

# Contents

## **Victory**

SUGGESTED FOR  
THE WEEK OF

	Introduction .....	10
March 5	Session 1 <b>Jesus, Our Victor</b> .....	13
March 12	Session 2 <b>Victorious Hope</b> .....	21
March 19	Session 3 <b>Victory Over Sin</b> .....	29
March 26	Session 4 <b>Victorious Faith</b> .....	37
April 2	Session 5 <b>Victory Over Fear</b> .....	45
April 9	Session 6 <b>Victory Shared</b> .....	53
	Article <i>A Cry for Help</i> .....	61

## **He Is Risen**

April 16	Special Focus <b>He Is Risen</b> .....	64
	Article <i>Gates of Splendor</i> .....	75

## **Identity: My Life of Faith**

	Introduction .....	78
April 23	Session 1 <b>Life in Christ</b> .....	81
April 30	Session 2 <b>Life in the Church</b> .....	89
May 7	Session 3 <b>Life at Home</b> .....	97
May 14	Session 4 <b>Life at Work</b> .....	105
May 21	Session 5 <b>Life in the Community</b> .....	113
May 28	Session 6 <b>Life on Mission</b> .....	121
	Coming in Summer .....	130

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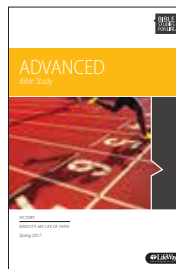
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## A Word from Ronnie



Your Bible study group can be such an encouraging place. You don't meet just to find a way to survive or muddle through another week. You come together to study the Bible—and through God's Word, you discover hope, life, power, and victory!

Mike Glenn will take us through a study called "Victory," a study that looks at the victory we have in Jesus Christ. Christ gives us victory that goes even beyond the salvation that will take us to heaven one day. That's great in itself, but we'll see that our victory in Christ also touches how we live *today*.

That victory in Christ changes everything, including our identity. Matt Brown will lead your group in a study called "Identity: My Life of Faith." Our connection with Christ changes us through and through; even our identity changes in Him. Join with your group in discussing how your identity in Christ affects your identity—who you are—at home, work, church, and in your community.

We can be thankful that Christ has given us victory and that He has changed us—that He is continually reshaping who we are. Enjoy these studies with your group!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronnie Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

General Editor

 @RonnieFloyd | [RonnieFloyd.com](http://RonnieFloyd.com)

# My group's prayer requests

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# My group's prayer requests

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# VICTORY





## ***The battle is won! Enjoy the victory.***

These are the days of “not yet.”

Those of us who follow Christ live in an uncomfortable reality. God has given us many great promises in Christ Jesus, but we’ve not yet experienced them all. Not yet.

- ▶ Christ promised He would return—*but not yet.*
- ▶ Jesus will ultimately make everything right—*but not yet.*
- ▶ Christ promised to redeem our lives and welcome us into His glorious kingdom—*but not yet.*

As we live in this “in between” reality of life, it’s easy to forget that the story—God’s great story of redemption—has a happy ending. Whenever we read the headlines or watch the news on TV, we sometimes wonder how things will turn out. We forget the war already has been won. The future isn’t in doubt.

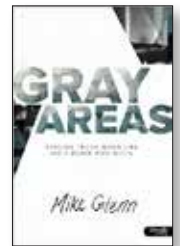
What all of this means on a practical level is that we can live in our present circumstances, whatever they are, with a joyful confidence because we know Christ has already secured our victory. We can have courage in our obedience, enthusiasm in our evangelism, mercy in our forgiveness, and determination in our discipleship.

We can live each day with joy because we have victory. We are confident Jesus will finish what He has started in the whole world—and in us.



Mike Glenn

Mike Glenn is the senior pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tennessee—a church he has served since 1991. He is the author of *The Gospel of Yes* and *Gray Areas: Finding Truth When Life Isn't Black and White*. He is married to Jeannie, and they have two adult twin sons.



## Victory

Session 1 **Jesus, Our Victor** *Revelation 1:12-20*

Session 2 **Victorious Hope** *Matthew 8:5-13*

Session 3 **Victory Over Sin** *Romans 6:4-14*

Session 4 **Victorious Faith** *Hebrews 11:1-6*

Session 5 **Victory Over Fear** *Romans 8:31-39*

Session 6 **Victory Shared** *Luke 24:44-49*

# 1

# JESUS, OUR VICTOR



*What's one of your favorite ways to celebrate something big?*

**QUESTION #1**

#BSFLvictory

## THE POINT

*Jesus Christ is the victorious Lord of all.*



## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

I have a curious habit: I read the last paragraph of a book first. If it's a mystery, I want to know "whodunit." If it's a thriller, I want to see the climatic ending right away. If the author is stating an argument, I want to read her concluding thoughts.

When I know the ending, I enjoy the experience of reading the book much more.

The Book of Revelation offers a similar experience. On the Isle of Patmos, the apostle John had an incredible vision that became the Book of Revelation. This last book of the Bible presents a grand and glorious picture—a victorious picture—of Christ.

In this vision of the future, Christ is shown as victorious in every way, and history flows to that moment when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In other words, we know how the story ends. Therefore, we can live our lives in a much deeper and fuller way. We can live with confidence.

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

## *Revelation 1:12-16*

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

The Book of Revelation was written during a time when the early church experienced intense persecution. To endure this hardship, John wanted to be sure the early Christians didn't lose confidence in the truth of the gospel. Yes, the Scriptures tell us that Christ came, He lived a sinless life among us, He died for us, and He was resurrected. But there's more! This same Christ now reigns over God's kingdom forever.

