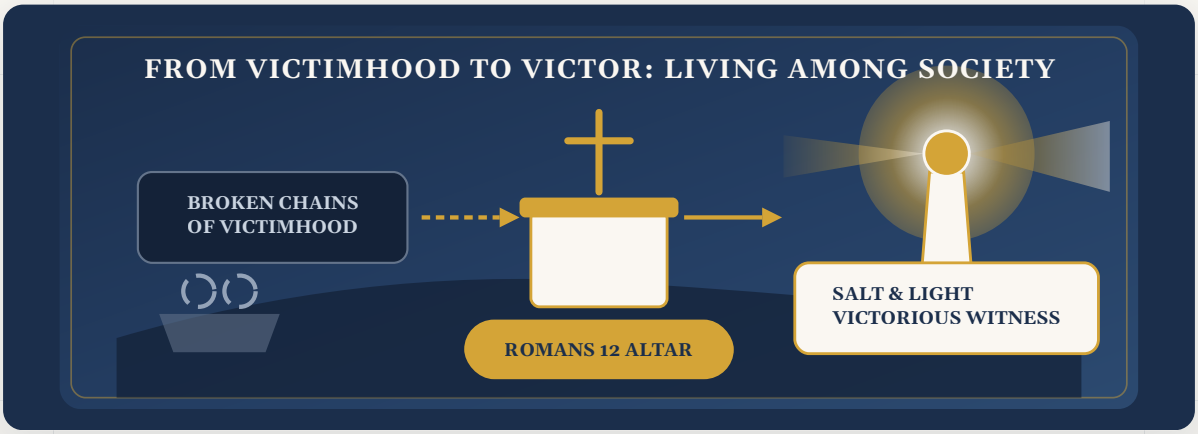
HAVEN OF REST BIBLE CHURCH • SERMON STUDY GUIDE

From Victimhood to Victor: Living Among Society

Sunday - November 8, 2026 • AM Service ▶ Watch on YouTube

Speaker: Pastor David Spivey | **Primary Text:** Romans 12:1-2, 14-21 | **Supporting Scriptures:** Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 5:44; Romans 8:37; Genesis 50:20; 1 Peter 4:12-13, 19; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 13:8; 2 Peter 1:3; Proverbs 25:21-22; Deuteronomy 32:35; Ephesians 3:1



At the consecrated altar of Romans 12, the broken chains of self-pity give way to the radiant, Spirit-filled witness of a Christlike victor shining in a watching world.

Core Message: God never leaves a redeemed believer trapped in a mindset of self-pity, blame, or retaliation. When you place your entire life on the altar of Romans 12:1-2 as a living sacrifice and allow the Holy Spirit to renew your mind, Christ transforms you from a wounded victim into a triumphant victor who overcomes evil with relentless good. Just as the broken refugees at Herrnhut became the unstoppable Moravian missionary force, a wholly consecrated church becomes undeniable salt and light in society.

1. Primary Scripture Reading

> **1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
>
> **14** Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. **15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. **16** Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. **17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
>
> **— ROMANS 12:1-2, 14-21 (KJV)**

2. The Altar Before the Street: Foundational Consecration (Romans 12:1-2)

Before the Apostle Paul ever instructs believers on how to respond to enemies, critics, or a hostile culture in Romans 12:14-21, he establishes an unmovable spiritual foundation in Romans 12:1-2. Pastor David Spivey underscored a truth that every believer—especially young people trying to navigate school, friendships, and social pressure—must settle at the outset: **the commands of**

Romans 12 and 13 simply do not work without the altar of verses 1 and 2. If you attempt to love difficult people, absorb insults without snapping back, and live peaceably in a broken society using only willpower, you will burn out or turn bitter. God's design is never self-manufactured niceness; it is Spirit-empowered transformation flowing out of total surrender.

In Wesleyan-Arminian holiness theology, Romans 12:1-2 speaks directly to the crisis and ongoing walk of *entire sanctification*. Paul addresses people who are already "brethren"—redeemed believers who have tasted the "mercies of God" described in chapters 1 through 11. Because prevenient grace awakened them and saving grace justified them, Paul now pleads with them to take a deliberate, free-will step of full consecration: presenting their bodies—every faculty, ambition, relationship, and future plan—as a **living sacrifice**. Under the Old Covenant, an animal died on the altar; under the New Covenant, we climb onto the altar alive so that Christ may indwell us and live His own life through us.

1. Total Consecration

Presenting your body as a living sacrifice (v. 1) means handing God a blank check with your life. You no longer own the rights to hold grudges, protect your ego, or demand your own way.

2. Radical Nonconformity

Refusing to be squeezed into the mold of this world (v. 2a) means rejecting society's reflex of outrage, victimhood, and retaliation, even when everyone around you expects you to clap back.

3. Spirit-Renewed Mind

Being transformed (v. 2b) is an inward, continuous work of the Holy Spirit reprogramming how you interpret hurts, people, and trials so that you prove God's good, acceptable, and perfect will.

Holiness Word Study: Living Sacrifice & Transformed

- **Living Sacrifice (*thysia zosa*):** In Greek, *thysia* denotes an offering wholly surrendered to God. Paired with *zosa* (living), it signifies a decisive presentation of the believer's whole being—spirit, soul, and body—to be cleansed from inward self-rule and continuously alive unto God (compare Romans 6:13).
- **Transformed (*metamorphoo*):** The root of our English word *metamorphosis*. Unlike outward pretending (*syskhematizo*, "conformed"—putting on a temporary mask or fitting a cultural mold), *metamorphoo* describes an inside-out change of nature wrought by the Holy Spirit through entire sanctification and daily obedience to the Word.

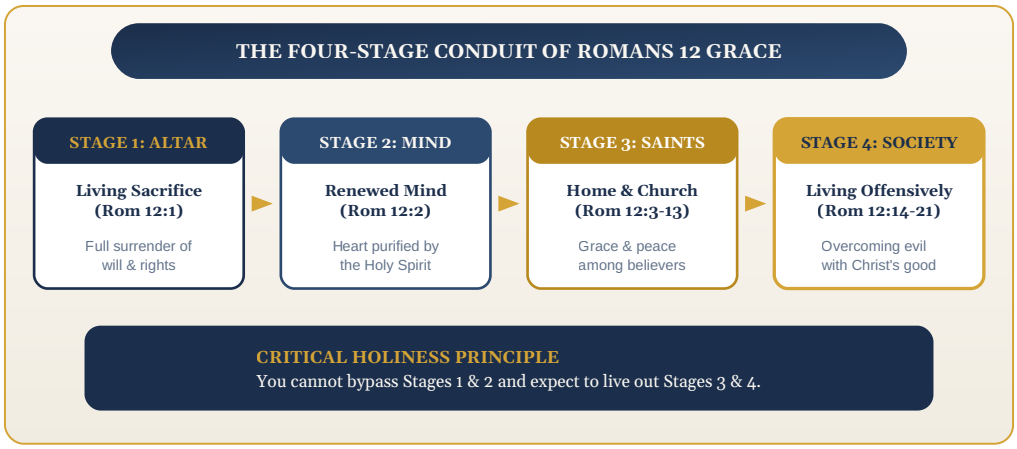


Figure 1: Romans 12 flows in a divine order—full consecration and inward renewal must precede victorious relationships in the church and society.

