

# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

## *Claiming our Victory!*

ser4094 Who Is My Neighbor? Pt 3

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Video...The Mission (Steve Green)

Good morning Church Family! Across the street or around the world, the mission remains the same. Proclaim and live the truth in Jesus' name.

Each and every one of us has a mission to fulfill. When we stand before God one day, our biggest dream will be for Jesus to look at us with His beautiful smile and say, "Good and faithful servant, well done."

But I am going to take it one step further. My biggest hope and dream is to look into the eyes of Jesus, my Lord and Savior and say, "Thank you Lord, Mission Accomplished."

Who's with me on this today?

Would you all pray with me for the message today?

The theme this month is *Who is my Neighbor?* Every one of us has a mission. That mission is to share the gospel with the world around us. This mission includes our families, our neighbors across the street, and around the world.

It's not always easy to live out the mission God has set before us. The minute we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, the minute we commit to accomplishing this mission, we have entered into a spiritual battle and it's a fierce one, for sure!

The enemy, Satan, will throw anything and everything at us to keep us from accomplishing this mission for God.

But I have good news, Church Family. Actually, I have great news. The battle has already been won for us!

Some of you may be thinking that it sure doesn't feel that way. That's because you and I are living in the physical realm. Jesus Christ has won this victory for us in the spiritual realm but we have a big part to play while we live on this earth!

That is why I've titled this message, "Mission Accomplished, Claiming our Victory!"

We have to claim the victory every single day of our lives through the word of God and continue to let God, through His son Jesus, fight that battle for us.

What does this mission have to do with spiritual warfare? Everything. It has everything to do with it!

When we decide to complete the mission is when we have entered into spiritual warfare!

I know many of you are facing some tough battles but Jesus Christ has won the war! It's in the book of Revelation! We have won!

***Isaiah 54:17***

No weapon formed against you will prosper!

We must claim our victory in Jesus Christ!

Victory is sweet! It feels good to know we can have victory. I loved when I watched my kids play sports and they won a game, and they were so happy when they felt the victory.

When I was in high school, I was only involved in one sport and that was track. Yes, believe it or not, I ran track in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I had two best friends, Anna and Sarah, and the three of us ran track together. I ran the mile race and I had the biggest crush on my track coach, so I really wanted to claim victory!

A big track meet was coming up and the day before it we were training for it. We had to go out and run for a few hours and it was really hard. As I look back, I must

have not have wanted the victory bad enough because on our practice run, my friends and I decided to take a break and stop at the 7-11 store on the route.

When we came out of the store with our cherry ice in hand, there stood Mr. Buckhein, my track coach, with his arms crossed looking at us with great disappointment.

That wasn't the worst of it. The track meet was the next day and, as I said, I ran the mile, which was four times around the track. The stands were packed and I was still on my 3rd lap around when everyone else was finished.

If that wasn't bad enough my coach started cheering me on so I would finish. So here I am, the only person still on the track. By my coach being supportive, he brought all this attention to me running and I was all out of breath, running all by myself. The kids in the stands were all cheering me on. It was the most embarrassing day of my life!

I learned something that day. I really wanted to claim my victory to make my coach proud, but I traded it in for a cherry ice that felt good at the moment.

I want to ask you today, what are YOU trading for your spiritual victory? Is the cherry ice worth it?

You see, I think of that day often. I think of how my coach was cheering me on just so I could finish the race. All he wanted was for me not to quit.

That's how Jesus cheers us on to keep going but I don't want to be that girl gasping for air just to finish the race God has set before me.

God loves us. He will welcome us with open arms into His presence. Not because of anything we've done or didn't do but because of what Jesus has done on the cross for us.

But wouldn't it be great if we finish the race strong? I want to finish strong and run past the finish line and say, "Mission Accomplished!"

But claiming our Victory will cost us something. It actually may cost us everything. The devil will always be in our ears whispering, "Mission Impossible."

The Mission by Steve Green is a song I used to listen to it all the time many years ago and it always inspired me. It's very profound.

Let's take a look at some of the words in the song.

The Mission

A call to those who swear allegiance to the cross of Christ. A call to true humility to live our lives responsibly to deepen our devotion to the cross, at any price. Let us then be sober, moving only in the Spirit as aliens and strangers in a hostile foreign land.

### ***1 Peter 2:11***

Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and temporary residents not to give in to the old desires of your old nature which keep warring against you.

We live in a hostile foreign land. The enemy, Satan, is roaming this earth. He hates God and he hates us who are created in God's image. He wants to destroy us and sometimes, Church Family, we give him permission to do so.

Sin in our lives will give him that permission. The things you are choosing to do over what God wants for you is willful sin.

Only you know what that sin is. Shut the door to that sin! The fear and anxiety we feel is sometimes brought on by disobedience to God's Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to turn your desires to align with God's will for your life. Ask Him! He will do it!

The devil prowls around like a roaring lion.

### ***1 Peter 5:8***

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Dreams....

The Lord speaks to me often through my dreams. Sometimes I don't know what they mean right away and sometimes I know exactly what they mean as soon as I wake up.

I had a dream one night that there was this huge lion in a big room. It looked like a classroom. When I entered this room there was the huge lion with a huge mouth with big sharp teeth. His mouth was open, and he had these little kids inside his mouth. I was so scared and no one else was in the room. Something told me I had to go into the lion's mouth. So, I stepped into the lion's mouth and I was really scared. But I took the children out of the lion's mouth, one by one, until all the children were out and then I woke up.

God showed me through that dream that we have the power to overcome the enemy. We can literally pull the people out of the mouth of Satan through prayer and worship! But we need to fight on our knees through prayer and worship for our children, our family, our friends, our loved ones!

