

# 20 Contrasts Between a Victim and a Victorious Mindset

I have lived in New York City for over six decades and have observed many kinds of people: those with a victim mentality and those with a victor mentality. In this article, I will examine some traits that are distinct to each group.

Those with the victim mindset interpret the world in a completely different way than those with the victor mindset. People with a victim mindset view an obstacle as an unfair challenge, while the latter view obstacles as an opportunity to overcome. It is obvious to most that in American politics, candidates often attempt to appeal to these groups. To those with a victim mindset, they pledge to intervene in their challenges. To those with a victor's mindset, they promise to provide opportunities with limited government intervention.

How you identify yourself internally (as either a victim or victor) should have nothing to do with your skin color or the community in which you were raised. Many will argue that personality, temperament, psychological upbringing, emotional abuse and so on can often contribute to having a victim mentality. However, many point to highly accomplished leaders, such as Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Walter Williams and Thomas Sowell as examples of those who overcame enormous challenges such as racism and poverty. On the other hand, I have witnessed many who, despite being brought up in affluence, felt prey to a victim mentality, became self-loathing, defeatist and ended up a failure.

I'll use my background to further illustrate this point. I was brought up in a small apartment in a lower middle-class white neighborhood. When my friends discovered I was part Hispanic, they started making fun of me. However, instead of hiding in a

corner, I aggressively returned the favor, making fun of them and putting them in their place. They never touched the subject again. Why did I respond this way? Because I had within me an intrinsic sense of self-worth that transcended any insults that others threw at me.

As Christians, we are called to walk with an internal understanding that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:37).

Believers must never entertain a victim mindset. The world is full of people captivated by this mindset, which has resulted in millions of people becoming enslaved, and unable to fulfill their God-given potential.

One of the most important things that my wife, Joyce, and I have instilled in each of our five biological children is that they are victors, not victims! We taught them that everybody will have life challenges, but this is no excuse to cower in a corner and feel sorry for yourself. We also taught our children that as they got older, nobody else could truly help them if they didn't help themselves.

We taught our children to be the head and not the tail, to be above and not beneath, to use their creativity to become entrepreneurial and leaders, and not followers of groupthink (Deut. 28:10-13).

Millions are caught up in a victim mentality because they are ignorantly following the groupthink of their peers, the media, their political party and their culture. Many believers in Christ have been caught up in the world's mind games that pit one group against the other: the "haves" against the "have not's".

For example, the Marxists, far-left liberals and socialists (as presently embodied in many politicians, community leaders and media personalities), play on the victim spirit. They engage in class warfare and make a living by painting whole

groups of people as victims in order to get elected. They want to be seen as those who parachute to the rescue of those with a victim mindset. They disempower specific segments of the population with their rhetoric in order to be seen as the heroes, ensuring that they remain in the spotlight. Consequently, if the victim mindset were not prevalent, thousands of politicians and activists would be out of a job!

This is not to say that I believe there is no racism, injustice, economic or political disparities, but, despite these factors, we need to focus on teaching people that they can be empowered to excel in any environment with God's help.

The following contrasts are meant to help you understand which camp you are in. If you are in the victim mindset camp, God wants to change your paradigm and transition you to the victorious mindset.

-Contrasting the victim and victorious mindset (for the sake of time, I will not use the word "mindset"):

-The victim believes the whole world is against them. The victor believes the whole world needs them.

-The victim sees a challenge as an obstacle. The victor considers the obstacle to be an opportunity.

-The victim blames others for their failure. The victor takes personal responsibility for success or failure.

-The victim depends on handouts from others to succeed. The victor makes do with what they already have to succeed.

-The victim is never satisfied and is always looking for something more. The victor is grateful for what they already have and build upon that to succeed in life.

-The victim feels like everybody owes them something. The victor believes nobody owes them anything.

-The victim lives off other people. The victor lives to bless other people.

-The victim will end his days bitterly. The victor will end his days satisfied.

-The victim only sees closed doors. The victor only sees open doors.

-The victim spreads a negative attitude to others. The victor spreads a positive attitude.

-The victim is pessimistic. The victor is optimistic.

-The victim gives up quickly if they fail. The victor doesn't quit until they succeed.

-The victim has few real friends. The victor empowers and makes many friends.

-The victim repels people. The victor attracts people.

