

DR. GARY WHETSTONE

**YOUR LIFE**

**in**

**HIS LIVING CHURCH**

## **Your Life in His Living Church**

**Text: Matthew 16:15** *ESV* He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**” <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Introduction:** Victory is not a place you visit on Sundays and Wednesdays; it is God’s living organism that you belong to. The Church is Christ’s living Body, the only entity He builds on the Earth! He commissioned you to connect to Him and us to Harvest this lost world and supernaturally break through every restrictive operation of Satan.

**1 John 3:8** *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

### **1. Jesus’ church was born in resurrection.**

Then empowered by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost for Jesus to live through us as individuals corporately connected to manifest His fulness in the Earth in power.

**Colossians 1:18** *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*

**1 Corinthians 12:27** *NKJV* Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**1 Peter 2:5** *You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- You do not just attend Victory; you are placed here as a vital member of Christ's living organism. Corporately empowered to open the Gates of Hell in Jesus’ Name

### **2. Life Outside the Body: Disconnection and Vulnerability**

- When a believer attempts to live outside the local church, isolation and destruction sets in. However when we connect to Jesus’ life and each other we bear much fruit!

**John 15:4** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

- A severed limb suffers alone without the nourishment of the whole.

**1 Corinthians 12:26** *NKJV* If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**Ecclesiastes 4:10** *For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*

- Isolation leaves you exposed in spiritual battles.

**Hebrews 10:25** *ESV* Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Neglecting gathering leads directly to spiritual drifting.

**Proverbs 27:17** *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

- Without community, spiritual sharpening stops.

### **3. Life Inside the Body: Flourishing and Security**

- There is joy, safety, and supernatural strength found inside the Body of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:18** *But now hath God set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him.*

- Your presence is by divine appointment.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12** *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil... And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

- You gain corporate strength and spiritual covering

**Ephesians 4:15** *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*

- **Maturity requires relational iron and truth.**

**1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)** *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

- **Your spiritual gifts are needed by everyone around you.**

**Psalms 92:13** *They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.*

- **Flourishing requires being deeply planted.**

#### **4. The Vision of Victory: Five Pillars of Shared Life**

- **Victory's vision is the biblical blueprint for an active, healthy body. Every meeting, fellowship, and prayer time is critical**

**A Life of Worship - Psalm 100:4** *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! --- Be on time!*

**A Life of God's Word - Matthew 4:4** *But he answered, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. – Hear God's Word and Receive, Study, and take Bible School JesusExperience.com*

**A Life of Fellowship - Acts 2:42** *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

**A Life of Prayer - Matthew 21:13** *He said to them, It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," but you make it a den of robbers.*

**A Life of Evangelism - Matthew 28:19** *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.*

#### **5. The Call to Action: Your Time, Talent, and Treasure**

- **A body cannot function healthily when parts refuse to connect.**

**Romans 12:1** *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

- **Commit your physical presence and life. Be present**

**1 Peter 4:10** *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

- **Commit your God-given talents to serve.**

**Matthew 6:21** *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- **Commit your financial treasure to His Local Church.**

#### **6. Two Critical Questions**

**Question #1: Do you consider yourself a member of Victory, and if so, have you completed the membership classes? Use the QR code on the screen!**

**Colossians 2:7** *Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

**Question #2: Today, your spot is waiting for you to join! You need us, and we need you!**

**1 Corinthians 12:21** *The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.*

**Acts 2:41** *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

**Psalms 68:6** *God settles the solitary in a home...*

**Invitation: Step forward today to make your commitment official, complete your membership, and take your rightful spot in the Body of Christ at Victory.**

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#### **Worship God with your First-Fruits, Tithes 1/10 of all income, 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Sacrifices, and offerings**

**2 Corinthians 9:6** *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,*