In Plain English: Why You Can't Skip the Altar
Imagine trying to run high-speed video editing software on a phone with a dead battery and no operating system update. It will crash every time! That is what happens when we try to be patient with an annoying sibling, forgive a rumor at school, or love a harsh coworker without first giving God total control of our hearts. Before God changes how you treat the world, He asks for your hands, your tongue, your temper, and your pride on His altar.

3. Salt, Light, and Consistent Holiness in a Watching World (Matthew 5:13-16; Romans 12:3-13)

Before God sends His people out to impact society at large, He tests and refines His grace in the closest circles of daily life. Romans 12:3-13 addresses "living among the saints"—how believers treat brothers and sisters inside the family of God. It is easy to shout about loving the lost on Sunday morning while harboring irritation toward a family member at the dinner table or a fellow church member across the aisle. Pastor Spivey cited a pointed illustration from Voddie Baucham counseling Christian husbands complaining about their wives: Scripture commands husbands to love their wives as sisters in the Lord, and if a man objects that he isn't even sure she belongs to the Lord, he still has no excuse—because Jesus said, *"Love your enemies"* (Matthew 5:44)!

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus declares two present-tense realities over His consecrated followers: **"Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world."** Notice that Jesus does not say, "Try harder to become salt." When Christ indwells a purified heart, you *are* salt and light—and your calling is to prevent your salt from losing its savor and to refuse to hide your light under a bushel. Practical

good works certainly include stopping to help someone broken down on the side of the road or carrying homemade cookies to a hurting neighbor. Yet at the very core of "good works" is something deeper: **consistent, godly, sacrificial, Spirit-filled, and Spirit-led living** every single day. When the world sees a teenager, parent, or retiree respond to pressure with genuine holiness rather than selfishness, they glorify the Father in heaven.

Why Home and Church Relationships Come First

- **Proximity Reveals Reality:** Anyone can act spiritual around strangers for an hour; living with family and fellow saints exposes whether the Holy Spirit truly governs our tone, patience, and humility.
- **Salt Must Stay Pure to Preserve:** In the ancient world, salt mixed with impurities lost its preserving bite. Compromise, bitterness, or worldly attitudes dilute a Christian's moral witness before society ever hears our words.
- **Light Illuminates Through Consistency:** A flickering flashlight frustrates travelers, while a steady beacon guides ships safely to shore. God builds steady public witness out of faithful private obedience.

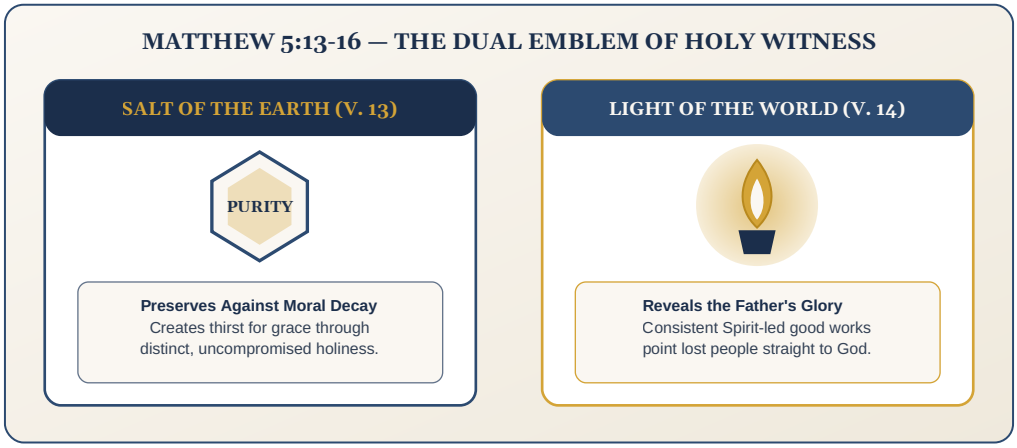


Figure 2: Salt works quietly from within to halt corruption; light shines openly without to guide a dark world to the Father.

4. The Herrnhut Awakening: How Romans 12 Ignited the Moravian Pentecost

To prove that Romans 12 is not starry-eyed theory, Pastor Spivey turned to one of the most astonishing revivals in church history: the story of Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf and the Moravians at **Herrnhut** ("The Lord's Watch") in Saxony during the early 1700s. Persecuted Christians from Moravia and across Europe fled to Zinzendorf's estate looking for refuge. You might assume that a group of believers who had all suffered for Jesus would immediately form a warm, harmonious fellowship. Instead, the opposite happened. They arrived wounded, suspicious, and fractured—and as Pastor Spivey reminded us, *hurt people often hurt others, broken people repeat brokenness, and divided people divide.*

Soon, Herrnhut erupted into petty arguments, doctrinal quarrels, and resurfaced grudges. Christians who had endured persecution from Rome could barely endure living next door to each other! Deeply burdened, Count Zinzendorf did not abandon them or lecture from afar. He went house to house, praying with families and teaching them Scripture—chief among his texts was **Romans chapter 12**. He urged them to present themselves as living sacrifices, pursue renewed minds, stop repaying evil for evil, and love one another earnestly.

Slowly, the Word took root. Hearts melted, old offenses were forgiven, homes opened in hospitality, and constant prayer replaced constant gossip. Then, on **August 13, 1727**, during a communion service, the Holy Spirit swept across the congregation in such overwhelming holiness and love that historians call it the **Moravian Pentecost**. Out of that outpouring, 24 believers—soon growing to 77—committed to one-hour shifts around the clock, launching a continuous, uninterrupted **100-year prayer meeting**! Day and night for an entire century, someone was interceding before God at Herrnhut.

Church & Wesleyan Holiness Heritage: From Herrnhut to Old Salem & John Wesley

The fire of Herrnhut shaped our very own region and spiritual family. Moravian settlers established Bethabara and **Old Salem** right down the mountain in North Carolina, stamping their doors with emblems of devotion to the Lamb of God. Even more remarkably, the Moravians became the first great Protestant missionary movement—sending out missionaries at a higher percentage than perhaps any group in history. Of their first 29 missionaries, **22 died on the field**; many literally packed their own coffins or gravestones because they intended to spend their last breath for Christ.

Two young Moravian men—**David Nitschmann** and **Johann Leonhard Dober**—volunteered to be sold into slavery on a Caribbean island in the West Indies just to bring the gospel to enslaved souls. Although the prejudiced island owner refused to buy white Europeans, God opened the door anyway, and revival transformed the island. On a subsequent Atlantic voyage, a band of Moravian missionaries sang hymns in calm, fearless peace during a raging hurricane while an anxious Anglican priest watched in amazement. That priest was **John Wesley**—and the peace he witnessed in those consecrated Moravians propelled him toward his Aldersgate Street assurance of salvation in 1738 and the birth of the Wesleyan Holiness Movement!

