

The Righteous Will Be Victorious

By Gaye Moss

Have you ever felt that the wicked prosper more than the righteous? In Psalm 37, David tells us clearly that it is the righteous, not the wicked, who prosper. The promises and instructions from Psalm 37 enable us to see that the righteous inherit the land along with the wonderful blessings of God. When all is said and done, no matter what the situation, we are promised that the righteous will be victorious. There are times when it seems that the wicked are winning, but we can know with certainty that the final outcome for those who trust in God will be victory.

Those who delight in the Lord and do what is right will experience God's wonderful peace and faithfulness as well as His amazing blessings and victories. God loves to bless His children with the desires of their hearts. He delights in showing His faithfulness to those who commit their ways to Him. Those who trust in the Lord will see His faithfulness. Resting and trusting in the Lord enables us to walk in genuine victory.

Instructions for Victorious Living From Psalm 37

1. When We Delight in the Lord, He Gives Us the Desires of Our Hearts.

In the opening verses of Psalm 37 David encourages us with these words:

*Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart”
(vs. 1-4).*

In these verses, we are told not to fret over evil men or become envious of them. We are not to envy their positions or their possessions. Their positions and possessions have no lasting value. The only things of real value in life are the things of eternal significance. All the fame and possessions in the world cannot bring true peace or security. Because deep inside the heart, there is always the sense that it can all be stripped away.

Only God can bring genuine peace and security. When we place our trust in Him, and we do what is right, we will experience true peace and rest. When we come to the place of truly delighting in the Lord, where we want His will no matter what, we have moved into an amazing place in our Christian walk. At that point, God is able to give us the desires of our hearts because He can trust us.

When we trust and delight in God, we never need to be envious of anyone. God is our source of victory. When God blesses us, the blessings last into eternity. Worldly riches will pass away, but the blessings of God are eternal!

Questions: What does Psalm 37:1-4 instruct us to do, and what will be the result of following these instructions? Have you seen the desires of your heart fulfilled through delighting in the Lord?

2. When We Trust and Commit Our Way to the Lord, We Will See His Faithfulness.

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday (vs. 5-6).

The word **righteousness** (Strong's, 6664) used in verse six means "that which is naturally, morally, and legally right—that which is fair, impartial, and altogether just." It also means "prosperity." In these verses, we see that God will cause us to prosper in the things that are committed to Him. He will make things right. When we commit our way to the Lord, fully trusting in Him, He will enable everyone to see what is right and just and fair for us.

Questions: What are we instructed to do in Psalm 37:5-6? How have you seen God turn situations around to make them right and just and fair for you?

3. As We Commit Our Way to the Lord and Wait Patiently for Him, It is Very Important That We Rejoice in the Lord and Walk in Forgiveness.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm (vs.7-8).

The word **rest** (Strong's, 1826) used in verse seven means "to hold your peace and quiet yourself." In other words, don't be anxious. Holding onto our peace and letting go of anxiety, however, does not mean that we do nothing. The words **wait patiently** (Strong's, 2342) mean to twist or whirl, to dance, to travail, and to bring forth as in childbirth. All of these definitions require action. As we rejoice in the Lord in the midst of trials, our enemy loses his hold on us. We can get excited because through patient endurance we will be victorious.

We find the same encouragement in the New Testament. James tells:

My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4).

It is also very important that we walk in forgiveness and love. When we are angry and worried we cannot make spiritual progress. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:26 that holding onto anger will give the devil a foothold, and we certainly do not want that to happen. Faith is developed when we are resting and trusting in God. Jesus clearly tells us to have faith in God and to forgive so that we can move mountains (Mark 11:22-25)—the trials and obstacles that come to defeat us.

Questions: What does Psalm 37:7-8 instruct us to do? What does James 1:2-4 instruct us to do? What happens when we rest, trust, and rejoice in the Lord? What happens when we walk in faith and forgiveness (Mark 11:22-25)?

4. Those who Trust in the Lord Will be Victorious.

But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him (Psalm 37:39-40).

Questions: What encouragement do we find in Psalm 37:39-40? What does the Lord do for those who place their trust in Him?

Resting and trusting and delighting in the Lord will produce awesome results. God is faithful, and He is completely trustworthy. He enables us to walk in victory as we rest and trust and delight in Him. Because He is our Savior and Lord, we will be victorious!

Lesson Application: Take some time to make sure your heart is right before the Lord. Examine your heart to see if there is any sin that you need to confess (1 John 1:9). Then ask the Lord if there is anyone that you need to forgive. Make a commitment that you are going to rest, trust, and delight in the Lord, no matter what.

12 Important Scriptural Principles for Walking in Victory From Psalm 37

1. Do not fret or become anxious about anything, rest in the Lord (vs. 1, 7 & 8).
2. Put your complete trust in the Lord, and do what is right in every situation (v. 3).
3. Always remember that the Lord is faithful (v. 3).
4. Don't forget how important it is to delight in the Lord, so that He can give you the desires of your heart (v. 4).
5. Commit everything to the Lord (v. 5).
6. Always remember to rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him, through worship and prayer and rejoicing (v. 7).
7. Never hold onto anger or wrath, because it will only cause you harm (v. 8).
8. Know that God will deal with your enemies (v. 20).
9. Always yield and walk in the Holy Spirit because the Lord orders and delights in the steps of a good man (v.23).
10. Remember that the Lord will never forsake the righteous or their children (v. 25).
11. Don't forget that the future of the upright is peace (v. 37).
12. Always remember that the Lord gives strength to the righteous, and He delivers and saves them (vs. 39 & 40).

Conclusion: There is a young man that I know who became entangled in a terrible trap of drug addiction. It was the plan and purpose of the enemy to take this young man's life, and he would have had it not been for the faithfulness and protection of God. You see

this young man's father and mother had dedicated and trusted their son to the Lord, and they knew and believed that God would be faithful, no matter what.

They continued to worship and delight and trust in the Lord in the midst of what looked like an impossible situation. They had seen and experienced the faithfulness of God many times, and they knew that nothing was impossible with Him. As they continued to worship and pray and place their trust in God, they saw their son completely delivered from the bondage of drugs. Not only was he delivered and set free, he has been faithfully walking with God for many years. God is good, and He will never forsake those who are fully trusting in Him. Nor will He forsake the children of those who are faithful to Him.

(All Scripture quotations are taken from the NKJV.)