We can be scared, Church Family, it's ok to be scared. We can do it afraid, holding on to Jesus every step of the way. He is our victory! Fight for the people you love. Fight for them and fight on your knees, in prayer.

Go in moms, dads, grandparents, friends. Go in for the people you love and take them out of the lion's mouth through the power of the Holy Spirit! Claim the Word of God over them!

We are not alone. We have Jesus fighting our battles for us. Let's fight for our friends, our families, and our neighbors. Let's take them out of the lion's mouth through prayer!

Let's look at a story in God's Word that will teach us how to fight spiritual warfare in God's Word.

### **Mark 9:14-29**

14. When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them.

15. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. 16. "What are you arguing with them about?" He asked.

17. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

18. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.

19. "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "How long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

20. So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

21. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From Childhood" he answered.

22. "It has often thrown him into the fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything take pity on us and help us. "

23." If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes"

24. Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!"

Let's stop here for a minute. Let's take a look at this man, I applaud him for not giving up after the disciples couldn't drive out the demons. He goes right to Jesus. But He says if you can. And what does Jesus say. If I can't. Anything is possible in the Kingdom of God for those who believe. But this next part is what really stands out to me.

The man says, "I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief." What a true honest statement He says to Jesus.

You see we all have a measure of faith. God has given us faith, or we wouldn't even believe, right? But what happens? Unbelief gets mixed in with our faith. The world, the news, some friends will try to tell us it's not possible for that dream to come true.

The enemy is a master at filling our minds with unbelief. Your son or your daughter will never be healed, stop wasting your time. Your marriage will always stay the same, that person will never change. These are all the lies the enemy whispers in our ears.

When unbelief mixes in with our faith, we can no longer move mountains because our faith is polluted. We have to wash our minds, our souls, and our spirits, with the Word of God.

This man asked Jesus to help him overcome his unbelief because he knows he can't do this alone. Jesus has to help us.

I pray this prayer every day. "Lord God, I have faith but take away my unbelief and fill me with more faith in Jesus name." Every day we need to ask Jesus to help our unbelief.

Let's see how this story ends. It may help your unbelief!

25. When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, He rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit I command you, come out of him and never enter him again. "

28. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

29. He replied, "This kind can come out only by fasting and prayer. "

So here we have a man asking for deliverance for his son. Jesus's disciples could not cast this demon out. Jesus gets pretty upset with them. They have seen Jesus heal the sick and cast out many demons. They had been with Jesus. But they couldn't do it. Why?

This kind can only come out with prayer and fasting. Were these demons bigger than other demons? No, I don't think so. Any demon is too big for us without God.

Fasting and prayer gets us closer to God. Fasting and prayer builds our faith up, so we can move mountains.

We can hear God clearly when we submit our flesh to our spirit because God is spirit. That's what fasting does. We pray when we are hungry, so we feed ourselves with God and His word. That's how we fight our spiritual battles for ourselves and our families. We fast, we pray, and we worship God!

This man pressed in to God that day and his son was healed. Press in until you get your miracle! Look at your neighbor and say, "Press in for your miracle!"

How many of you really fast and pray for your children or the people you love? Or for yourself to overcome your illness, your anxiety, your addictions?

The devil has a hold on the people we love, but Jesus gives us the answer. Do we want to claim our victory over the spiritual warfare we are fighting?

Go into the lion's mouth and pull out your children through fasting and prayer. It's a battle but God gives us the strategy to fight. Claim your victory! This victory can only come out through fasting and prayer. I am going to add one more, worship!

To complete the mission, we must FAST, PRAY, and WORSHIP!

I had a vision one day when I was worshiping alone in my living room when my kids were all in school. I was soaking in the Holy Spirit. I fell asleep, so it was like a vision dream. I was there sitting on the floor and as I was worshiping these horrible, ugly creatures were flying at me. They were hideous!

They would fly at me and get really close, but they would stop abruptly, like they were hitting something. And more would come and fly right at my face but stop abruptly and smash into an invisible glass wall. God showed there was this glass dome that I was incased in, and the demons couldn't touch me because the glass stopped them!

That's what worship does for us. It encases us in a glass dome of God's protection, because God inhabits the praises of His people.

If you want to fight your spiritual battles and claim your victory in Jesus, you have three things to do and do them often: FAST, PRAY and WORSHIP.

Let's end with the mission! We can't forget the mission. God has called you and me to complete this mission.

### ***The Mission***

The message we're proclaiming is repentance and forgiveness. The offer of salvation to a dying race of man.

Who is your neighbor? Anyone who God brings into your path.

The world needs your testimony! The world needs to see your relationship with God and how it has changed your life. The mission is still the same. Proclaim and live the truth in Jesus name!

There may be some here today, you love God, but you don't really have a personal relationship with Him. If you want one you can start today.

Jesus says, in **Revelation 3:20**, "I stand at the door and knock if anyone answers the door I will come in and dine with him."

My favorite thing to do is have a meal with a friend.

Jesus wants to be that forever friend! He wants you to share your life with Him. Today ask Him into your heart to be your Lord and Savior and He will fight the battles for you. I promise. Give God your heart and your soul today.

It's as simple as A B C.

A. Admit you're a sinner.

B. Believe God sent Jesus Christ, His only son, to die on a cross to pay the penalty for your sin. Receive your victory.

C. Commit your life to Jesus Christ today.

Please say this prayer with me today.

*Dear God, thank you for loving me. I admit I am a sinner. Please forgive me for all of my sins. Dear Jesus please come into my heart and be my Lord and my personal savior. Holy Spirit fill me now with your presence and help me live my life for God. In Jesus name I pray. Amen*

If you said this prayer, it's the best decision you've ever made. Let us know so we can pray for you on your amazing journey with God.