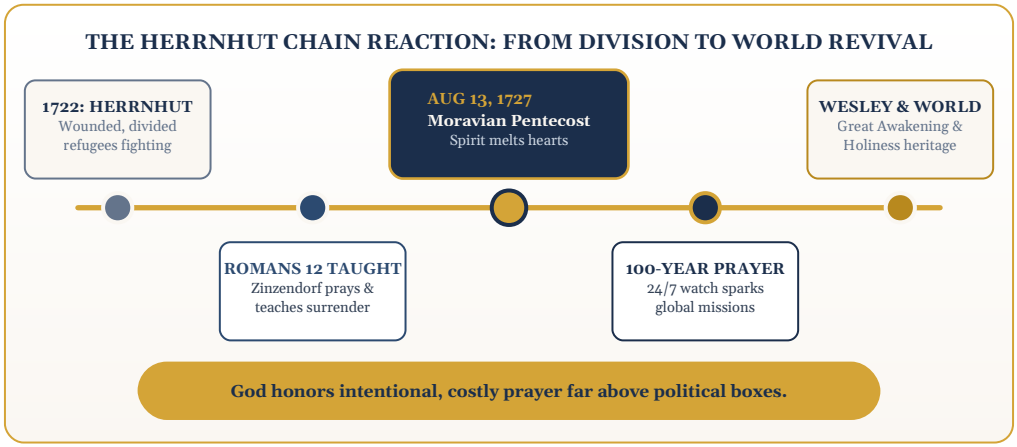


Figure 3: When fractured believers humbled themselves under Romans 12, God sent a fresh Pentecost whose missionary and prayer ripples reached John Wesley and our generation.

Pastor Spivey also noted a conservative church in another state that launched a 24/7 prayer watch in the 1970s that continues to this day—and God has blessed that commitment with massive spiritual fruit. The takeaway is unmistakable: **God wants to demonstrate His reality in today's society, and He does it through a praying, consecrated people—not merely through an election box.**

5. Living Offensively: Verse-by-Verse Exposition of Romans 12:14-21

Pastor Spivey titled the practical outworking of verses 14 through 21 **"Living Offensively."** In sports, a team playing solely on defense spends all game reacting to whatever the opponent throws at them, hoping just to survive. Too many Christians live defensively in society—always reacting in fear, whining about how unfair culture is, or firing back with the same bitterness thrown at them. Romans 12:14-21 flips the script. Through Christ's Spirit, the believer takes the spiritual

initiative, actively advancing love, humility, peace, and sacrificial kindness into a hostile world.

- **Verse 14 — Bless and Curse Not:** "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." To *bless* (Greek *eulogeo*) literally means to speak well of and ask God's favor upon someone. Our natural flesh wants to curse—to mutter resentment, gossip behind someone's back, or wish harm on those who mistreat us. Supernatural holiness enables us to pray genuinely for their salvation and good.
- **Verse 15 — Shared Compassion Across Every Season:** "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Self-centered people are jealous when others succeed and annoyed when others grieve. Crucified self enters freely into a neighbor's celebration without envy and sits quietly beside a hurting friend without rushing away.
- **Verse 16 — Harmony, Lowliness, and Teachability:** "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Living among society requires laying down snobbery and spiritual elitism. Jesus freely walked among the overlooked and poor; a Christian who thinks they are "too important" for humble people or too smart to be corrected has stepped off the altar.
- **Verse 17 — Integrity Without Retaliation:** "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Even when someone lies about you or cheats you, never sink to their playbook. Conduct your schoolwork, job, finances, and promises with transparent integrity that silences critics.
- **Verse 18 — Active Peacemaking Within Your Power:** "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Notice Paul's realistic wisdom: *"If it be possible..."* Peace takes two people, and some individuals refuse peace unless you compromise truth. You cannot control their side of the bridge, so make sure *your* side of the bridge is spotless, humble, and open.
- **Verse 19 — Stepping Aside From Personal Wrath:** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." To "give place" means to step out of the

judge's seat! Human vengeance is always blinded by pride and partiality; God's justice (Deuteronomy 32:35) is omniscient, righteous, and perfectly timed.

- **Verse 20 — Melting Enemies With Practical Mercy:** "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Quoting Proverbs 25:21-22, Paul clarifies an often misunderstood image. Pastor Spivey emphasized: **this does NOT mean doing nice things so God will burn your enemy on the back end!** In ancient metallurgy and household life, "heaping coals of fire" pictured intense, burning shame and conviction that melts hardened resistance—helping your enemy see what the grace of God can do in their own life!
- **Verse 21 — The Unconquerable Principle:** "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." If someone treats you wickedly and you become bitter, hateful, or vindictive, evil has conquered *you*—you just lost the battle inside your own soul. When you answer hostility with Christlike goodness, evil hits a wall and collapses.

1. Active Blessing Over Bitterness

Refuse to curse, gossip, or replay offenses. Speak blessing and sincerely pray for those who misunderstand or oppose you (v. 14).

2. Surrendered Vengeance

Step out of God's courtroom (v. 19). Let the righteous Judge handle justice while you keep your own hands clean and honest (v. 17).

3. Relentless Good

Overcome evil with active, tangible kindness (vv. 20-21). Mercy disarms hostility and showcases the reality of the gospel.

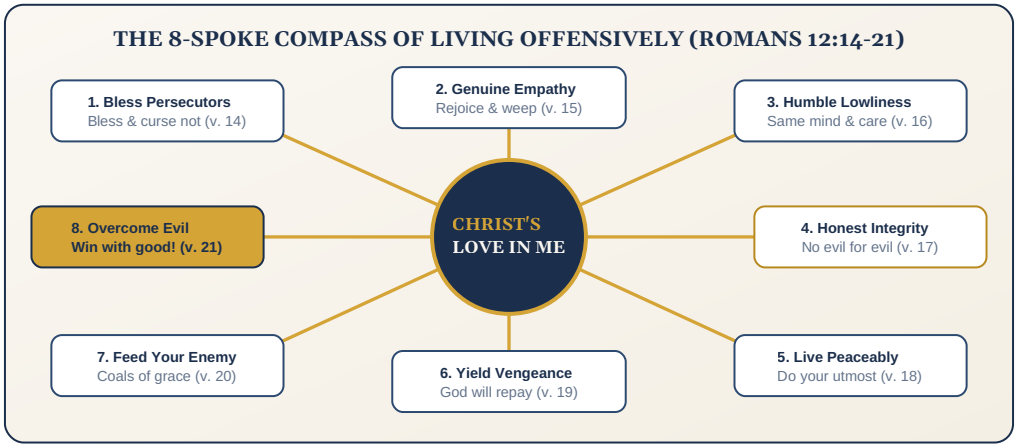


Figure 4: Eight active Spirit-empowered postures radiate from Christ's indwelling love so believers take the offensive in society.

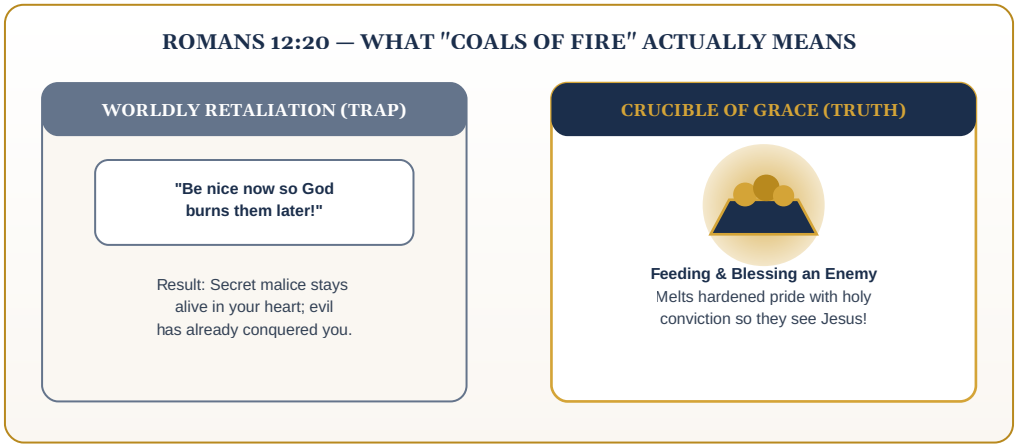


Figure 5: Kindness toward an enemy is never disguised revenge; it is a melting fire of conviction revealing the transforming grace of God.

