and we enjoy obeying it. **Confidence toward God, honesty toward others, and joyful obedience are the marks of perfecting love and the ingredients that make up a happy Christian life.**

**We can see too how sin ruins all this.** When we disobey God we lose our confidence toward Him. If we do not immediately confess our sin and claim His forgiveness (1 John 1:9), **we must start pretending in order to cover up.**

**Disobedience leads to dishonesty, and both turn our hearts away from the Word of God.** Instead of reading the Word with joy to discover the Father's will, **we ignore the Word or perhaps read it in a routine way.**

The burden of religion (man trying to please God in his own strength) is a grievous one (cf. Matt. 23:4); but the yoke that Christ puts on us is not burdensome at all (Matt. 11:28–30).

Love lightens burdens. Jacob had to work for seven years to win the woman he loved, but the Bible tells us that **“they seemed unto him a few days, for the love he had to her”** (Gen. 29:20).

**Perfecting love produces joyful obedience.**

**Matthew 23:1-4** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, **so practice and observe whatever they tell you--but not what they do.** For they preach, but do not practice. **They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.**

**Matthew 23:13** "But **woe to you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For **you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.**

**Matthew 11:27-30** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and **anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him**. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest**. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**. **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**"

**Genesis 29:18-20** Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

**Love Lighten our burden!**

The Greek goddess of victory was Nike, which also happens to be the name of a United States aerial missile. Both of them are named for the Greek word nike (NEE-kay) which simply means victory. But **what does victory have to do with maturing love?**

Christians live in a real world and are beset with formidable obstacles. **It is not easy to obey God.** It is much easier to drift with the world, disobey Him, and “do your own thing.”

But the Christian is “**born of God.**” This means he has the divine nature within him, and **it is impossible for this divine nature to disobey God.** “*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world*” (**1 John 5:4**). If the old nature is in control of us, we disobey God; **but if the new nature is in control, we obey God.**

**The world appeals to the old nature** (1 John 2:15–17) and **tries to make God’s commandments seem burdensome.**

**1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is **not from the Father** but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

**Our victory is a result of faith,** and we grow in faith as we grow in love. **The more you love someone, the easier it is to trust him.** The more our love for Christ is perfected, the **more our faith in Christ is perfected too; because faith and love mature together.**

The **word overcome** is a favorite with John; he uses it in 1 John 2:13–14 with reference to overcoming the devil. He uses it seven times in Revelation to describe believers and the blessings they receive (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

He is not describing a special class of believers. **Rather, he is using the word overcomer as a name for the true Christian. Because we have been born of God, we are overcomers.**

We are told that a soldier in the army of Alexander the Great was not acting bravely in battle. When he should have been pressing ahead, he was lingering behind. The great general approached him and asked, **“What is your name, soldier?”** The man replied, “My name, sir, is Alexander.” The general looked him straight in the eye and said firmly: **“Soldier, get in there and fight—or change your name!”**

What is our name? “Children of God—the born-again ones of God.” Alexander the Great wanted his name to be a symbol of courage; **our name carries with it assurance of victory. To be born of God means to share God’s victory.**

This is a victory of faith, but faith in what?

**Faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God!** The person who overcomes ... *“Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:5).*

It is not faith in ourselves, but **faith in Christ, that gives us the victory.** “In the world ye shall have tribulation, but **be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**” (John 16:33).

**Identification with Christ in His victory reminds us of the several times we have read “as He is” in John’s letter. “As He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17). We should walk in the light “as He is in the light” (1 John 1:7). If we claim to abide in Him, then we should conduct ourselves as He conducted Himself (1 John 2:6). His children are to be, on earth, what He is in heaven. It is only necessary for us to claim this wonderful position *by faith—and to act on it.***

When Jesus Christ died, we died with Him. Paul said, ***Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

When Christ was buried, we were buried with Him. And when He arose, we arose with Him.

***Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.***

When Christ ascended to heaven, **we ascended with Him** and are now seated with Him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).

And when Christ returns, we shall share His exaltation. ***Colossians 3:4*** *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

All these verses describe our spiritual position in Christ.

**When we claim this position by faith, we share His victory.**

When God raised Jesus from the dead, He “seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named ... and He put all things in subjection under His feet” (Eph. 1:20–22). **This means that, positionally, each child of God is privileged to sit far above all his enemies!**

Where a man sits determines how much authority he may exercise. The man who sits in the general manager's chair has a restricted sphere of authority; the man who sits in the vice president's chair exercises more control. But the man behind the desk marked president exercises the most authority. No matter where he may be in the factory or office, he is respected and obeyed because of where he sits. His power is determined by his position, not by his personal appearance or the way he feels.

**So with a child of God: his authority is determined by his position in Christ.**

When he trusted Christ, he was identified with Him by the Holy Spirit and **made a member of His body** (1 Cor. 12:12–13). His old life has been buried and he has been raised to a new life of glory. **In Christ, he is sitting on the very throne of the universe!**

A Civil War veteran used to wander from place to place, begging a bed and bite to eat and always talking about his friend “Mr. Lincoln.” Because of his injuries, he was unable to hold a steady job. But as long as he could keep going, he would chat about his beloved President.

“You say you knew Mr. Lincoln,” a skeptical bystander retorted one day. “I’m not so sure you did. Prove it!”

The old man replied, “Why, sure, I can prove it. In fact, I have a piece of paper here that Mr. Lincoln himself signed and gave to me.”

From his old wallet, the man took out a much-folded piece of paper and showed it to the man. “I’m not much for reading,” he apologized, “but I know that’s Mr. Lincoln’s signature.”

“Man, do you know what you have here?” one of the spectators asked. “You have a generous federal pension authorized by President Lincoln. You don’t have to walk around like a poor beggar! Mr. Lincoln has made you rich!”

To paraphrase what John wrote:

**“You Christians do not have to walk around defeated, because Jesus Christ has made you victors! He has defeated every enemy and you share His victory.**

**Now, by faith, claim His victory!”**

The TRUTH is not  
←←— OUT THERE!  
It is IN HERE!!



**1 John 5:2-5** By this we know that **we love the children of God**, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. **For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



EVIL

GOOD

**Joshua 24:14-16** "Now therefore **fear the LORD and serve him** in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods,

# The Savior is Waiting

## Hymn 435

