

Keys To Victorious Living

Introduction. A key is used to gain access to something, whether it be a car, a home, or another object (cp. Revelation 1:18; 3:7). In a spiritual way, the great majority of us are saved, but that is not the end of our story. We have to advance in Christ, and thankfully God provides the keys that will open the door to victorious living.

I. ***Determine To Be Strong***

- A. The Israelites were admonished to take a stand for God (Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21). However, they would always fall back into sin.
- B. Now we have the gospel, which is far more powerful because of Christ (Hebrews 7:16). Christians can be crucified to the world (Galatians 6:14), be strong in God's might (Ephesians 6:10), and hold fast their profession (Hebrews 10:23).

II. ***Assemble With Saints***

- A. Assembling gives us the chance to provoke each other to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). This edification cannot take place with empty pews.
- B. We assemble to edify each other through worship (James 1:21-23), faithful teaching (Titus 1:9), good works (Philippians 4:15-17), love for each other (1 Corinthians 12:25), and discipline (Romans 16:17-18).

III. ***Act Like A Christian***

- A. Anger is an effective instrument in the devil's toolbox (Proverbs 12:16; 14:29; 27:3; Ecclesiastes 7:9; cp. Ephesians 4:26).
- B. The seed sown on good ground brings forth fruit when exercised with patience (Luke 8:15). Patience, kindness, and forgiveness will let you live peaceably with all men, not in constant turmoil (Ephesians 4:31-32; cp. Romans 12:18).

IV. ***Pray Daily***

- A. Abraham prayed for Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:23-33 and conquered God. Like Abraham, our prayers can conquer God (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 John 5:14-15).
- B. The prayer of the righteous person is effective (James 5:16-18; 1 Peter 3:12), so every Christian should humbly bow before God (Luke 18:9-14).

V. ***Shun Temptation***

- A. The request to not lead us into temptation does not suggest God causes temptation, but is a rhetorical way to ask for His protection from sin (Matthew 6:13).
 - 1. Jesus shows us how to overcome the devil and temptation in two powerful ways: utilize the power of the Bible (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10) and pray (Matthew 26:36-41).
 - 2. No matter what the temptation may be, we know that God will not allow us to be overwhelmed (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9).
- B. No matter how much God promises, it is our job to stay out of places and situations that will produce temptation (Matthew 5:28-30; Titus 1:15; cp. Genesis 39:7-9).

VI. ***Teach People The Gospel***

- A. Nothing will help you grow closer to the profession of your faith than teaching it to someone else. This task was spoken of in prophecy long ago (Isaiah 66:19).
- B. This is what our Lord wanted us to do (Matthew 28:29-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21-23). Christians followed His will (Acts 4:29; 5:20).

Conclusion. Are you living a victorious life? The "battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47), and God gives us the victory over sin through Jesus (Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:55). You can assure yourself of that victory by building yourself up in the most holy faith using these keys of which we have studied tonight (Jude 20).