

Shadrach Youth Ministry

Don & Karin Litchfield
260-447-8732

Reimar & Marcia Schultze
765-452-1638

Nicky & Jenn Farmer
765-626-0223

Thoughts on Victory by Charles Morey

For those of us in Shadrach, the word “victory” is a crucial term. But do we know what it really means? Do we have any idea how glorious “the victory” truly is? What is it that we have?

I think the answer is in 1 John 4:4, “Ye are of God.” We are of God! We once belonged to the world; now we are of God! Once we had an earthly position, now we are seated in the heavenlies with Christ! When we were saved, what did we come into? We were not given merely a desire to live a better life. No, we were given a totally new position, new life, new person, entirely new realm in which to walk, explore, and exercise! God “made us alive together with Christ... and raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:5b-6). What a glorious and victorious state we were brought into!

How do we bring this new position into our daily experience? How can we, who are away from the Lord in our earthly bodies, contact the heavens wherein we are truly seated? Matthew 18:18 says “Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” It is through prayer that we can touch heaven. Through prayer can we operate in the heavenly realm, binding and loosing. This is the experience of overcoming, it is prayer. When we pray, we are connected to heaven. When we do not pray, we cut off that connection. I am certainly not saying that we lose our heavenly position whenever we do not pray, but that the doorway linking the heavenly realm to our daily living is closed.

Overcoming is more than living a moral life. It is living in the heavenlies with Christ. We can do all the right things, but if we are not operating in the heavenly realm, we are acting no differently than unsaved persons. Prayer ushers us into a divine realm in which we experience unbroken fellowship with the Triune God. Only in this realm do we defeat and overthrow Satan (Rev. 12:11). This is the victory we are looking for! If we are in fellowship with God, we are victorious overcomers!

As Paul encouraged Timothy, “I desire therefore that men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands.” Remember, it was only when Moses lifted his hands in prayer that Israel prevailed against the Amalekites (Ex. 17:11).

If you find yourself slipping out of fellowship with God, simply pray. If you still have trouble touching heaven, follow Matthew 18:19 and find one or two others to pray with you in harmony so that you can break through the barrier that keeps you from living, breathing, walking in that heavenly realm in which Christ seated you. They can lift up your hands like Aaron and Hur uplifted Moses’ hands so that the victory would be won.

Christ has already won the victory (John 16:33). And through touching Christ, touching heaven, that same victory becomes our overcoming victory.

For me, the highlights of our Shadrach week were the prayer times. That is when I especially felt that we were touching the heavenlies.

I enjoyed being with those of you who were able to be at the Shadrach retreat! As for everyone else, I hope to see you soon!



God helped us to have one of the best Shadrach weeks ever! The Spirit worked sweetly and powerfully from the first day on. See pictures at: <http://photos1.walmart.com/groups/shadrach2009/otsc=SYE/otsi=CRI>

Hear the theme song for the week at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsN0oaV4R2k>

The assignments for 2009 – 2010 are posted on the website: www.shadrachyouth.org. Go to ‘resources’ and scroll down to ‘assignments’. Call or email if you have any questions.

Please note the new email address for the Litchfields listed on the letterhead. Krlitchfield@gmail.com.

“It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people, a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God’s professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments.

“But we are winning them!’ And winning them to what? To true discipleship? To cross-carrying? To self-denial? To separation from the world? To crucifixion of the flesh? To holy living? To nobility of character? To a despising of the world’s treasures? To hard self-discipline? To love for God? To total committal to Christ? Of course the answer to all these questions is no.”
—A. W. Tozer

“Like a Fish Needs a Bicycle...”