In Plain English: No More Social Media Clapbacks
Suppose someone at school spreads a lie about you or drops a sarcastic comment in a group chat. Playing defense means firing back a sharper insult or posting a passive-aggressive story so everyone knows you are hurt. Living offensively means praying for that person, refusing to trash them behind their back, and showing genuine kindness when they need help. That unexpected grace leaves them thinking, *"Wait—why didn't they blow up? What is different about them?"*

6. From Victimhood Mentality to Victor Mindset (Romans 8:37; Spiritual Warfare)

At the heart of Pastor Spivey's message was an uncompromising spiritual surgery: **God calls His church to reject victimhood mentality 100%—zero passes, zero exceptions—and step into a victor mindset.** Let us draw the biblical distinction carefully so no wounded heart is misunderstood. Pastor Spivey acknowledged that almost every single person in the room has truly *been a victim* at some point—wronged, lied about, betrayed, neglected, or misunderstood. God cares deeply about healing real wounds, and Scripture gives healthy pathways to address sin and seek peace.

However, **having been a victim is completely different from adopting a mindset of victimhood.** Victimhood mentality is an identity—a chronic "poor me" script that says, "I got a raw deal, I can't catch a break, my life is ruined because of what they did, and I have an excuse to stay bitter, stagnant, or spiritually weak." Pastor Spivey did not mince words: **victimhood mentality is a trap of the devil.** As long as you point your finger at someone else as the reason you cannot obey God, you remain crippled in your spiritual growth.

Holiness Doctrine: "More Than Conquerors" (Romans 8:37)
In Romans 8:37, Paul uses the rare Greek compound *hypernikao*—"we are **more than conquerors** [literally, super-victors] through him that loved us." Notice two Wesleyan-Arminian truths here:

- **Victory Implies a Real Battle:** A victor mindset never pretends life is trouble-free. By definition, you cannot be a conqueror without a conflict, nor have a testimony without a test!
- **Conquered Through Christ, Not Human Grit:** Victory is won "through him that loved us" as we walk in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:12 reminds us our real wrestling match is against spiritual wickedness, not merely irritating people). Through free-will faith and full surrender, all things needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) are genuinely accessible right now.

Life Dimension	Victimhood Mentality (Enemy's Trap)	Victor Mindset (Spirit-Filled Life)
Core Identity	"I am defined by what happened to me and who hurt me."	"I belong to Christ; I am a living sacrifice and more than a conqueror."
Response to Trials	"Why me? I never catch a break—this ruined my day!"	"Lord, what eternal good and witness do You want to bring through this?"
View of Other People	Keeps score of slights; blames others for spiritual coldness.	Serves Jesus for who He is; forgives quickly and blesses enemies.
Spiritual Outcome	Stunted growth, chronic bitterness, crippled testimony.	Steady sanctification, resilient joy, salt-and-light impact in society.

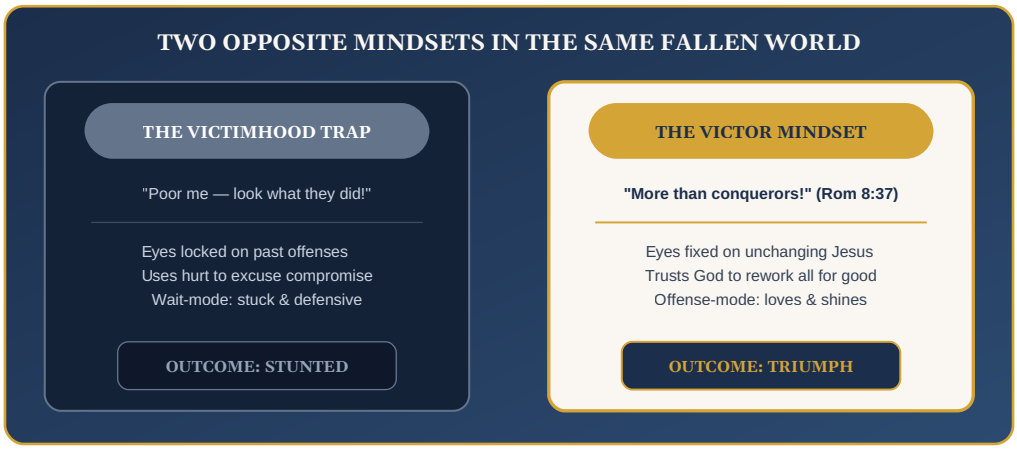


Figure 6: Victimhood stares backward at wounds and forfeits spiritual growth; the victor mindset fixes its gaze on Jesus and marches forward in power.



Figure 7: Victorious Christianity does not bypass hardship; God transforms surrendered battles into unshakeable testimonies.

7. Anchored in Who God Is: Joseph's Providence and Faithful Trust (Genesis 50:20)

Pastor Spivey paused with deep pastoral burden over one of the saddest sights in modern Christianity: adult believers who consider walking away from the Lord because other Christians disappointed or hurt them. *"Are you telling me,"* he asked, *"that your allegiance to the Lord never went past other people?"* If your faith rises and falls based on how welcoming a church member was or whether someone shook your hand, your anchor is dropped in human sand rather than the Rock of Ages. Scripture proclaims, **"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever"** (Hebrews 13:8). If every person around you fails, Jesus remains completely worthy of your wholehearted devotion. What many need most is not another shallow religious routine, but a real, life-altering personal encounter with Jesus Christ—like Paul's Damascus road awakening—that shifts our eyes off everyone else onto Him.

Consider the towering Old Testament example of **Joseph**. Few human beings ever had stronger "rights" to a victimhood mentality. His own brothers hated him,

threw him into a pit, sold him into slavery, and lied to their father. In Egypt, he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and forgotten in a dungeon for years. Yet when his father Jacob finally died and his terrified brothers came groveling before him expecting payback, Joseph looked at them almost astonished and spoke one of the greatest declarations of victor faith in the Bible: **"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive"** (Genesis 50:20).

Notice two vital truths in Joseph's words. First, Joseph did not deny reality or pretend his brothers were innocent—*"ye thought evil against me."* Unlike many minor annoyances we obsess over where people merely acted clumsily, Joseph's brothers intentionally plotted evil! Second, Joseph had already surrendered victimhood **decades earlier** by choosing to trust the sovereign goodness of God. From a Wesleyan-Arminian standpoint, God did not cause or approve his brothers' wicked envy, nor does God author sin; rather, because Joseph walked in integrity and entrusted his pain to the Almighty, God reworked and redirected their evil into a channel of preservation for an entire nation and his own family. If you refuse to trust God in your hurt—not just with church words, but from your heart—you will remain spiritually stunted forever.

