

Sermon Notes from Bishop Clifford Craft

Message Title: *Walking in Victory, Power, and Light*

Key Verse: 1 John 5:4 – “*Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*”

PART 1: Who You Are in Christ

Christ Lives in You

- 1 John 4:4 — “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”
- You are not subject to the fear, sickness, or spiritual attacks of this world.
- Walk in boldness—what affected others in your family doesn’t have to affect you.

Delivered from Darkness

- Colossians 1:13 — “He has delivered us from the power of darkness.”
 - Darkness includes sickness, death, fear, poverty, depression.
 - We now live in a different kingdom: **the Kingdom of Light**.
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PART 2: What It Means to Overcome

The Biblical Meaning of “Overcome”

Those born of God are:

- **Conquerors**
- **Victors**
- **Dominators**
- **Triumphant**
- **Defeaters of Evil**
- **Vanquishers**

This isn’t just poetic language. It’s a **spiritual identity** and posture.

What Are We Overcoming?

- The **cosmos** – the world’s systems and the evil forces that run them.
 - We aren’t just resisting people—we are overcoming mindsets, oppression, and systems contrary to God’s truth.
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PART 3: How to Overcome

Overcome Evil with Good

- *Romans 12:21* — “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- Respond with kindness, prayer, and integrity—**even when others don’t**.
- Be an example. Evil can’t thrive in the presence of consistent goodness.

Submit to God and Resist the Devil

- *James 4:7* — “Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
- Submission activates spiritual authority. Resistance makes the enemy retreat.

Stand in Authority

- *Luke 10:19* — “Behold, I give you authority... and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”
 - You have been authorized by Jesus to take authority over every demonic force.
 - **Use it. Speak it. Walk in it.**
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PART 4: Spiritual Armor and Protection

The Armor of God – *Ephesians 6:11–18*

- **Belt of Truth**
- **Breastplate of Righteousness**
- **Gospel of Peace (shoes)**
- **Shield of Faith**
- **Helmet of Salvation**
- **Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)**
- **Prayer & Intercession**

Victory isn’t possible without spiritual preparation.

Use These Promises:

- *Isaiah 54:17* — No weapon formed against you shall prosper.
 - *Deuteronomy 28:7* — Enemies will flee seven ways.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:57* — God gives us victory through Jesus.
 - *Romans 8:37* — We are more than conquerors.
 - *John 16:33* — In Jesus, we have peace. He has overcome the world.
 - *Matthew 18:18* — Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.
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PART 5: Prayer & Power

Pray Boldly and Specifically

- Bind the enemy. Loose the Holy Spirit.
- Speak life, peace, joy, and love over your home and family.

Pray for Your Pastor

- When the people **pray for the preacher**, the Word becomes sharper and more impactful.
 - There's power in both **the pulpit** and **the pew**.
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PART 6: Spiritual Maturity and Response

- It's not just about being saved—it's about being **spirit-filled** and **spirit-led**.
 - Real maturity shows when you **don't retaliate**, even when you want to.
 - Living by the Spirit helps you respond like Christ, not your old self.
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PART 7: Understanding Spiritual Gifts

- Ask God to give you the gift of **discerning spirits** (*1 Corinthians 12*).
- True prophetic gifts will **edify, encourage, and build up**—not shame, tear down, or embarrass.
- Don't covet the title of "prophet." Walk in the **function** of what God has actually given you.

Three Categories of Spiritual Gifts:

1. **Holy Spirit gifts** – 1 Corinthians 12

2. **Gifts from God** – Romans 12
 3. **Gifts from Jesus** – Ephesians 4:11
(Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers)
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FINAL THOUGHT:

“I have no business being defeated.” – Bishop Craft

You’ve been given the power.

You’ve been given the tools.

Now walk in your authority, and let God be glorified through your victory.