

“We Cry FOR, IN, & FROM Victory”

Psalm 119:149-152

September 18, 2022

INTRO: How’s your posture?

(Posture = position... attitude... disposition... very much like perspective).

Are you on offense or defense... balls or heels of your feet?

Imagine the “telephone game” if you “choose not to lose...”

Make no mistake, not losing is NOT “winning”! - JDP

Victory is uniquely sweet! - JDP

PRAYER

CONTEXT:

A. *Series:* **PERSPECTIVE...** Passion for God’s Word!

B. *Stanza:* Crying-Out!

a. “**I Cried**” (like Christ...)

b. “**HOW Christians Cry**” (Personally, Passionately, Purely)

c. “**How & WHY We Cry**” (Heard, Helped, Holy)

d. “**How & Why I Cry**” (good for the sheep... & shepherds)

e. “**How & Why WE Cry**” (BRIDGE family specifics)

f. “**How & Why We ALL Cry**” (truth...testing...timeliness)

g. “**How & Why We All Cry 24/7/365**” (warfare!)

BIG IDEA: *We cry **FOR** victory, **IN** victory,
and **FROM** victory!*

PREVIEW:

1. We Cry **FOR** Victory
2. We Cry **IN** Victory
3. We Cry **FROM** Victory

T/S: *I pray to teach heads, touch hearts, & turn out hands today!*

Let's remember the thrust of vv.145-148...

- * **HEAR me O LORD!** *(so I can obey)*
- * **SAVE me!** *(so I can obey)*
- * **HELP me!** *(so I can obey... **hope**, & **meditate** on Your Word)*
 1. Isaiah 55:11... NEVER void!
 2. Romans 10:17... FAITH's pathway
 3. John 17:17... sanctifying TRUTH

For what? So what? Now what?

ANSWER: *for victory, Victory, **VICTORY!***

TEXT: Psalm 119:149-152

I. We Cry **FOR** "right now" **Victory**

A. INTERNAL cries for Victory (**JUSTIFICATION**)

¹⁴⁹ *Hear my voice according to Your steadfast love; O LORD, according to Your justice give me life.*

- a. *"Hear my voice"* = REPEAT of crying out!
- b. *"according to"* = reliance & trusted
- c. *"O LORD"* is the One true God of the Bible!
- d. God's *"steadfast love"* & *"justice"* = John 14:6
- e. John 6:44 & Mark 1:15
- f. See the [Pharisee vs. the Tax Collector](#) teaching

T/S: *Here's the bad news... ONLY those who have cried out to be saved (and have received Christ's miraculous gift of saving grace) can cry out IN victory... BUT... here's the GOOD NEWS... by contrast, EVERY true, biblical Christian IS IN Christ (who NEVER loses). Therefore, every believer who is truly, biblically IN Christ is guaranteed to cry out IN VICTORY!*

VIDEO: *"Turn This Thing Around"*

B. EXTERNAL cries for Victory (SANCTIFICATION)

150 *They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose; they are far from Your law.*

Note: don't miss the profound pronouns here!
("They," "my/me" & "Your/O LORD")

Also: don't miss the divine contrasting: *near/far*

A. Who are *“THEY”* & what are they up to?

a. **EVIL** Prowlers

1. *Like their father, the devil...*
2. *...disguised like angels of light!*
3. *“crouching at your door...”*
4. *“Prowling around like a roaring lion...”*

b. **EVIL** Persecutors

1. *“...you WILL be persecuted...”*
2. *“Blessed are the persecuted...”*
3. **See early Acts, Stephen, Paul, JESUS!**

c. **EVIL** Poisoners

“They” are often both, **lying leaders** (Titus 1:10-16)
and **lay-people** (all of 1st John)

1. Matthew 18
2. Romans 16:17-18
3. 1 Corinthians 5:5

B. *How do I cry out for “right now” victory here?*

- a. Put on & live-in **the full armor of God**
(Ephesians 6:10ff)
- b. Note: sometimes you’ll need to *“fast to last”*
when crying out
- c. **BE... a sober-minded, watchman warriors!**

VIDEO: *“Piper: Stay Alert Against Satan”*

II. We Cry IN “miraculous” Victory

151 **But**

A. BUT = CONTRAST...

- a. “In-Christ” vs. “In-Sin”
- b. “The Word is Near” vs. “**Far** from the Word”
- c. “You LORD” vs. “They Lost”
- d. “**ARE near**” vs. “**Draw near**”
- e. “Transformation/Turn Around” vs. Trouble