Biblical Character / Element	Historical Role	Spiritual Type / Picture	Holiness Truth & Application
Living Sacrifice (Rom 12:1)	Old Testament altar offerings wholly given to God	The believer's crisis & daily consecration in entire sanctification	You cannot live victoriously in society until self-rule is laid down on God's altar.
Count Zinzendorf & Herrnhut	18th-century refuge of divided, persecuted European believers	A fractured church transformed by Romans 12 into a praying missionary force	Hurt people hurt others until Romans 12 brings a fresh Pentecost and 24/7 prayer.
Joseph (Gen 50:20)	Hebrew son betrayed into slavery, elevated to Egypt's prime minister	The forgiving victor who trusts God's redemptive providence over human malice	Refuse revenge; trust God to rework what others meant for evil into life-giving good.
Apostle Peter (1 Pet 4)	Fisherman-apostle chained 9 months in Rome and crucified upside down	The joyful sufferer whose steadfast peace wins even hardened guards	Never view fiery trials as strange; commit your soul to a faithful Creator and witness.
Apostle Paul (Eph 3:1)	Roman citizen imprisoned repeatedly for preaching the gospel	A consecrated mind seeing circumstances through Christ's lordship	Call yourself a "prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ," never merely a victim of people.

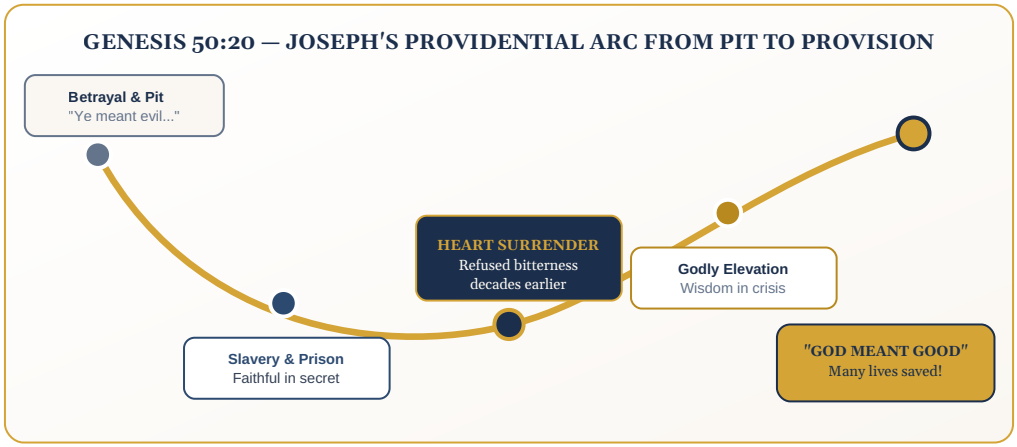


Figure 8: God did not author Joseph's betrayal, yet through Joseph's steady trust and forgiveness, Almighty providence turned human malice into life-saving blessing.

8. Joy in the Fiery Trial: The Triumphant Witness of Peter and Paul (1 Peter 4:12-19; Ephesians 3:1)

If anyone imagines that living as a victor means avoiding trouble, the Apostle Peter shatters that illusion in 1 Peter 4:12-13: **"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings."** Why do we act shocked when someone looks at us cross-eyed, leaves us out, or when our car battery dies right before an important appointment? Pastor Spivey challenged us to recognize two realities: first, we live in a broken world with a real spiritual enemy; second, God can use every inconvenience to display Jesus! A dead battery might be the exact divine detour that puts you beside a mechanic or stranger who desperately needs the gospel. Instead of muttering, "I can't get a break," a victor says, "Lord, I commit my soul to You in well-doing as unto a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19)—use this interruption for Your glory!"

Notice carefully what Pastor Spivey taught about 1 Peter 4:19: if you are genuinely walking in the Spirit and pursuing God's will day by day, then any suffering permitted to touch your life is *"suffering according to the will of God."* That does not mean God manufactures evil; it means nothing reaches a Spirit-led believer without passing through the Father's watchful permission, and therefore we can trust Him completely while continuing in well-doing.

Historical Witness: Peter's Chains & Paul's Perspective

As George Jowett and early church historians record, the Apostle Peter did not merely preach about fiery trials—he lived as a victor inside Rome's Mamertine prison around AD 67, near age 70. For **nine dreadful months**, Peter was manacled in an upright position, chained to a column so he could never lie down to rest. Yet his spirit remained radiant and undaunted! Because he refused victimhood mentality and instead proclaimed Christ's love without bitterness, his Roman jailers—**Processus and Martinian**—along with **47 other prisoners and guards**, noticed something supernatural and were converted to Jesus Christ! When Nero ordered his execution, Peter declared himself unworthy to die in the exact posture of his Lord and requested to be crucified upside down.

The Apostle Paul carried that exact same victor mindset. Writing from Roman custody, Paul could have accurately signed his letters, "Paul, a prisoner of Rome" or "Paul, a victim of Nero's injustice." Instead, again and again (Ephesians 3:1; Philemon 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:8), he wrote: **"Paul, the prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ."** Rome held the chain, but Jesus held Paul's heart.



Figure 9: Peter's prison pillar became a pulpit that won 49 souls, and Paul refused to let Caesar define his identity—proving victors belong solely to Christ.

In Plain English: Dead Batteries and Unshaken Hands

Think about how quickly a minor snag can hijack your attitude—someone at church didn't greet you, a teacher graded unfairly, or your car won't start when you are already running late. Victimhood whispers, *"Everything always goes wrong for me!"* A victor pauses and prays, *"Jesus, You are still on the throne. Help me love the person who ignored me, and show me who You want me to encourage while I wait for jumper cables!"*

9. Practical Life Application: A Haven of Rest Pentecost

Peter, Paul, Joseph, and the Moravians were made of the exact same flesh and blood as we are. They felt the sting of betrayal, exhaustion, and false accusation just as keenly as you do. The difference was never superior personality; the difference was that they laid their lives on the altar as living sacrifices, allowed the Holy Spirit to renew their minds, and proved God's good, acceptable, and

perfect will in real time. As Pastor Spivey declared at the close of the message, God is not merely interested in past Moravian Pentecosts—**He is ready to pour out a fresh Pentecost upon Haven of Rest Bible Church and upon your life today!**

1. Step Off Victimhood Today

Confess any habit of self-pity, blame-shifting, or rehearsing old hurts. Bring the real pain to Jesus for healing, while surrendering the victim script forever.

2. Guard a Praying Watch

Join the spirit of Herrnhut through systematic, daily intercession—praying by name for family members, classmates, coworkers, and even those who oppose you.

3. Raise the Holiness Banner

Go into your home, school, workplace, and neighborhood as consecrated salt and light, determined to overcome every form of evil with the goodness of Christ.