-The victim is always fighting for "their rights." The victor lives to champion the rights of others.

-The victim has a critical spirit and is judgmental of others. The victor blesses others.

-The victim imagines people are against him. The victor envisions the people that are for him.

-The victim plays on the emotions of others. The victor releases the passion of others.

-The victim uses people for what they can get from them. The victor is a catalyst who maximizes the potential of others.

-The victim has faith in evil to make things worse. The victor has faith in God to make things better. {eoa}

*Purchase **Joseph Mattera's** latest book, The Jesus Principles,*

*available now on Amazon here.*

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## **7 Sentences You Never Expected to Hear in Churches in 2020**

I can only imagine how we would have responded in 2019 if someone had told us we needed to be prepared not to gather for in-person worship services for several months in 2020.

Indeed, if we had been given a glimpse of this crazy year ahead of time, we would have thought the world had gone crazy.

It probably has.

Look at these seven sentences we hear in churches today. We could never have predicted them.

**1. “We need to decide if we are going to require masks in church.”** If I had heard this sentence would be common in churches, I probably would have wondered if we are having mandatory costume parties in 2020. With the different masks used today, maybe we are.

**2. “We can’t take the offering anymore.”** Really? I think many leaders would have freaked out if they heard financial support would become dependent on digital giving. Probably many more would have been surprised how many members were willing to move to digital giving.

**3. “We can no longer have the stand and greet time.”** This issue was contentious in many churches before 2020. While many churches held tenaciously to this tradition, it was fading overall. But imagine if we outright banned it in churches. That has happened for the most part. In case you’re wondering, I’m really okay with this development.

**4. “We need to measure our streaming views over 30 seconds.”** For sure, a few churches were doing live streaming services prior to 2020, but they were a distinct minority in number. I don’t think any of us anticipated that streaming views would become a common church metric.

**5. “We need to arrange our worship center seating to accommodate social distancing.”** Prior to 2020, I would have thought social distancing was only something we introverts practiced. Now it is something church leaders plan on a regular basis.

**6. “We need to move all of our small groups to meet on Zoom.”** If most church members had heard this statement in 2019, they may have wondered if small groups would be in some drug-induced state. Zoom? What is that?

**7. “We will no longer visit church members in the hospital.”** This development in 2020 is painful both to those confined to the hospital and to those in the church who really want to care for these members. It is indeed one of the tragedies of the pandemic.

Who would have predicted the articulation of these sentences in churches prior to 2020? It has been a strange year. It has been a painful year. {eoa}

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*For the original article, visit .*

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## **Will COVID-19 Influence the 2020 Presidential Election?**

The novel coronavirus, which originated in Wuhan, China, will likely be remembered similarly to the way we recall Pearl Harbor or , 2001. In some ways America will never be the same.

The coronavirus has changed the way we “do life.” Millions of people have discovered they don’t have to rush around. Staying at home with the family isn’t that bad. And even President Trump said watching church online—which he said he has done several Sundays during the shutdown—wasn’t so bad.

The coronavirus has also changed our politics. For a couple of weeks normal politics were on the back burner—no political rallies. Most of the news focused on the coronavirus instead of on endless investigations and impeachment. Even Gov. Gavin Newsom of California and Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York had nice things to say about President Trump when he rushed to their aid as the pandemic hit those states particularly hard. But the Democrats also blasted him for acting too slowly.

Nancy Pelosi said people would die because of Trump's incompetence as a leader.

But the opposite was true.

I believe Donald Trump has given great leadership in this pandemic. I believe he will continue to give great leadership and the economy will roar back. As bad as the pandemic is, it may help him to win even bigger in the November election.

But all bets are off. Trump's single major selling point to American voters who normally might not vote for a Republican was the soaring economy. *The New York Post* reported on March 21: "The coronavirus poses an 'existential threat' to President Donald Trump's 2020 reelection, campaign insiders and GOP operatives say." If this is true, then we have even more reason to back this president and help him get reelected.

Why did I write *God, Trump and COVID-19* on such short notice? I wanted to make the case that Trump is providing good leadership through this, which is one more reason we must return him to office. I've written several books about Donald Trump because I believe we are at a critical juncture in the life of our country, and I believe God has raised up this incredible leader for such a time as this.