B. *You are near, O LORD,*

- a. Note: this is a statement of fact!
- b. God’s gracious “**with-ness witness**” again!
 - i. Acts 1:8... yet again!
 - ii. Cf. my **sacrificial atonement illustration**
 1. **Old:** you were in sin & sin in you
 2. **New:** In Christ, Christ in you, both in God the Father! (Colossians 1; 2 Corinthians 5; Colossians 3)
 3. You get to **be; glove on God’s hand!**
- c. Jesus repeated & promised: Matt. 28:18-20
- d. **Remember:** **when evil DRAWS nears... for Christians...Almighty God IS already near!**
- e. And... just like His sheep hear His voice...
The Great Shepherd hears His sheep’s voice!
- f. **Christians can’t lose the long game!** - JDP

T/S: ...but liars & the lukewarm WILL lose the long game.

VIDEO: "Lukewarm Christianity"

The problem is... more people don't realize that they are failing the test... because less people are taking the test...
In part because of false teachers & unteachable hearts.

c. *and all Your commandments are true*

a. NOTE: "are true"

i. Present tense PERFECT...

ii. PERFECT present tense...

b. *Truth in love is a heaven-weapon!* - JDP

i. Divine Truth is a heaven-weapon:

1. *Savior*

2. *Sword*

3. *Shield*

ii. Absolute Truth is a heaven-weapon:

1. *Authoritative*

2. *Almighty's Word, will, & ways*

3. *Always applicable*

c. *True lovers of God, as opposed to the eternally lukewarm, LEARN, LOVE, & LIVE God's truth in love... His Word, will, & ways*

d. *True lovers of God abide & obey in ALL of God's Word!*

e. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 2:1&15; Matt. 28

III. We Cry **FROM** “eternal” Victory

152 Long have I known from Your testimonies that You have founded them (Your Word, will, & ways) forever.

LONG known = past & FOREVER = future

* Isaiah 40:8 & 1 Peter 1:25

The Word of God will last FOREVER!

* John 1:1ff

HE is the Alpha & the Omega

He is the Beginning & the End

Jesus IS LORD!

It IS finished!

He IS risen!

He IS coming back!

He IS Creator, Christ, & King eternal!

Do you realize who you're dealing with???

This is Creator, Sustainer, Conqueror...

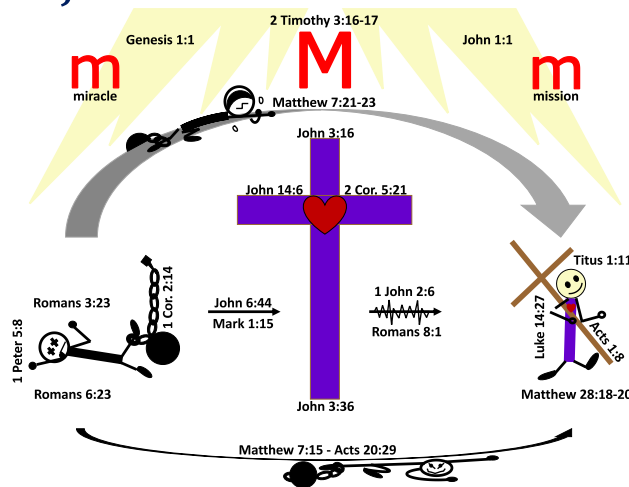
FOUNDER and FOREVER Christ!

REVIEW:

We cry out to Christ **FOR** victory, **IN** victory, and **FROM** victory... ALL with a Miraculous Vision... a Messianic Valor... & a Missional Vigilance... no matter what!

CLOSE: Where you are today? How's your posture?

John 3:3... 16... 36



Are you crying out FOR, IN, or FROM victory?

God's single local, regional, & global plan is simple!

First: Cry out for & receive His miracle by grace... through faith... for works! – Ephesians 2:1-10. Continue crying out, no matter what, until miraculous transformation takes place. – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Second: Test yourself to ensure that true, miraculous transformation has taken & is taking place. (cf. 2 Corinthians 13:5 & Christ's many teachings on the role of "fruit" and the dangers of false faith Matt. 7:21ff)

Remember:

Lukewarm is lost vomit – NOT love's victory.

