

January 12 / Sunday

Annus Mirabilis 1759: Victory

Read [1 Corinthians 15:57](#) / [Psalm 27:1](#)



13 / Mon – Past and present | Read [1 Corinthians 15:57](#) / [1 John 5:4-5](#)

The year 1759 was referred to as *annus mirabilis* when William Pitt, Britain's wartime political leader, achieved numerous military victories which were a turning point in the Seven Years' War. Victory always elicits a sense of relief, excitement, and hope for the future. What are some personal victories you experienced last year? Are there victories you hope for in this coming year? Where is your hope anchored?

14 / Tue – Fear Factor | Read [Joshua 1:9](#) / [Psalm 27:1-3](#) / [Isaiah 41:10, 13](#)

Fear is a universal human emotion in both the past and the present. The scriptures are filled with conversations where God spoke to the fears of his people: Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Isaiah, Daniel to name a few. And Jesus addressed his disciples' fears, assuring them that they did not have to be afraid... "for I am with you" (Matt. 28:20b). How might the implications of these words help you find victory over your own fears?

15 / Wed – When I tell God no | Read [John 8:10-11](#) / [Acts 26:19-20](#)

Although you know you've been reborn as a new person in Christ, do you still find yourself doing things you know are wrong? Why is that? One children's catechism defines it this way: *sin is when I tell God 'no'*. Do you still find small pockets of rebellion that cause you to live other than God's vision for you? To *repent* literally means to do a 180-turn and start going in the opposite direction. That can be very difficult but when you love God, you will admit and ask for help. Is there somewhere in your life you need to start saying 'yes' to God today?

16 / Thu – It's not the end of the story | Read [John 14:1-3](#)

Thinking of death can cause great fear and anxiety. Most people prefer not to think about it unless they are forced to, probably because there are so many unanswered questions. God is compassionate and understands how you feel. There are many reassurances in scripture but the most powerful one comes from Jesus who went through that door and then returned. When your day comes, you will not be alone. Jesus promised to come back to get you (v. 3) and escort you to the party. Will you let this promise neutralize your fears?

17 / Fri – 'Yes' can be harder than you imagined | Read [Mark 14:32-36](#) / [Hebrews 12:1-3](#)

Before every victory, there are moments of fear or discouragement when you want to give up. You have probably experienced this in the past. What were some things that gave you strength to press on? Jesus was brutally honest with his Father as he faced his final battle. What carried him through? How does this encourage you to persevere in what you are facing?

18 / Sat – Secondhand joy | Read [2 Corinthians 1:3-5](#)

Not only can you experience the joy of victory for yourself this year, but you can also find joy when you help others. How? By praying for anyone you know who is fighting a battle, sharing your story when appropriate and being willing to walk alongside them if asked. Let the Holy Spirit point out to you someone who needs encouragement and support. Secondhand joy can be pretty wonderful too!