

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, February 19, 2012**  
**I Am Not a Victim 2**  
**Remember Who's in Your Boat**

**Text:** Romans 8:37 NLT No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.  
Gen 3:11-13 / Mk 5:41

This is the Year of Victory. The emphasis the Lord specifically gave me was "overcome the victim mentality – I am not a victim!" The world is going to wax worse and worse. We are supposed to live above it, but the attitude of victimization keeps us in a paralyzed state. We have to move from "Poor me," through "why me?," on to "help me!", and finally to "get off me!"

♥ What is the victim mentality?

- Victim: One that is acted on and usually adversely affected by a force or agent. (Webster) **Synonyms** fatality, loss, prey.  
**Related Words** loser, underdog; martyr, sacrifice; collateral damage.
- Victim Mentality in general is a state of mind in which a person typically puts responsibility for what occurs in his life onto someone else. This state of mind typically causes a person to believe that he has little control over his life and that the events that occur are the result of what someone else does. This may be caused by actual abuse or tragedy in a person's life that causes him to feel a lack of control. A victim mentality can often make it difficult for a person to move forward in his life.
- Even if the allegation is true, someone really did it to you, spending all your energy affixing blame does nothing but keep you obsessed with the wrong.
- Benefits of the victim mentality:
  - **Attention and validation.** For some it becomes part of their identity and must be continually re-affirmed by others.
  - **It excuses the victim from taking risks.** You don't have to risk rejection or failure.
  - **The victim does not bear responsibility for himself.** Taking responsibility for your own life can be hard work.
  - **It makes the victim feel good.** When you feel like the victim, that someone else is wrong and you are right, that can lead to pleasurable feelings.

♥ If it's not my fault, then whose is it?

- We are programmed by nature to delegate blame. Gen 3:11-13
- We are delegating blame (or responsibility) to someone:
  - Blaming God: Job
  - Blaming Parents: Includes "I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ enough." Judges 6:15 Gideon
  - Blaming society: "They" John 5:7 I have no man
  - Blaming specific evil people: Joseph / Jesus they overcame.
  - Blaming self: Not the same as taking responsibility. If it's sin, repent. If it's a knowledge failure, learn. If it's an effort failure, step it up. If it's an equipment failure, acquire.
- My hand is determined by who designed the deck, by where I sat at the table, and by chance. Cursing the dealer only tells my opponents the weak nature of my hand. "Whining is not only graceless, but can be dangerous. It can alert a brute that a victim is in the neighborhood." – Maya Angelou
- Instead of moping about, trying to recruit others to agree with your affliction, there are keys to living in overwhelming victory. We are going to take a look at them. First step:

♥ Remember who's in your boat

- Mark 4:35-41 "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Who you believe He is determines your response in the storm
- In the face of lack Heb 13:5-
- In facing new challenges Deuteronomy 31:6-8
- In fulfilling daunting tasks for the Lord 1 Chronicles 28:
- In the face of the enemy Isaiah 41:10-11
- In the fire and in the flood Isaiah 43:1-3
- In reaching the world Matthew 28:20
- In standing alone 2 Timothy 4:17-18
- In the face of looming destruction. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
- Psalms 91:15 MSG Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times; I'll rescue you, then throw you a party.

**Jesus is not just Lord IN the storm,**

**He is Lord OVER the storm.**

**He ain't scared and He is in your boat.**