

Living the Triumphant Life – Making an Effort

Triumph comes with effort. You can never be triumphant in any area of your life without effort. This means you may fail sometimes but you keep getting back up (**Proverbs 24:16; Micah 7:8**). This means you never give up due to setbacks in your life (**Psalm 37:39**). Every setback is an opportunity for a comeback! The enemy is not able to keep you down, not because of who you are but because of who He is. Not because of your power but because of His power. Not because you are some kind of marvellous individual with loads of talent but because your Heavenly Father has invested His divine character into your life. You are God's treasured possession even though sometimes you are like the brass chalice that needs polishing. Sometimes the clutter of life dulls your vessel and you need the buffing of the Holy Spirit to make you shine as new again.

You should never forget that you are in a spiritual battle. You are in a battle for your life. This battle involves your life's goals and vision, your relationships, your livelihood, your spiritual walk, your emotions, your mental state, and in fact, every area of your life. The enemy is in attack mode. So you should be in triumphant mode. The enemy can attack and try to destroy but he is a defeated foe ("full of sound and fury") whose chaotic attempts to disrupt your life amount to nothing when you are walking in the light and your life is in God's hands. You may lose some little skirmishes when you give in to our old life and manner of dealing with things. Yet, God has called you to a higher response - a higher position. This is a 'victory response' through the finished work of the Cross. You don't have to fight your battles or skirmishes in your own power; you can call on the reinforcements of heaven – the heavenly host. The chariots of fire are at your disposal!

Every one of us can overcome the difficulties of life and obtain the goals or desires of our heart. There is no difficulty in life that the power of God cannot overcome. Too often we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the very difficulties that Christ has defeated. There is no drug, alcohol, no emotion, no temptation, no evil, no action or behaviour; there is nothing that the power of God is not greater than. All these things have a name, and the name of Jesus is far above all names (**Philippians 2:9**). So it doesn't matter what you may call that thing, it doesn't matter the word by which something is known, and it doesn't matter how a disease is referred to – the name of Jesus is above all other names. His name gives us access to the **triumphant life** God intends for us to live.

The question is – how? How can I live a triumphant life and walk in all the blessings that God has for my life? People may have told you you can, but not how. Tonight I want to introduce an acronym that will help you learn how to live your life triumphantly.

- **T – Thirsty.** Your life needs to be consumed with a thirst – an unyielding desire for the Lord (**Matthew 5:6; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 143:6; Isaiah 44:3; John 4:14; Isaiah 55:1**). We all need to have lives that desire to drink from His fountain.
- **R – Repentant.** You need to have a life that quickly recognises sin and repents (**1 John 1:9; Psalm 51:10-12; 2 Chronicles 7:14**). You have to turn away from sin and change your behaviour. When you give sin access into our life it minimises the power of God and reduces your ability to walk the blessings God desires for your life.

- **I – Illumination.** You must walk in the light of the Lord (**1 John 1:7**). The light of the Lord should illuminate every area of your life (**Psalms 119:105; Isaiah 2:5**). It's the concealed areas of your life that prohibit the full expression of victory. God wants to make Himself known to you so that your life can reflect the salvation of God (**Psalms 27:1; Isaiah 9:2**). God desires to enlighten you spiritually so that you can understand His will for your life (**Ephesians 1:18-19; John 3:21**).
- **U – Unmovable.** You must be firm and steadfast in your faith, and your convictions regarding your relationship with Christ (**Hebrews 3:6; Hebrews 6:14; Psalm 125:1**). You cannot be wishy-washy and unsure. You must remain firm because your life is built on the "rock" of Jesus Christ and not on anything of your own making. It should be impossible to move your foundation which is in Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:58; Psalm 1:3**).
- **M – Majesty.** You need to have an awareness of the greatness, the sovereignty, and the power of Jesus (**Psalms 96:6-12; Psalm 145:5**). Jesus holds all authority in heaven and on earth (**Jude 25**). You need to learn how to tap into His power by being His co-worker and learning what is pleasing to Him (**Psalms 45:4; Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12**).
- **P – Prayer.** Communication with God is critical if you are to live a triumphant life (**Mark 11:23-24**). Prayer is your uplink to God that allows His download into your life (**Matthew 7:7-8**). It is within the context of communication with God that you learn and understand who He is and what His desires are for your life. Prayer delivers hope into your heart, as your heart and soul is comforted by the Lord (**1 John 5:14; John 14:13-14**).
- **H – Heir.** Many times we are not triumphant in life because we don't comprehend our position as an heir of the King (**Romans 8:16-17; Titus 3:7**). As a joint-heir with Christ you should expect to receive a Godly heritage (**Colossians 1:12**). Your rights to a heavenly inheritance were established at salvation and are confirmed by the working of God's Spirit in your life. You have the right to inherit all of God's blessings (**Ephesians 1:11**). You must never forget that your failure to claim your inheritance here and now, means the power of that inheritance is never realized for your life.
- **A – Abide.** A triumphant life means you have found your place in God – you abide in Him and He abides in you (**John 15:4-7; 1 John 3:24; Psalm 15:1-2**). Abiding is that place where you allow your life to be transformed by His Word and Spirit so that you can be conformed into His image. It is in "abiding" that you will find fruitfulness and answers to the questions of life. It is as you remain in Him, and faithful to Him, that you begin to see the abundant life being worked out.
- **N – Nourish.** It is as you nourish and strengthen yourself with the Word of God (**1 Timothy 4:6**) that you find one of the keys to triumphant living. God's Word points the way to victory. If you do not nourish yourself with His word you are not utilizing the road map to success that He has given you. It is as you nourish yourself with His word that you find what is necessary for a godly life. God's Word fosters the development of your life. It is a sustaining power and force for life and maturity.

- **T – Throne.** You need “throne time” to live triumphantly. You need time just to be in the presence of God. You need time to be washed and cleansed from the micro fibres of life that cling to you. You need time in the tabernacle of God so that His presence can flood your life (**1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:14; 2 Chronicles 7:1-2**).

Let's finish with the same question we started with. How can we live a triumphant life?

- We are to be **thirsty** for the Lord.
- We are to **repent** of our sins.
- We allow the **illumination** of God access into our lives.
- We are to stand **unmovable** in our faith and convictions.
- We must **recognise** the majesty of God and apply it to our lives.
- We are to **develop** effective prayer or communication patterns with God.
- We must **realise** our inheritance as joint-heirs of the King.
- We are to **learn** to abide in the Lord.
- We are to **nourish** our Spirit and soul with the things of God.
- We must **spend time** in the presence of the God (or as I called it, “throne time”).

Yes, we can all live a life that is **triumphant**. We don't have to let the world system dictate the pattern of our lives. We can rise above the situations and circumstances of life and soar to victory. Life's issues are but opportunities for the victories of God to be manifest (in and through us).

I want to close with **Proverbs 28:12** which says, *“When the righteous triumph, there is great glory...”* The Amplified Bible adds **“and celebration.”** We should all be living a life that celebrates the triumphant victories made possible by Christ Jesus. *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (**Romans 8:37**).