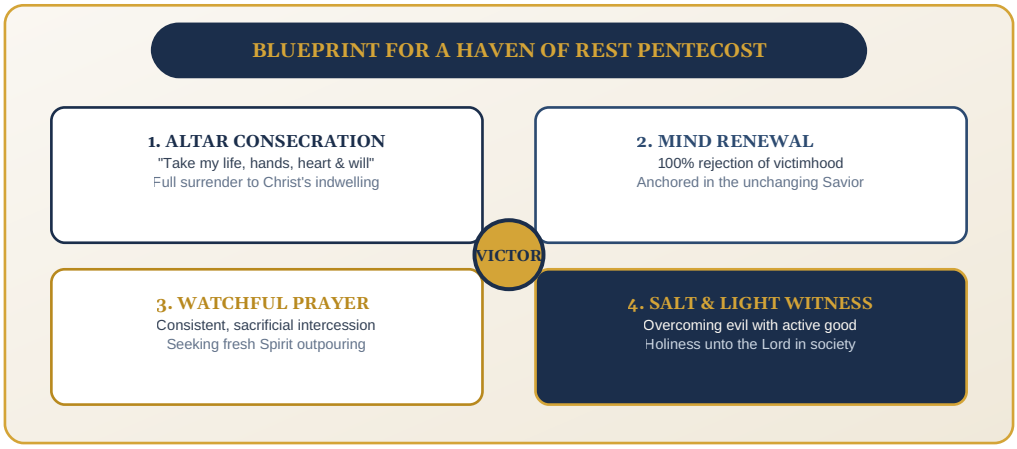


Figure 10: Four daily pillars unite around a consecrated heart to turn ordinary believers into Spirit-filled agents of God's grace.

Small Group & Personal Reflection

1. **The Foundation Check (Romans 12:1-2):** Why is it impossible to obey Romans 12:14-21 in our own strength? Have you made a definite, wholehearted presentation of your life as a living sacrifice, or are there specific areas (pride, anger, reputation, or control) you have kept off God's altar?
2. **Wounded vs. Victimhood:** How would you explain the difference between genuinely having been hurt and living inside a "victimhood mentality"? Where are you most tempted right now to blame another person or circumstance for holding back your walk with God?
3. **The Herrnhut Mirror:** Before their Pentecost, the Moravians were persecuted Christians who fought one another. Which close relationship at home or in the church is God calling you to heal and humbly serve before you try to influence society?
4. **Coals of Grace (Romans 12:20):** Think of one difficult person in your school, workplace, or neighborhood. What is one concrete, practical way you can "feed" or bless them this week so they see the reality of Jesus Christ rather than human retaliation?
5. **Faith Anchored in Who He Is (Hebrews 13:8):** If someone close to you spiritually disappointed you tomorrow, would your devotion to Christ stay steady? What daily habits help you fix your eyes on Jesus rather than people?
6. **Seeing Interruptions Through Victor Eyes (1 Peter 4:12-19):** Think of a frustrating setback you faced recently (like a "dead battery" moment). How might God use your next unexpected trial as a divine appointment to shine as salt and light?

Closing Prayer Focus: *Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for mine, and for calling me to give my life wholly to You. Today I step off the throne of self-pity and renounce every trace of victimhood mentality. I present my body, my mind, my hands, my heart, and my will upon Your altar as a living sacrifice. Cleanse me by Your blood and fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit. Send a fresh Pentecost into my heart and into Haven of Rest Bible Church, that we may anchor our eyes upon You, overcome evil with relentless good, and shine as fearless salt and light for Your glory. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.*

Full Original Sermon Message Transcript + EXPAND FULL TEXT

He gave his life for mine Praise the Lord Hallelujah Thank you Jesus, praise God Well, I say glory, thank you Jesus for giving your life for mine And thank you for calling me to give my life for yours Amen, for yours that I might be indwelling me And I live out the Christ's life, I bless him You're opening your Bibles to Romans chapter 12 And I have a humble apology to make and information to share It slipped my mind during prayer time Brother Mark Hoke had two relatives pass away this past week And he and Susan are headed up this afternoon to Pennsylvania To be there for his Aunt Sarah's funeral And we want to pray the help and grace of God over them both on the journey The family that's coming together and in the family there It's in Georgia correct for the Mark for the other one that passed away and that family Would you just remember the Hoke family during this time of loss?

God knows and I'm thankful that he is a comfort Some of you know that very, very well Praise God, join me in standing Romans chapter 12 Yes, we are returning to this series And I trust it will be a spiritual challenge and benefit to you this morning Romans chapter 12, let's do this, let's read or

quote verses 1 and 2 together And then I'm going to jump down to verse 14 and I'll read that Romans chapter 12 verses 1 and 2, here we go I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present yourself a living sacrifice Holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service And be not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind That you may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God Now for those of you who have listened to this series over the past several months You know that those two verses are foundational, they're critical In fact the rest of the next two chapters do not apply They do not apply if that groundwork has not taken place There is no way dear friend that you're going to live the kind of life that the rest of chapter 12 and chapter 13 calls you to There is no way you're going to do that without having presented yourself a living sacrifice And you have the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in your mind and life There's no way but if that has and is taking place in your life Then all of 12 and 13 is something that is possible to you through the empowerment of Jesus Christ And I say glory Now from those foundational verses we walked out up through verse 13 living among the saints And all how we look forward to heaven But living among the saints below that's another matter We're all going to get along in heaven have a glorious time But actually the Lord says actually I want you to live together right now In grace and peace and understanding and sacrifice and patience Amen I remember Vody Bachum talking about counseling men, Christian men who are having trouble with their wives They're complaining about how their wife is such a difficulty in their life and journey And he talked to him about how God called love their wife and etc. etc.

He says you know you're supposed to love her as a sister in the Lord even They're like well I'm not even sure she belongs to the Lord He says well you don't have a pass because the scripture says love your enemy So even if you would go that far now listen that's why I said church This will never work unless you have presented yourself a living sacrifice Unless the renewing work of Christ is happening in you it will not work So up

through verse 13 living among the saints but we're going to shift and transition this morning to living among society Living among society verses 14 through 21 of course it goes on beyond that That's just where I'm going to focus this morning Bless them which persecutes you Bless and curse not Rejoice with them that do rejoice weep with them that weep Be of the same mind one toward another, mind not high things But condescend or come down to men of low estate be not wise in your own conceits Recompense to no man evil for evil provide things honest in the sight of all men If it be possible as much as lieath in you live peaceably with all men Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves but rather give place or step away from wrath For it is written vengeance is mine I will repay sayeth the Lord Therefore if I'm enemy hunger Feed If he thirst give him drink for in so doing thou shalt heep calls a fire on his head by the way That's not so that you can burn him on the back end of all this But rather that you can help him see what the grace of God can do for him in his life Verse 21 be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good living among society Father I thank you for the word of God I thank you that it is your will that we be a people demonstrating what God's grace can do Oh to a grace a grace needing world What I pray that that would be not just theoretical in our midst God it would be the experience as you are calling us to not be overcome of evil but to overcome evil with Christ in Jesus name And everyone said amen you may be seated Matthew chapter 5 Jesus is speaking and he says this Ye are the salt of the earth You are the light of the world Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and what glorify your father which is in heaven You are the salt of the earth You are the light of the world We are called to be full of good works and by the way those good works do mean things like helping somebody broken down on the side of the road Taking cookies to a family in need etc etc but I would argue I would prefer that at the heart of good works is a life that is demonstrating consistent, godly living Consistent, sacrificial, spirit-filled and led living that's at the heart of it and that's the only way that we are going to demonstrate how good and great God is Now as we transition and of course some of these verses apply to

both but I'm shifting the focus this morning As we segue from living among the saints to living among society I want to use a story of the Moravians to help us do so In the early 1700s Count Nicholas von Zindzendorf opened his estate in Saxony to persecuted Christians fleeing across Europe They arrived to broken, divided, suspicious and wounded The community was called Hernaut I may have heard of the Moravians Count Zindzendorf in Hernaut, a pretty good number of you One of their communities is just down the mountain called Old Winston I'm old Salem, not Old Winston, I'm sorry Forgive my misspeak there I will say Old Salem is worth your visit And not just because you're going to see people dressed in old garb that make breads and cookies and different things But by things that you're going to see stamped upon doors logo that I'm going to share with you in just a few moments That heart back to a community that sold out to make Jesus known to this world, sold out for it But the community that was established early on was called Hernaut and Hernaut meant the Lord's watch At first, Hernaut was anything but spiritual These hurt, broken, suspicious people did what hurt, broken and suspicious people do You ever heard hurt people hurt others?

