**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 9, 2020**

**You Are Not A Victim**

1 John 5:1-5

**Key Truth:** Our faith in Jesus Christ demands that we never allow ourselves to become victims of our struggles, circumstances, Satan, nor other people’s opinions.

**The Truth About Faith:**

1. Faith is the basis of our victory.

2. Faith is only as good as the object it is placed in.

3. When Christians say we have faith, it means we have

 placed our trust in God’s power, providence, and

 protection.

4. You don’t need more faith, you just need to exercise the

 faith you already have.

**You Were Born To Win:**

1. Because of our new birth we have positional victory.

 A. We are seated on the throne with Jesus Christ. **Eph. 2:6**

 1. That means that we fight from a place of higher

 ground.

2. Because of our new birth we have spiritual victory.

 A. No scheme formed by enemy will prosper.

 B. That means that we can love one another genuinely.

 C. We have the power to overcome temptation which

 hinders obedience.

3. Because of our new birth we have continual victory.

 A. In spite of the struggle with sin in our daily lives, the

 victory is already won.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Stop seeing yourself as a victim but rather as victorious over every trial that comes your way.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Apart from Jesus and His victory over sin and death, what are some things you’re tempted to put your faith in? How have they backfired on you?

In your own words, how are faith, love, and obedience intertwined?

Read 1 John 4:19-21: What reasons do these verses give us for why we should practice godly love?

Look back at 1 John 4:7-18. What do these verses reveal about the way we are to relate to God and others in love?

Another indicator John mentions of a person’s love for God is obedience to His commands. Why is it important to remember that God’s commands are not burdensome?

Read Matthew 11:28-30. What does Jesus mean by taking up His “yoke”? By the “rest” He promises to those who do? Are you living a life with an easy yoke? Why or why not?

Read ACTS 7:54-60: Many onlookers would have seen Stephen as a victim of a brutal attack. How did Stephen respond to his attackers after seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God? What gave him the strength to love his attackers.