

It Is Written

*A weekly publication of the
Junction Highway church of Christ in Kerrville, TX.*

Vol. 8

April 12, 2026

No. 15

The Victory of Faith

By Ken Weliever

Do you wear Nike shoes? If you watch TV, I know you've seen a Nike commercial and heard the slogan "Just Do It." But do you know what Nike means? Did you know it is a Bible word?

In Greek mythology Nike was the goddess of victory, who presided over all military and athletic contests. The Greek word nika (nee'kay) is the word for victory in I John 5:4. "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

Those born of God will face conflicts, controversies, and confrontations. We can either be conquered or we can be the conqueror. But because we are born of God and belong to God, we have the resources to be victorious in our various contests. Consider these three applications.

Victory over Temptation. The same writer warned about the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). Many a Christian has fallen prey to these foes. But through our faith in the Faith we can achieve victory. Sometimes our surrender to temptation is excused with the refrain, "I am only human." True. But through faith, God has given us super human resources to fight and find victory. God has promised a means of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). You can win the battle with temptation. Just do it!

Victory over the "thorns of the flesh." Paul spoke of his struggle with the "thorn" in 2 Cor. 12:7-10. We're not told the nature of his thorn, but it was hurting Paul. It was something Satan used to impede his progress, to hamper his effectiveness and frustrate his faithfulness. But Paul prayed. God didn't remove the thorn. But through God's grace and Paul's faith, he found the strength to subdue the troubling thorn.

Through grace and faith, we too, can be victorious over the thorns of sickness, pain, personal problems and vexing circumstances. You can win the battle with the "thorns of the flesh." Just do it!

Victory over discouragement. Discouragement can sap the strength out of us. It can deplete our energies, exhaust us physically, drain us mentally and weaken us spiritually. Discouragement is a device of the Devil. It undermines the love in our homes, cripples the work of the church and enfeebles our faithfulness.

Yet, we can muster the courage to overcome this fatal feeling. Through our faith, we can see a brighter tomorrow and know that one day all of our troubles and trials will pale into insignificance when we see Jesus. You can win the battle over discouragement. Just do it!

Will you be vanquished or victorious? The conquered or the conqueror? The choice is yours. The next time you put on your Nike shoes, remember that Nike means victory. Know that as a Christian you can experience the victory of faith. And believe (that with God's help), you can just do it!

Riding Out The Storms

By T. Doy Moyer

Paul told the Romans that his desire was to go to Rome. He would make it to Rome, but probably not in the way he imagined. He would go as a prisoner. Even so, his journey to Rome would be filled with peril, for in the middle of the Mediterranean the ship he was on encountered a storm that threatened

the lives of all on board (Acts 27). When we consider that the bulk of the passengers were also prisoners, one would have to wonder how these people would deal with an impending tragedy.

The storm was going to hit, but God was still in control even when the fear had gripped those on the ship. Imagine the scene: violent winds driving the ship, no control over the direction, and they begin to jettison cargo. Neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and with the violence of the storm, all hope of being saved was gradually abandoned. Add to this that they were now without food. Hunger. Fear. Impending death. How could they deal with this?

Paul had warned them not to sail at that time, but the captain refused to listen (perhaps even mirroring the attitude of those who refused to listen to the Gospel for salvation). Yet Paul, not bitter, offers more encouraging words: "Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you. Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told'" (Acts 27:22-25).

The question that then remained was whether or not they could trust God. This has ever been the question. Can we trust God? When the storms hit the hardest, can we trust that God is still in charge? Can we take comfort in His guiding hand? Can we trust that He does know what is best? Paul's attitude is stellar. "I believe God." Period. No second-guessing. No demanding why. Just, "I believe God." With this in mind, we offer the following lessons:

1. When the storms hit, God is still in control. We live in a world that is storm-tossed, and we cannot escape that fact. Accepting that God is in control should never depend on our lives being storm-free. God might just be in that whirlwind, telling us to trust Him (see Job 38).

2. Trusting God is a matter of accepting His promises. "I believe God" is not just a statement of believing God exists; it is a statement of believing that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6). God keeps His word.

It is important to recognize that God never promised that our lives would be easy or pain-free. Some use the problem of suffering as a way to deny God, but God's promises are not based upon a pain-free life. Rather, the ultimate promises we look to go beyond the here and now. We look not at the things that are seen but at the things unseen (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). We must keep this perspective in place.

3. Storms provide us with opportunities:

- to trust God and grow closer to Him
- to trust others (could those on the ship trust what Paul was saying?)
- to be more like God Himself in compassion, love, and generosity
- to pray
- to glorify God
- to serve God's greater purposes

It is difficult for us to know exactly what God may have in mind when we go through those storms. It may well be that He intends for us to be a blessing to others in helping them come to a greater realization of why they are here. If our pain can help unite, strengthen, and give proper spiritual perspective to more people, then let God be glorified in the storms.