My previous book, *God, Trump and the 2020 Election*, explores what is at stake if he loses in November. It is the most important book I've ever written. If you haven't read it, I hope you will—not because it's my book but because I believe it will help *you* understand what the liberal fake news (and even the more conservative secular news media) won't tell you: Where is God in all this, and what is His will?

*God, Trump and the 2020 Election* has done very well and is getting good reviews, but a month after it was released in January 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in the United States. In a matter of weeks everything changed. In early April I felt I should write a new book about how this

unexpected pandemic could affect the outcome of this election. It's much shorter than my other books, and I wrote it in only 19 days. It's timely and topical and in some ways is the sequel to *God, Trump and the 2020 Election*.

If you have not read *God, Trump and the 2020 Election*, I hope you enjoy this book and that it makes you want to read the original. Not only did I have a chapter in that book on "Why Trump Must Win," but I had a chapter on "Why He Might Lose." One of the reasons was if something terrible were to happen to the economy. In late 2019 when I wrote that chapter, it seemed to me that the economy would continue to soar. Now all that has changed. And it might affect the outcome of the election.

Soon the pandemic will end and our country will return to some form of new normal. And when Nov. 3 rolls around, we will have an election, no matter what. The issues about freedom and religious liberty and how desperate (and frankly dishonest) the Left is will still be with us. If anything, the stakes will be even higher than if this pandemic hadn't happened.

Most readers know I'm a publisher—it's how I make a living. But I wrote these books not just to sell books but to light a fire under the Christian community that we must turn out at the polls like never before, or life as we know it will end and persecution of Christians and those who oppose the Leftist agenda will likely begin.

You can decide if I make the case well. If I do, I hope you will encourage others to read not only this small book but the original as well. Once the supply chain opens up again, it will be available wherever books are sold. Plus, you can get it online, including on our website . I hope you read it, recommend it and become passionate about reelecting a president raised up by God for such a time as this. {eoa}

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# Spiritual Warfare: Cast Out Your Demons and Slay Your Giants

How do you receive and maintain your spiritual freedom?

What are the keys to fight your spiritual battles? What opens doors to demons in your life? For the answers to these and other questions, join Dr. Candice Smithyman and Isik Abila as they discuss how to cast out demons and slay your giants.

The following courses are on sale for \$99: Soul Transformation at [Accessing the Glory Realms](#) . {eo}

**Dr. Candice Smithyman** is an international prophetic revivalist and healing minister who is executive pastor of Freedom Destiny Church and vice president of Dream Mentors International. She is also the host of the Glory Road television broadcast, which showcases international prophetic voices and can be seen on Faith USA, U.K. and Africa, and other outlets. She is the host of Manifest His Presence on the Charisma Podcast Network and On the Glory Road with the Destiny Image Podcast Network.

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# Joyce Meyer: Why You Must Choose Your Words Carefully

The words we choose to speak matter more than we realize, because our attitudes and actions are greatly influenced by them. And sometimes when we open our mouth without thinking, we can bring ourselves down spiritually and hurt other people in the process.

For example, how many times have you heard yourself say things like, "I'm sick of cleaning this house," "You're driving me nuts today" or "This job is killing me"? Words like that don't bring anything positive into our lives. And it's important that we not take them lightly.

Proverbs 21:23 (NIV) says, "Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity." We need to practice saying things we really want to say and remember to be thankful for what we have. Because even when blessings are chasing us down, if we're not careful, we can still find reasons to be negative and complain.

## **Keep Counting Your Blessings**

It really is amazing how fast we can forget about the good things God has done for us. After He miraculously parted the Red Sea and delivered the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, "the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron" (Ex. 16:2).

In other words, they forgot about the miraculous deliverance God provided for them and put their focus on the things they didn't have.

It's so easy to complain when our circumstances aren't exactly what we want them to be. But many times it's our attitude that keeps us right where we are. Philippians 2:14 clearly tells

us, “Do everything without grumbling or arguing.”

Whenever you’re tempted to complain, just think about how much better it would be to remain thankful and say, “God, I remember the good things You’ve done for me, and I’m thankful for the breakthrough that I know is on the way.”

## **The Power of Praise**

Whether we’re happy with our circumstances or not, giving God praise is so important. Psalm 91:2 says, “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

Being mindful to focus on God’s goodness and the many ways He helps us is a great way to stir our hearts up with praise every day. And it strengthens our faith when we declare that God is bigger than our problems and concerns.

