

## ***Christus Victor***

### **Praying Scriptures that Proclaim Christ Is Victor**

The early church spoke of the resurrected Jesus as *Christus Victor* – the victorious Christ who overcame evil, darkness, and death. The following passages relate to Christ’s victory in these areas.

Each passage will be followed by a few prayer suggestions and a prompt for you to listen to what God wants to say to you. You’ll notice that the prayer suggestions are drawn directly from the passage, allowing what God has said in his Word to fuel our prayers to him. As we do so, we’ll be “preaching to our own souls” about the victorious life of our risen Christ our King.

—*Connie Willems*

# Day 1

## Behold the Victorious Christ

### Read

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **REVELATION 1:12, 13-18**

<sup>2</sup>Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me . . . <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw [Jesus Christ], I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “**Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.**”

### Pray

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Christ, let me see you in your resurrected glory.

Lord, I will not be afraid, because you are Life itself and have conquered death and hell.

Jesus Christ, you are the living one, alive forever and ever. Bring your life into this situation.

### Listen

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 2**

### **Everything Bows to Jesus' Name**

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11**

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Christ Jesus, you are highly exalted! Your name is above every name! I confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lord, may every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth bow to you.

Jesus, your name is above all. I bow to your rule and reign in me and in this circumstance.

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 3**

### **Jesus Destroyed the Devil's Works**

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **1 JOHN 3:8**

. . . The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Father, thank you for revealing your Son to us and for us.

God, you have revealed yourself and destroyed the works of the devil.

Son of God, destroy every work of the devil that is present in this situation.

Lord, how can I participate the work *you* are doing?

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 4**

# **Christ Destroyed the Power of Fear and Death**

### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **HEBREWS 2:14-15**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Jesus, I am grateful that you shared our humanity, all the way to death—yet you destroyed the one who has the power of death!

Father, through Christ's death you have overcome the power of death and freed us from the fear of death!

Holy Spirit, release me from any lingering fear of death, and breathe life into me.

### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 5**

### **Christ Disarmed Sin and Made Us Alive**

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **COLOSSIANS 2:13-15**

And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Father, even when I was dead in my sin, you were at work making me alive together with you, and forgiving me from all my sin.

Jesus, you have disarmed all rulers and authorities, making a public example of them and triumphing over them!

Lord, show me what it looks like to be alive with you, in this circumstance.

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 6**

# **Christ Ransomed People for a Kingdom and Priests**

### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **REVELATION 5:9-10, 13**

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.” . . .

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Jesus Christ, to you be blessing and honor and glory and might, forever and ever!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you that you have ransomed us, made us a kingdom and priests to serve you.

God, bring me together with others so we can be a kingdom and priests in this time. How can we make your kingdom and your presence known?

### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 7**

### **In Christ the Conqueror, We Have Courage and Peace**

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **JOHN 16:33**

“I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Jesus, you are Conqueror! I rejoice in your victory!

Lord, in you I have peace even in persecution and suffering. You have conquered the world, and I am in you.

Jesus, you spoke to your disciples so that in you they might have peace. You speak now through the Spirit, so that in you I may have peace. Holy Spirit, what do you want to communicate to me about Jesus' peace and courage?

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

*You can use the following prompt(s) to talk with God further about this passage.*

God, I hear you telling me to take courage. I release the mindsets and responses I have taken hold of that are coming to me from the world and not from you . . . [*name what you are releasing*], and I take in your peace. I take courage.



## **Day 8**

### **We Have Been Given Victory and Are Steadfast**

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:56-58**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

God, thank you! You give us victory over death and sin through our Lord Jesus Christ! I praise you for this victory!

Father, I am your beloved. Together with my brothers and sisters in Christ, we are your beloved.

Lord Jesus, empower me to be steadfast and immovable, always excelling in your work, because I know that, in you, my labor is not in vain.

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

*You can use the following prompt(s) to talk with God about this passage.*

Lord, I trust that my work and labor in you has not been in vain. Will you show me how you view it?

## Day 9

# God's Resurrection Power Is at Work in Us

### Read

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **EPHESIANS 1:17-23**

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### Pray

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Father, I praise you that your power was at work when you raised Christ from the dead. You gave him all rule and authority and power and dominion, not only in this age but in the age to come.

Jesus, you are the head over all things for our church, which is your body. You fill me, and us, with your presence and power.

*Also pray the prayer in this passage for yourself, and then for someone you know. For example:*  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that you would give \_\_\_ a spirit of wisdom and revelation as \_\_\_ comes to know you, so that the eyes of \_\_\_'s heart would be enlightened, and \_\_\_ would know the hope to which God has called \_\_\_.

### Listen

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## Day 10

### God's Power Shines Through Our Weakness

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-12**

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Father, shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, I'm like a clay jar holding a brilliant treasure; the extraordinary power we get to experience comes from you, and not us. May your life be made visible in my mortal flesh so that your life may be at work in others through me.

Lord, through your power, in this situation I am  
afflicted but not crushed,  
perplexed but not driven to despair,  
persecuted but not forsaken,  
struck down but not destroyed,  
sharing in your death so that your life may also be visible

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

*You can use the following prompt(s) to talk with God about this passage.*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

I am feeling afflicted . . . how do you want to fill me so that I am not crushed?

I am confused and perplexed . . . what is your rescue from despair?

I am persecuted . . . will you show me how you are present with me?

I have been struck down . . . let me see how you are restoring from destruction

I am sharing in your suffering . . . reveal your life to me.

## Day 11

### We Take Thoughts Captive to Christ's Rule

#### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5**

Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

#### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Lord, we “wage war” according to your standards, not in human ways. Our weapons are not merely human; they have power from you to destroy strongholds. With the spiritual weapons you give, we destroy arguments and proud obstacles raised up against your truth and the knowledge of you.

Father, through your divine power, in this situation destroy any strongholds, arguments, or proud obstacles that are being built up against you.

Jesus, I take captive every one of my thoughts, to be in obedience to you.

#### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

*You can use the following prompt(s) to talk with God about this passage.*

Holy Spirit, where have I raised up arguments, obstacles, or entertained thoughts that are not from Christ? *[Pause and give God space to communicate with you.]* I surrender these thoughts in obedience to Christ. What thought would you give me here to replace them?

## **Day 12**

# **Through Us, God Spreads the Fragrance of the Victor**

### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 2:14**

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him.

### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Thank you, God! You always lead us in triumphal procession behind the victorious Christ!

Jesus Christ, in every place we go, may we spread the fragrance that comes from knowing you.

Holy Spirit, how do you want to spread the fragrance of Christ through me in this situation?

### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## Day 13

# Our Accuser Has Been Thrown Down and Conquered

### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **REVELATION 12:10-12**

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,  
“Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Messiah,  
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.  
But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.  
Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
for the devil has come down to you with great wrath,  
because he knows that his time is short!”

### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Father, I rejoice that your salvation and power and kingdom have come, and wait eagerly to experience their fullness.

Jesus, by your authority as Messiah you have thrown down our accuser; we rejoice with the heavens!

### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*

## **Day 14**

# **Christ Has All Authority in Heaven and on Earth**

### **Read**

*Invite the Holy Spirit's presence as you read the following Scripture.*

#### **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### **Pray**

*Pray based on the Scripture passage(s). Following are ways to get started. Add additional prayers of your own.*

Jesus, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you. Therefore, we will follow your command to go and make disciples of all the nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and teach them to obey everything you commanded.

Holy Spirit, enable us to obey Jesus' commands. Through you, he is with us always and we are with him.

### **Listen**

*Listen for God's response to you. Note what you sense the Lord saying.*