



ARE YOU WEARING NIKE SHOES THIS MORNING?

If not, you should be! Why? *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the **victory** that has overcome the world--our faith.* I John 5:4

The word “victory” here is from the Greek νίκη (nike). We cannot all have Isuzu Rodeos (or Dodge Durangos) but we can all have victory in our Christian walk.

One way to gain this victory is to *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and **having shod your feet** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* Ephesians 6:14-15

You see, “peace” and “victory” go together. To have peace, you must have victory - you must have “nikes” on your feet! This victory comes from Christ, *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* I Corinthians 15:57

Going back into the Old Testament we find a rather curious fact: *You give me your **shield of victory**, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.* Psalm 18:35 NIV

The KJV has *the shield of Your salvation* here rather than “victory.” It is apparent from this and other Psalms that the two are synonymous. The full passage from the Psalm is as follows:

It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. Psalm 18:32-36 NIV

God’s promises for victorious living abound in the Scripture. All of these promises depend not on who or what we are but what we are in Christ Jesus. It is Jesus Christ who gives us victory.

Now, just so that you do not accuse me of saying that the Christian life is like a “bed of roses” (which, by the way, have wicked thorns), to have a “victory,” you must first have a battle. No one can be victorious without something to have victory over!

Our dear friend, Betty R. Long (“San Luis Obispo Betty”) is currently undergoing the battle of her life. But, because of her faith, she is looking forward to the end of the battle when she will win the victory - victory in Christ! *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* I Corinthians 15:54-57

My friends, the Lord has not promised us a life of ease here on earth. He has made the following promise:

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:18-19

Whatever trial or tribulation you may now be experiencing, have faith and trust in the Lord and He will certainly be your victory. *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* Romans 8:31

I do not know if Nike Sports Shoes will do you any good but I do know that the feet of the victorious (nike) will find peace in God.

Wayne

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