Broken people many times repeat brokenness in their relationships, etc Divisive people or people that have been divided, been cut off, oftentimes divide and cut off And that's what happened to this Christian community early on as they sought refuge Arguments began to break out, doctrinal fights erupted at Hernaut, old grudges resurfaced People who had suffered because of Christ could not seem to now live with one another, with other people who have been persecuted for Christ And Zendorf began to grow burden, understanding that something had to change This was not of God, this was not the plan of God for there to be infighting, and division, and suspicion, etc Among this broken Christian company And so Zendorf began meeting with the different families And as he did so, he prayed with them He began to instruct them in the Word of God, and one of the key passages church that he used to begin to instruct this ragtag, broken down, group of Christians was Romans chapter 12 He began to

teach them out of Romans chapter 12 No doubt he taught them about presenting yourself a living sacrifice No doubt he taught them about having the renewing of your mind in Christ Jesus and that beginning to reshape how you view things No doubt he taught them about not recompensing evil for evil And as he began to meet with them, pray over them, instruct them He began to urge them to the simple commandments of Romans chapter 12 things like I just mentioned Slowly and quietly, something miraculous began to unfold at her end I mean miraculous Heart softened, forgiveness flowed, people began serving one another, homes began to open, needs began to be met, and prayer became constant On August 13, 1727, during a communion service, the entire community was overwhelmed by a profound sense of God's presence Historians look back on this moment in the Moravian's history, and they call it the Moravian Pentecost I love that Oh God, give us a fresh Pentecost They call it the Moravian Pentecost, and from that day forward, at hern hut, and then through the band of Christians called the Moravians A hundred year prayer meeting was launched I don't know if you caught that 100 years Without interruption, day and night It began as I understand it with 24 people saying they would take one hour shifts, and they begin to do it with consistency, with intentionality And that began to spread, it wasn't long before as I recall the number 77 people were committed To making sure that 24-7 prayer was being offered up to God And friends, I am not interested about our doctrinal differences between the Moravians right now, stay with me church I am interested about our hearing from the Lord, about the call to be that serious-minded about the Lord That we are willing to commit ourselves to systematically seeking after God and allowing him to bring fresh Pentecost to our midst That's what I'm interested in I've been marked by a very conservative church in another state that is not- I do not agree with theologically But this is a church who maintains significant standards of separation from the world But in 1970-something, in 1970-something, they started a prayer meeting at their church Or 24-7, somebody was going to be- I believe at the church praying 24-7 since 1970, as I understand- 1970-something, as I

understand it, it's still happening And listen, it's no surprise that they have a church sanctuary, I think that seats may be 3,000 people I'm talking about a conservative man And while I do not agree with him doctrinally, what I cannot argue with is that God honored a band of people That said, we're going to pursue God and His work among us at significant cost because we believe it's worth it We believe that God wants to demonstrate himself in the society of today and it's not just at the election box Well, glory Amen And so a hundred-year prayer meeting, church, if I can't even fathom that For 100 years continuous prayer was taking place among the Moravian people, 100 years They became the first Protestant missionary movement in Christian history They sent missionaries to the West Indies, Greenland, Africa, Native American tribes, through that missionary effort They influenced John Wesley, one of our spiritual fathers, which helped spark the great awakening They, in their day, in their generation over that next 100 years, they changed their world Quietly, humbly, sacrificially And it started because a broken, hurt, ragtag band of Christians began to humble themselves before the Lord Seek his face and align themselves by the help of the Holy Spirit with Romans chapter 12 Percentage-wise, I don't think there is any Christian denomination that percentage-wise has sent more people out as missionaries In fact, of their first 29 missionaries, 22 of them lost their lives In fact, what the Moravians began to understand is they would willingly launch out and volunteer to become missionaries, to far off places They knew that they needed to bring Yester Bibles with them, but many of them brought their own gravestone because they intended to go there and be spent for the cause of Christ Imagine, you're going to missionary and you take your gravestone with you God, forgive me, I know nothing about sacrifice No wonder, birth in 100-year prayer meeting The first two, David Nietzscheman and Jonathan Doper, the first two young men born out of the spirit of revival These men volunteered themselves to be sold into slavery and go somewhere in the West Indies to an island that they understood was a slave island and commit their days to taking the gospel to this slave island. Now, friends, you think about that By the way, one of

those men was part of the missionary band that was on the ship sailing across the Atlantic that John Wesley was on and he noticed that they had a peace in the storm that he didn't have It's part of what brought the Alders Gate Street assurance of salvation that Wesley would receive later because a band of sold out Maravian missionaries Who knew God?

I'm telling you, those two men, they sailed out expecting to be sold into slavery Friends, I cannot fathom that Would anyone here, I'm not asking to answer me, would anyone here sell yourself into slavery? Take the gospel to people John Wayne, I don't know I want to say yes That's radical Now, the man who owned the island was too prejudice to let two white Europeans be sold into slavery So they didn't end up being sold into slavery, God worked it all out, gospel was taken to the island Significant transformation was made and in time those men's returned and went on to other missionary efforts etc I was faithful, but here's the point That band of Ragtag hurt divided Christians Allowed Romans chapter 12 and the truths presented there to show into their hearts and lives here this among one another That they were then effectively able to take the gospel to the world And intriguingly, what God does in our lives as he begins to work the work of Romans 12 and 13 in us is he starts right here Oh Lord, use me to reach the world Okay, okay So I'm going to start with your relationship at home I'm going to start with your relationship with that person down the street or across the pew You're with me church Because God absolutely wants us to become salt in this world, light in this world But that will transpire as we're allowing him to have his way in our personal lives and our interpersonal relationships and within the body of Christ And as he sanctifies us in those relationships We will become a force of salt and light in society, not maybe we will Well glory Hallelujah Now, of course, of course, I'm not going to have enough time So let's just dive right in here Let's deal with living offensively, 14 through 21, I'm calling this living offensively church I am more convinced than ever that God wants us to move into a mindset that 100% rejects victimhood Now I mean 100% rejects victimhood No poor me, none, zero Well, no, zero But

zero No exception No pass Now don't misunderstand I'm not talking about God healing hurts in our lives I'm not talking about moments when we do have to address something with someone else in an effort to regain or maintain peace I'm not talking about properly, healthily addressing matters I'm talking about a mindset of victimhood Poor me I've got it worse off than the average If I could have just or if they would have just none, zero God wants to purge us of that church He wants to cleanse us of victimhood mentality Victimhood is a trap of the devil I don't mean you were never a victim I'm talking about that possessing you and owning you Everyone here, if I would ask for a show of hands, who's been hurt here?