If there’s an area in your life that you’re having a hard time staying positive about, try doing a 30-day fast from complaining. Replace any negative words with positive words—and give God something to work with. You may still make mistakes from time to time, but God is faithful, and you can trust that He’ll help you get your mouth into complete agreement with His Word if you won’t give up.

You’ll find that when you are sincerely positive, it helps others be positive too, and people will come to you when they want to be encouraged. On top of that, you’ll be the kind of person they won’t even bother coming to when they want to complain, because they’ll know you won’t put up with it.

Keep yourself encouraged. Share with others what God has done for you. Tell them how good He is. And pray that He’ll give them a breakthrough in their life.

## **Use Words to Confound Your Enemy**

When we trust God more than our feelings, it confuses the

devil. When he throws his best shot at you and he can't budge you from believing God, he won't know what to do with you anymore. King David learned that when he was just a boy.

In 1 Samuel 17:45-46a, David said to the giant Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. ...This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands." And he followed up his words with bold action.

David ran quickly toward the battle line, killed Goliath and won the victory! When we're facing giants in our life, that's exactly the way we need to behave. Don't ever run at your enemy with a mixture of faith and doubt in your mouth. Let the devil know who he's dealing with!

God will give you the victory if you will continue to agree with Him and speak His Word. Say what God would say even if it's the hardest thing for you to do. Praise Him regardless of what's happening around you.

You don't have to give way to careless speech or complaining. You don't have to let your feelings get in the way of what God wants to do in your life. Starting today, you can choose to remember the many things He's done for you—and start speaking boldly about the breakthroughs that are yet to come. {eoa}

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series *Change Your Words, Change Your Life*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling 800-727-9673 or visiting .*

**Joyce Meyer** is a *New York Times*' bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Your Battles Belong to the Lord (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit .

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# The Lord Says, 'Tell My People to Be Carriers of Oil'

For some time now, I have been cultivating a word that I heard from the Lord in June. It was during a moment in worship that I heard the Lord say, "Prepare. Prepare the people. I am looking for those who will be carriers. Prepare the carriers of oil. Tell My people to be carriers of oil."

After this word came in the midst of worship, I had an understanding of what the Lord was saying, and I have shared this with some others for their insight since then.

From that time until now, this word had yet to be released from my spirit. I have been hearing it echoing in my prayer time. It feels like a word that has an expiration date stamped on it. It feels like a word that has a warning attached with it. It feels like a word that is marked with urgency.

## **Expectation Without Preparation**

Matthew 25:1-13 says:

*"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps, but took no oil with them. But the wise took jars of oil with their lamps. While the bridegroom delayed, they all rested and slept.*

*"But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. But the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have gone out.' The*

*wise answered, 'No, lest there not be enough for us and you. Go rather to those who sell it, and buy some for yourselves.'*

*"But while they went to buy some, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Afterward, the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'*

*"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

When we read these Scriptures, we need to recognize the error of the five foolish virgins and how their same mistake applies to our own lives today. The foolish virgins had their own lamps but took no oil with them. Their problem wasn't in the expectation of the bridegroom. Their problem was in the reality that they were not prepared. What separates the foolish from the wise is their unwillingness to be prepared. Both the wise and the foolish are *expecting* a return. However, it is the *expectation alone* (just the expectation, without preparation) that exposes the foolish ones' failure in the moment of revelation.

Today there are many within the church who are like the five foolish virgins. They have their lamps, but they are unwilling to pay the price for the oil.

Look at the Scripture again. The five foolish virgins knew where to get the oil, but they refused to pay the price of the oil. Because they did not pay that price when it was available, they immediately expected the wise virgins to pour out the oil that they had paid for.

Today, the Church is often filled with individuals who are looking for someone else to pay the price for oil. These individuals aren't willing to pray, seek the Lord, worship, praise, show up, minister to others and more. These

individuals are looking for the fast pass of Christianity while expecting to be considered among those who have paid the price for oil.

Conferences are filled with individuals clamoring for the latest prophetic word of encouragement (only). Altars fill with people wanting impartation without sacrifice. Individuals want the apostle to “go” for them, the prophet to hear for them, the pastor to feed them, the evangelist to save them and the teacher to grow in knowledge for them. The multitude has become foolish, while demanding to be identified as wise.

