

*For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.  
Psalm 36:9*

# — the LifeWord —

with Michael Green



March 6, 2009

Dear Friend:

## THE THRILL OF VICTORY

After over 150 uncomfortable, nomad like, Sundays, the new, *"We don't have to move any equipment this week and all of the kids are not crammed into the same room"*, LifeGate South opened for business!

There was a palatable, joyful excitement as *"Holy Spirit Fill This Room"* was the first song/prayer to fill the air and the folks lifted their hearts and voices while keeping one eye open to check out the new digs. It was a blast.



In my challenge time, I reminded our church of our founding mission statement, *"Building Christ Into Every Life"*. As we started one year ago, we really believed that God would do a new thing and on this side of the mountain we can say, He certainly has. In that beginning month, I spoke of those things that we would value and hold dear in our call. The Word, our Worship, our Walk and the Win!

Sunday's message was all about the *"WIN"*. The *"WIN"* is a *"God Thing"* (I really wanted to say *"Thang"*) and that great day was big time a win on every level.

During these past few years, we have experienced a series of small, incremental victories while firmly grounded in the fact that God could and would do more than we could ask or think. The point is, even the smallest of wins can build hope and encouragement to believe for even bigger things. We have walked this.

In the building search, more than one dozen very real possibilities got our attention and some of them got quite serious. But on this day, from this perspective, we could see God's hand in each of our decisions. At this point, all of the ups and downs, the yes, no and maybe words didn't matter anymore. The struggles were but a minor memory, we had a new home.

Actually, the day was a perfect parallel to our individual walks. Daily concerns, opportunities, decisions, enticements or temptations all must be navigated and faced

in order to experience the next Win plateau. I hate to be the one to break this to you but each victory is always preceded by a struggle, a fight and a faith and fortitude battle.

Ask any of the LifeGate gang present on that day, they'll give you the key. If you want to be around for the win, you can't grow weary and give up. Good things still happen to those who will believe and stay focused. It is a truth we have held to.

One other thing in this *"don't give up"* faith walk mindset, we must keep running this race until we break the finish line tape and we must stay focused in the fight until the final horn sounds. The final winner is not crowned until the clock runs out. The clock is still ticking.

Yeah, some big prayers have been answered but know this, we've yet to see our finest day. The best is yet to come and this gives us great joy.

As we closed, we stood in thanks and relief. Linda sounded the final prayer and we sang Martha Munizzi's anointed song, *"Your latter will be greater than your past. You will be blessed more than you can ask. Despite all that has been done, the best is yet to come. And your latter will be greater than your past"*. We grabbed it and sang it over and over. Faith was high and we acted like we believed it!

So ya'll take it from the LifeGate Family, with two glorious new homes...Keep working, keep praying, keep busy, keep focused, keep in the Word, keep your worship hot and keep listening for the *"Final"* horn.

There is a WIN at stake!

*Michael*