I think it would be unanimous, maybe except for a few young ones I think it would be unanimous, somewhere along the way You've been wrong, you've been hurt, you've been misunderstood All of us have been a victim But friends, that is different than having a mindset of victimhood Being stuck in that Allowing it to plague us and harm us and destroy us and cripple us And some of you, the Lord Jesus Christ, wants to renew your mind where you know deliverance from victimhood mentality I mean deliverance You are no longer hampered and hindered in your journey by pointing at someone else That is not of God, friends It is of the devil, it is of the enemy And you and I will never arrive where God is leading us until we surrender the victimhood mentality I mean it will have to be surrendered or we will forever be crippled That's good stuff and it's critically important Now hang on God wants to replace victimhood mentality with victor and mentality We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us I don't hear victim in that church I don't hear victim in that I hear all victory Unless you think all victory means no battles Friends, there is no such thing as victory without a battle By definition victory means there's a battle Are you with me?

Because sometimes we think a victor mindset means we don't have any battles nonsense You are a victor because you had a battle and God brought you through There's no testimony without a test There's no victory

without a battle Amen God forgive us for being so wimpy and weak I may have said it recently here, I don't know I think I did Forgive me for repeating I do not understand I do not understand adult Christians who contemplate Turning their back on the Lord because of other people I don't understand it I can't comprehend it Are you telling me that your allegiance to the Lord never went past other people?

Are you telling me that you never came to a point where you served him because of who he is? Because if I'm serving him because he is, he is the Lord who changes not Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever So if all the church fails me Well, I've caught a glimpse of who he is And since my eyes were fixed on Jesus I've lost sight of all beside Well, glory And some of the best things that could happen in some of your hearts and minds is that you really meet Jesus And I mean really I'm not talking about some mental sin, I'm not talking about where you pray to prayer I'm not saying you're saying talking about you having tried for quite a few years I'm talking about you have a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ That completely shifts how you view everything That's what Jesus wants to do For Apollo was a Damascus road experience Church God wants to move us past victimhood mentality Until we begin to comprehend through a life fully submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ through renewing of our minds We begin to understand that the victory we have in Jesus Christ Everything that has been provided for us for life and godliness is accessible through knowing Him That's meat church, that's meat May God help us not to regurgitate it, but to chew it and swallow it That's not spiritual baby food church, that is spiritual meat And God is calling us to digest it into our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit Well, glory Ah, church We have multiple examples from scripture and history of people who move from victimhood to victor Joseph, there's a reason he could say in Genesis chapter 50 verse 20 As his brothers can cowering to him expecting him to take vengeance Now that dad was out of the picture he could look at him almost shocked And say yes, you mentored for evil Some of the things we get all worked up about people

didn't even mean for evil He just acted foolishly But these guys meant it for evil, his own brothers They did intend evil And he looks at them Having left decades before the victimhood mentality He looks at them said, human it evil But brethren, hang on, pause You're with me in Egypt, you're safe Your families are good Our dad was well taken care of what you meant for evil God reworked, redirected for good Get a hold of that church Everyone that moves from a victim to a victor mentality I'm talking about among the saints must move to a point where I choose to trust a God Who has promised to work all things, yes even that, together for good Only he can do that church But I will have to trust him if I'm going to move out a victimhood into victor I will have to trust him And if I refuse to trust him, I'm not talking about my words, I'm talking about my heart, my mind, my life If I refuse to trust him, I will forever be stunted in my spiritual growth and development forever And some of you church are right there If you're wondering if the Holy Spirit means you, he probably does I do not mean to stay focused here so long, but I think I'm supposed to There's something here that God the Holy Spirit is trying to preach to some hearts, including mine Well, hallelujah, Peter Peter in 1 Peter chapter 4 says something He says, beloved, think it not strange Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you And somebody looks at us cross-eyed We have a dead battery in our car I've heard people say it, I can't get a break, I don't know what's wrong Are you kidding me?

Not only do you live in a broken world, but we're resting not against flesh and blood but against principalities and power, spiritual wickedness and high places Church, just get it, we're in a battle I'm not going to be a victim Peter says, don't think it's strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you He gets even more radical, next verse, but re-choice Lord, thank you that they didn't shake my hand Because through that Lord you're teaching me to not be focused on myself but to love them Oh, thank you that I have this dead battery Because through it, actually I had a contact that I never would have had with this man to shine Jesus into He was in the church, same thing But it's all poor me, boy, this messed up my schedule more

God deliver us, victimhood mentality Well, glory, and this is really good But him that suffer verse 19 verses 1 Peter 4, but then that suffer according to the will of God Commit the keeping of their souls to him and well doing as unto a faithful creator Church, if you are seeking to walk out day by day this the will of God in your life, so walk in the spirit Then any suffering that comes to your life, could I say it this way? I don't think I'm doing any injustice in Scripture Then any suffering there is suffering according to the will of God I don't mean that God sends evil things to you, I'm just saying God will allow that in your life in your journey He'll allow that Further writing show, I know, I didn't get far, it's okay, God knows Further writing show that Peter was imprisoned for nine months in Rome before being crucified upside down on Vatican Hill by the Emperor near Rome He would have been near the age of 70 best we can tell This written by George Jowett How Peter managed to survive those nine long dreadful months is beyond human imagination During his entire incarceration he was manacled in an upright position, changed to the column, changed to the column, unable to lay down to rest Yet his magnificent spirit remained undaunted It flamed with the immortal fervor of his noble soul proclaiming the glory of God through his son Jesus Christ History tells us the amazing fact that in spite of all the suffering Peter was subjected to, he converted his gowlers, processes and martinius and 47 others By the way, the reason they might pay attention to him is because he was an in- victimhood mentality He met his death at Rome by the hands of murderous Romans who crucified him according to their fiendish manner He refused to die in the same position as our Lord declaring he was unworthy Peter demanded to be crucified in the reverse or upside down position Ironically enough this wish was gratified by the taunting Romans in Nero's circus best we can tell, 8067 Victor mindset is why Paul could begin multiple of his epistles and saying Paul, a prisoner of Rome Now he would have accurately written it that way but he had a different mindset And over and over he wrote Paul, a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ Church that's a victor mindset And that is not for heroes of the faith like Peter and Paul and Joseph who or just as much flesh and blood as you

are Just as much felt the hurt and the sting of words and actions and misunderstandings and evil intent just as much as you do just as much as I do But God helped them to become living sacrifices God helped them to have their minds renewed until they begin to discern and know in their lives practically The good, acceptable, and perfect will of God And God's still about giving not just Moravian Pentecosts God's still about giving Haven rest Bible Church of Pentecosts Until God the Holy Spirit so, so possesses us We go forth as agents of God's working, of God's grace in a world as salt and light and victors demonstrating there's something real to this matter of serving the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, soul, mind and strength Church, by his grace, I will be a victor And I will, by his grace, be salt and light in this generation To raise high the banner of Jesus Christ and holiness unto the Lord, let's stand Father, we hardly made progress But Lord, we have sought to make much of Jesus in His glorious work in His church And God, I ask for a melting, I ask for a receiving, I ask for deliverance from victim mentality in any form or flavor I ask that you would move every one of us beyond pointing at Him or her or this or that And then we'd get our eyes fixed upon Jesus offering ourselves as we sang earlier Take my life, take my hands, take my heart, take my will, take my deepest love and affection Lord, make it fully thine And in doing so, Lord, may we demonstrate the power of Christ Oh, to a self-centered broken sin sick world Oh, Jesus, do it today more than words, but in actuality Make us Lord your vessels unto honor in this generation And we pray in Jesus' name that everyone said Amen, go with God, you're dismissed

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