Third:

Live on miraculous, Messianic-mission!

Live...

Loving God, Loving People, & Serving the World!

Finding the Lost & Growing the Found!

Making disciples who make disciples who make disciples!

BE-ing... fishers of men!

BE-ing... the Fruit of the Spirit!

BE-ing... the Beatitudes!

BE-ing... The Church!

BE-ing... The family of the living God!

BE-ing... supernaturally & passionately unified!

BE-ing... Christ's army of ambassadors!

BE-ing... the light of the world!

BE-ing... walking warnings & worshipping witnesses!

BE-ing... ALL-in with & for Christ!

ALL living & loving as Over-flowing as Over-comers!

ALL by His grace, thru His Gospel, & for HIS glory!

Let's PRAY!

Amen & AMEN

VIDEO: *"That's My King!"*

WORSHIP:

1. *Looking For You* - Zach Williams
2. *I Cry Jesus* - Ryan Stevenson
3. *Greatness of Our God* - Newsboys

What does it mean to cry out to the Lord?

(GOTQUESTIONS.ORG)

We may be assured that God is neither callous nor indifferent toward His people during times of distress. He sees our tears, shares in our grief, understands our sorrows, and hears our cries of anguish and suffering. Our God is not deaf. He does not turn away from those who cry out to Him seeking comfort and relief.

To cry out is to speak loudly, often in an excited or anguished voice. Scripture speaks of the object of our crying out: we cry out to the Lord. That is, we lift our voices to Him in an appeal for help (see [1 Samuel 7:8](#); [Psalm 38:8](#); [107:13, 19](#)). When Peter was sinking in the waves, he cried out for Jesus to save him, and Jesus did ([Matthew 14:30–31](#)). Our cries to the Lord do not always have to be verbal. [Hannah](#) prayed in “deep anguish . . . but her voice was not heard” because she was “praying in her heart” ([1 Samuel 1:10, 13](#)). God hears our silent cries as well.

To cry out to the Lord is to reveal our absolute dependence upon Him. In our tearful pleas, we acknowledge our human frailties, weaknesses, and shortcomings—our inability to overcome the mounting problems before us. Our cries show that our trust is in Him to act on our behalf. We freely surrender self-will to His perfect, sovereign will.

“Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” ([Psalm 50:15, ESV](#)).

“The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous
and his ears toward their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit” ([Psalm 34:15–18, ESV](#)).

"You keep track of all my sorrows.
You have collected all my tears in your bottle.
You have recorded each one in your book.
My enemies will retreat when I call to you for help.
This I know: God is on my side!" ([Psalm 56:8–9, NLT](#)).

"The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand;
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and kind in all his works.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them" ([Psalm 145:14–19, ESV](#)).

God lends His ear to the cries of individuals in their times of sorrow, but God also hears and responds to the corporate pleadings of His people. As the Hebrew people multiplied in Egypt, so did their suffering under the iron-fisted rule of Pharaoh. Hearing the mournful cries of His chosen people, God [delivered the Israelites](#) from Egyptian bondage and led them to the Promised Land. Nehemiah, who supervised the rebuilding of Jerusalem, wrote, "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea, and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day. And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters" ([Nehemiah 9:9–11, ESV](#)).

God also hears the cries of repentant sinners seeking forgiveness and deliverance. In Jesus' [parable](#) of two men in prayer, one man is well pleased with himself; the other has a contrite heart. Hear what our Savior has to say about these two men:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up

his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" ([Luke 18:10–14, ESV](#)).

The corrupt tax collector, a Jewish traitor steeped in guilt and sin, approached God with a broken heart and begged for forgiveness. The Pharisee, an esteemed religious leader, saw himself as a shining example of godliness. Of these two men, God only heard the voice of the tax collector. Both men prayed, but only the tax collector truly cried out to the Lord.

Scripture does not teach that we are to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps; rather, we are to go to Him in times of trouble. God cares. He loves us. He stands with us and for us. He delights in coming to our rescue. We may rightly conclude that self-sufficiency is not an attribute of an obedient believer. In times of trouble, we are to cry out to the Lord.

[The Prayer That Turns the World Upside Down: The Lord's Prayer as a Manifesto for Revolution by R. Albert Mohler Jr.](#)