

# discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living  
Study Guide

## GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

### LESSON 4: GOD IS VICTORIOUS

#### INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module entitled God and the Spiritual Realm. This series of lessons examines the reality of the spiritual world – one in which there are forces of both good and evil. This module deals with the origin of evil, the end punishment of Satan, the reality of spiritual warfare and strongholds in our everyday lives, the armor that God has provided us with, God’s great battle plan against Satan, God’s ultimate control over all things and the supernatural ways in which God occasionally communicates with his people through dreams, visions and angelic beings.

The Student’s Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on [www.discipleshipessentials.org](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org).

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# GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

## LESSON 4: GOD IS VICTORIOUS

### WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Did you know that the Bible promises God's victory over Satan? The final victory is a future event but until then we can trust that God is powerful and Satan cannot stop what God has in mind to accomplish. This lesson looks at the sovereignty of God.

### JUST SO YOU KNOW...

This lesson focuses on how the battle between God and Satan ends, God's sovereignty, and God's ultimate power over all things. It is not easy to explain how God can be fully in control and yet allow us to have free will and be responsible for our choices. This is addressed in Scripture even though it is hard to fully understand. There are divergent ideas in Christianity on this topic and it is perhaps an area you could study further if it is of interest. But what we must know is that God will have the victory, and He is now exercising His great power through His people. God will give us courage as we face evil, pray, and share the Gospel. We should urgently see the need to win souls for Jesus Christ and pray that God's will be done on earth. Understanding that this battle will be won, and that we are on the side of victory should be of tremendous comfort to us.

## GETTING STARTED

1. What are you looking forward to most when Jesus Christ returns?

2. How much of what happens in the world is under God's control? How much has to do with our freedom to choose?



# STUDY

❖ **DAILY DEFEAT OF SATAN:** The war against Satan is fought on a daily basis. We always will encounter temptations and as Satan acts through the influences of the world around us we face the possibility of corruption. There are three things we must do daily to keep Satan’s power out of our lives.

- **Pray** – Put on the armour of God through prayer, asking for forgiveness of sins and for daily help from God, relying on Him, and maintaining our close relationship with Him.
- **Aim for Christ-likeness** – God is sanctifying us through many means, and His desire is that we become conformed to the image of His Son. We do this through exposure to God’s Word, by not allowing sin in our life, and by pursuing God’s will.
- **Maintain our Christ-like nature** - Vigilantly maintaining what God is doing in us is necessary. Have we learned a lesson? Don’t forget it! Have we repented of a sin? Don’t go back to it!
- **We can Overcome** – with the power of the Holy Spirit, we do not need to be slaves to sin – in fact we can overcome the world! We can have freedom from sin! Read 1 John 4:4-5 – who does it say can overcome?

❖ **WHAT HAPPENS TO SATAN?** We all long to see justice done. When we think of the sorrow in the world around us, we might long for the day when evil is punished and God is victorious! God has revealed to us what will happen at the end of time. Yes, Satan prowls the earth today and has limited power over it, but it is only for a time!

- Read Revelations 20: 1-15 and answer the following questions:

What will happen to Satan when Jesus returns? (vs. 1-3)	
At the end of the thousand years, who are the two groups at battle? Who will be defeated by fire from heaven? (vs. 7-9)	



What will happen to Satan then? (vs. 10)	
What will happen to those who follow Satan? (vs. 15)	

❖ **ETERNITY WITH CHRIST:** We will live with Jesus Christ forever if we belong to Him. Our war with Satan will come to an end, and will not have to war forever.

- Read the following verses and describe what awaits those who belong to Jesus (those who are Christians, whose name is written in the book of life)

John 14:1-3	
2 Corinthians 4:14, 5:1,8	
Romans 8:17	
2 Timothy 2:12	

❖ **GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY AND FREE WILL:** We can trust that these things will come to pass, and God will have final victory over Satan because we know that God’s word is true, and no power is greater than Him. If God promises a thing, it will come to pass. You may wonder how this can be true if we are also responsible for our actions. Philosophers and theologians have assumed we have something called a ‘free will’ which means we are able to choose to do as we please. This would appear to conflict with God’s ability to bring things to pass through us. But the Bible seems to hold both of these things as true. Read the following sets of verses and write down what you learn.

- **God is Sovereign:** God answers to no one, and is in complete control of all things. If it were not so, God could not promise that things in the future would come to pass.

Daniel 4:35	
Psalms 115:3	
1 Chronicles 29:11-12	
Ephesians 1:11	



- **We have freedom of will:** We make choices are held accountable for them. Our choices are based on our personality, experiences, desires, impulses and knowledge. If we did not have freedom, we could not be held accountable for our actions and would be helpless to change them.

Joshua 24:15	
Revelation 3:20	
Acts 2:21	
James 4:1-8	

- **Sovereignty and Freedom:** The Bible shows both God’s control and our freedom working together. It is mysterious, but here are some verses illustrating how these two aspects work together.

Psalms 103:19	
Lamentations 3:37	
Genesis 50:19-21	
Proverbs 16:33	
Romans 8:28	
Proverbs 16:1	

- God can promise us His coming victory because all of His promises come true. He is able to do as He pleases and cannot be stopped. Even those the balance of our free will and His Sovereignty is difficult to understand the Bible shows us this to be true.
- ❖ **PRAYER:** Even though God can control all things, He chooses to work through us, especially when we pray. Even though God could do everything without our prayers, He chooses to act in response to them to strengthen our relationship, to prove His faithfulness to us, and to teach us His nature and will. Do not neglect to pray for God’s victories over sin each day even though we know that Jesus will ultimately defeat sin, Satan and death in the last days!



## IN SUMMARY

- ❖ We can daily defeat Satan by prayer, working towards Christlikeness and maintaining our Christlikeness.
- ❖ The Bible promises that Satan will be defeated in the last days, and God will be victorious over sin, Satan and death.
- ❖ The war with Satan will cease with the return of Jesus, when Satan will be defeated
- ❖ Satan will receive God's judgement and will be sent to a lake of fire to be eternally tormented
- ❖ Those who belong to Jesus Christ will receive eternity with Him. Those who oppose God and have rejected Him will be judged.
- ❖ God can promise these things because He is sovereign. He will be victorious in the end!
- ❖ God's sovereignty does not conflict with our free will. Both are presented as true in the Bible.
- ❖ We must be faithful in prayer, even though we know the outcome of this spiritual battle.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel knowing what will happen to Satan at the end of time? What are you doing daily to decrease the power of Satan in your life?

2. Knowing what God has in store for those who reject Him and His offer of salvation, what priority must we place on evangelism?