As John worshiped, he was lifted high enough to see over the horizon of time and catch a glimpse of the One who reigns over history. And what he saw was an incredible vision of Christ:

- ▶ **He was dressed in a long robe with a gold sash.** Both rulers and Jewish high priests wore long robes. A gold sash indicated high rank and wealth.
- ▶ **His head and hair were white like wool and white as snow.** White hair was viewed with respect, dignity, and honor. It symbolized experience and wisdom (see Prov. 16:31).
- ▶ **His eyes were like a fiery flame.** This emphasizes Christ's penetrating vision and His ability to judge perfectly.
- ▶ **His feet were like fine bronze.** This emphasizes Christ's purity, strength, and glory.

*What do the images in these verses communicate about Christ?*

**QUESTION #2**

- ▶ **His voice like the sound of cascading waters.** When Christ speaks, His words are felt as much as they are heard, just like the way the roar of a waterfall vibrates your chest when you stand next to it.
- ▶ **He had seven stars in His right hand.** The right hand represented authority and power (see Ps. 110:1; Matt. 26:64), and the seven stars were “the angels of the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20). The victorious Christ is in control of the churches.
- ▶ **He had a sharp double-edged sword coming from His mouth.** Even today, we often refer to “the sword of justice.” This is an image of Christ’s judicial authority.
- ▶ **His face was shining like the sun at midday.** This might have reminded John of seeing Jesus at His transfiguration (see Matt. 17:2). His glory is obvious.

*How do these verses compare to our typical picture of Jesus?*

### QUESTION #3

## Revelation 1:17-18

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Being human like us, John couldn’t comprehend the vision before him, and he “fell at his feet as though dead.”

This wasn’t the first time John had experienced a sight like this. On another occasion, he—along with Peter and James—saw Jesus transformed into His glory in front of them. And their response at that time was similar to John’s reaction in this passage: “they fell facedown to the ground, terrified” (Matt. 17:6).



I love Jesus' response on both occasions. In Matthew 17:7, Jesus touched them, and said, "Get up. ... Don't be afraid." In Revelation 1:17, Jesus "placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid.'"

Because of what Christ has done for us, we don't need to be afraid. Jesus described Himself as "the Living One." He died in our place, choosing to accept the punishment for our sin. Yet Jesus didn't stay dead. God the Father put His seal of approval on what Jesus did by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus is now alive, never to die again.

- ▶ "For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living" (Rom. 14:9).
- ▶ "That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come" (Eph. 1:19b-21).

We need not fear death because Jesus conquered death for us—His church. His death was for us, and His resurrection was for us.

Think about what that meant for the churches being persecuted. Roman authorities told the earliest Christians that Caesar was on the throne and reigned as a god. To the Romans, Jesus was just another dead prophet who would soon be forgotten. But now John brought the message of Christ's resurrection and all it entailed: Jesus, whose power called the universe into being and whose authority will one day redeem our broken world, is alive and exalted over all.

***Why is it important for our lives that Jesus holds the keys to death and Hades?***

#### **QUESTION #4**

## Revelation 1:19-20

<sup>19</sup>“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. <sup>20</sup>The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

John was commanded to write to the seven churches represented by the golden lampstands. With these seven churches were seven stars in Jesus’ right hand; Jesus called those “the angels of the seven churches.” I believe these were most likely the pastors of these congregations—leaders who were under growing pressure and persecution from the Roman government in an effort to silence their witness.

Don’t miss the truth that the pastors of the churches were held in the palm of Jesus’ right hand. In the same way, remember that John saw Jesus walking “among the lampstands” (v. 13), meaning that Jesus is in the midst of His church. Jesus was (and still is) in control!

John wrote the Book of Revelation so that the church would know Jesus reigns—so that we could live in the confidence that Christ has already won the victory over sin and the corruption of this world. Love triumphs over hate. Good defeats evil. Most importantly, Jesus will bring all His children home to be with Him. No power will ever separate us from Him (see Rom. 8:38-39).

Sadly, most of us live as if the battle is still in doubt—as if we *think* Jesus is going to win, but we aren’t entirely sure. As a result, we never fully commit to Christ. We’re always hedging our bets and holding back on our full commitment to His kingdom.

It doesn’t have to be that way. We can be bold and confident now. Jesus has won; His enemies are defeated. Therefore, live boldly for Christ and don’t let those already defeated by Christ intimidate you any longer. Jesus is our Victor, and we can live every day in joyful confidence of His victory.

***What happens in our lives as we become more and more confident in Christ’s victory?***

### QUESTION #5



## FACING YOUR FEARS

*Using the list below, circle the main fears that tend to keep you up at night.  
Circle all that apply.*

Finances

Illness

Loneliness

Conflict

Loved ones

Death

Failure

World events

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Choose one of the fears you circled above.  
How does Jesus' victory help you approach that specific fear in a new light?*

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

—1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-57

## LIVE IT OUT

Jesus is Lord, and He has already won the battle for your future. Consider the following options for responding to these truths in the days to come:

- ▶ **Trust.** Examine your life for areas where you retain control. Trust Christ to lead you in those areas. Trust Him as Lord.
- ▶ **Encourage.** If you have friends who are discouraged because of circumstances, pray for them. Share what you've gained from this study and help them see that Jesus is present and has authority over all things.
- ▶ **Stand.** Be bold and confident in those places where your faith in Christ is challenged or ridiculed. Choose to take a stand for His victory at home, at work, in your neighborhood, and so on.



What a privilege to know the end of our stories! As disciples of Jesus, we can peek at the back of the book and see that Christ will be victorious—that He is already victorious. Be confident in that victory as you follow Him each day.

My thoughts

Share with others how you will live out this study: **#BSFLvictory**