This is how much Gloria Steinem reported that women needed men...as much as a fish would need a bicycle. This seems to be the view toward which our culture leans. Women will take men if they're convenient...if they're not, then they'll stay single or they'll divorce and just live without. Hey, a woman can raise a family by herself, right? Even media will tell you that men are slow witted and worthy of sharp sarcasm from the women in their lives. Perhaps as a young man or woman, you've even had your own set of disappointments with the men around you. Abandonment, emotionally disconnect or simply spiritually clueless men. Ouch. Now that we're talking that personal, perhaps we might start realizing that the men around us do affect us whether good or bad. I think it's important to realize how much they do matter. Hold on through these statistics:

- 85% of the children in juvenile prisons are raised in fatherless homes
- 70% of juveniles from fatherless homes are in some kind of state institution
- 71% of teen pregnancies are from fatherless homes
- 71% of high school dropouts are from fatherless homes
- 75% of children in chemical abuse centers are from fatherless homes
- 90% of runaway and homeless children are from fatherless homes

(http://www.savetheyouth.net/Ministry%20Update/fatherless_homes.htm)

Wow! So maybe dads are needed more than we think! These stats didn't even consider whether it was a good dad or a bad one...a spiritual one or unspiritual one. Next time you hear a woman talking like she doesn't need a man in her life...think again. God designed men and women to raise a family together. The mother is really important too, but she isn't made to do it alone. She is also often looked at as the one who is a spiritual leader in the home...this again is not God's ideal. The statistics prove God to be right on this one, too (of course).

When a mother is the first converted, 17% of the family follows.

When a sibling/child is first converted, 31% of the family follows.

When the father is first converted, 93% of the family follows.

The mother may be very sensitive spiritually...but she isn't designed to be the leader.

In America today, 24 million children live apart from their biological fathers. That's one in 3 children (only one in five inner city children) are in homes with their fathers.

(<http://64.203.107.114/alexander/edition.asp?id=312>, Mark Alexander: From Patriot Post Vol. 05 No. 24; Published 17 June 2005)

There are many points to be learned from this article. Some of them are:

- 1) Appreciate and respect the men who are in your life!! They are making more of a difference than we often realize. The main advice in Proverbs is “Son, listen to your father.”
- 2) If you're a young man, determine to be a man who is there for your church and your family. Just being there faithfully makes a huge difference!
- 3) As a young man, determine to be a spiritual leader of your home...they will follow you!
- 4) As a young woman, pray for the men in your life, and take only God's best for your future husband. View men from God's perspective, not the world's.
- 5) As young people, have compassion on the children who are fatherless. Your prayers and involvement in their lives can change things.
- 6) Last, but not least...don't get your worldview from those around you, get it from the Bible! If it didn't come from God's Word, question it!!

-Karin (thanks to my pastor for bringing this to our attention)

Praise the Lord for helping Jordan Clark to complete the **Dare to be a Daniel** assignments for last year! Thank-you, Jordan, for your consistent work on the assignments and for going the extra mile!

Book Reports:

I read Mimosa as one of my books. Wow, what an amazing story. I can't even begin to say how that really helped me. It was so awesome how just talking a few minutes with a little girl changed her life forever. It was also eye-opening to me because I have always had a hard time believing that God really cares, and just reading that book shows me that if a girl who didn't grow up knowing how to pray or read a Bible, or knowing anything at all about God, and she could give her whole life to Him and follow Him no matter what, then I can, too. I loved the book—it was awesome!

The other book that I read was God's Smuggler. You know, I never really got in to the whole missionary thing. This book showed me how important it can be to tell people about God and just really helped me to be thankful that I can own a Bible and pray out in the open and no one is going to kill me or take me to jail. This book was just a good book to read. The way that God got ahold of Andrew was just awesome. God has amazing ways to tell us that He cares for us.

Witnessing: At work, I am always trying to keep a smile on my face, and the other day someone asked me how I did it. I was like, did what? And they said, "Smile all the time!" I told them, "It is because I have the love of Jesus in my heart, and by knowing and following Him, He puts the joy in your heart so that you always have something to smile about. After that conversation, they have really tried to not cuss around me and are working on smiling more.

Servanthood: I helped Esther out with her preschool for a couple of days this winter that was fun to do. – Bethany Borsman