### **Preparation Without Expectation**

Acts 12:1-17 says:

*About that time King Herod extended his hands to harm certain ones from the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword. Seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to arrest Peter also. This happened during the Days of Unleavened Bread. When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him before the people after the Passover.*

*So Peter was kept in prison. But the church prayed to God without ceasing for him.*

*The very night when Herod would have brought him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains. And the guards before the door were securing the prison. And suddenly an angel of the Lord approached him, and a light shone in the prison. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Rise up, quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands.*

*Then the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put your sandals on.” And he did so. Then he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” He went out and followed*

*him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guards, they came to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened to them by itself. And they went out and went forward one street. And immediately the angel left him.*

*When Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I certainly know that the Lord has sent His angel and delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."*

*Realizing this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. As Peter knocked at the door of the porch, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, from joy she did not open the door, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the door.*

*They said to her, "You are insane." But she insisted that it was really so. So they said, "It is his angel."*

*But Peter continued knocking. And when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Motioning to them with his hand to be quiet, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.*

In these passages of Scripture, we see where the apostle Peter had been imprisoned and was facing certain death. While he was in prison, the Scripture says that the church was in constant prayer for him. We read this passage and see how the Lord intervened for the life of Peter, and through supernatural events, an angel led him from the depths of his prison cell to the (opened) gates of the city. From there, the apostle Peter went to the home where those in the church were praying for him, and we learn about the young girl Rhoda.

Here is where we need to pay attention to what is happening. You have to understand that the church was praying for Peter. Possibly, the prayers consisted of the release of Peter and/or the pardoning of Peter's impending death. Regardless of what exactly the prayers were, we can definitely say that they were seeking the Lord for the safety of Peter's life. In other words, the church was preparing for the life of Peter to be spared. Then, in the midst of prayer, Peter arrived at the gate of the house.

Herein lies the problem. A young girl recognized the "voice" of Peter and immediately alerted the praying church. We can only imagine that because Rhoda was a young girl, the Church disregarded the possibility of Peter being at the gate for multiple reasons. The Church was preparing for the life of Peter (outside of prison) through prayer, but when the prayer was answered, it came in a way that they did not expect. They possibly envisioned the leaders standing before Herod, pleading for the release of Peter. They could have prepared their speech before Herod, and when the idea of that not happening was presented to them, they quickly dismissed the girl because it was not how they expected it.

How many people within the church today, are dismissing those who recognize the "voice" of the Lord simply because the Lord is showing up in ways that the church does not expect? Individuals are preparing for the presence of the Lord, yet their preparations have them missing the reality through wrong expectations. Today, many are not only denying the movement of the Lord because of missed expectations, but they are also refusing to open the gate!

Look at the Scripture again. Peter remained at the gate (that was never opened to him), while the church remained at the door of the house. Churches have become settled with the Lord at the gate, yet never welcomed into the house. Individuals are satisfied with a wave and a conversation at the gate, while unwilling to open the door for dwelling.

## **Be the Carriers of Oil**

We need the sons and daughters of God to pay the price for the oil. Individuals need to stop depending upon others to do it for them. Stop demanding the oil from those who are willing to pay the price. Cultivate and steward your prayer life, the Word of God, your worship and your praise to the living God. *Pay the price for the oil.* You cannot keep demanding that everyone does the work while you sleep with half-empty lamps.

The culture is redefining the church in this hour simply because many have chosen the route of the foolish and defined it as the wise. It's time to get our expectation to meet our preparation so that we may be the carriers of oil! {eoa}

**Ryan Johnson** *is dedicated in helping equip the body of Christ to awaken the nations with a prophetic call of a rising ekklesia. Ryan has devoted his life to the righteousness of Christ, with the demonstration of the Father's heart in regions, individuals and the church across the world.*

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## **Break the Generational Curse of Fear Before It Produces Compromise**

Could the very thing holding you back from stepping into your God-given destiny be the same things that held back your grandfather and your grandfather's father and generations

before that?

Pastor Mike Signorelli declares it's time for you to break the generational curse of fear over your life and find freedom in a new season.

Watch the teaching from Pastor Mike here. {eoa}