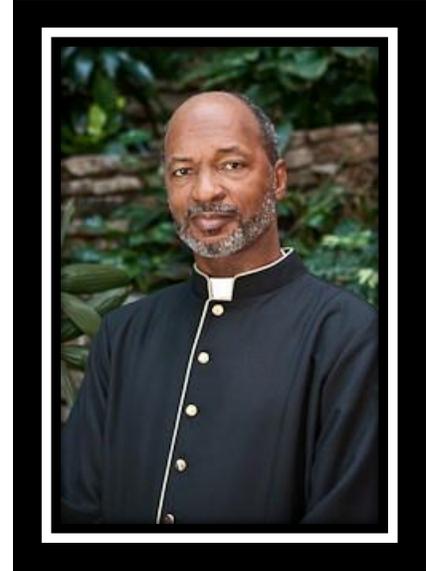


# The Bishop's Corner

## *Be A Victor Not A Victim*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us. Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinance; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace. And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:13-22 KJV).”



If God tore down the middle wall of partition between the Jews and Gentiles, we're not supposed to have a wall of partition anywhere in our lives. God knows how to reconcile us because that's what He does. How can we preach if we can't reconcile with one another? A house divided against itself can't stand; we're a house within ourselves, and if we can't reconcile, we're not going to stand.

If we've been hurt by someone or something, we must forgive and allow the Lord to heal our broken hearts and stop being the victim to gain sympathy from others because we all have been hurt at some point in our lives. Unforgiveness is the burden of the one who was hurt. We have the victory in Jesus, and we're more than conquerors. How can we preach victory if we are victims? “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, or heights, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39 KJV).”

We were victims of sin until the Lord saved us, then we became victors. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:57 KJV).” We must ask God to bring us through these hurts, lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil, and help us keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

*For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on “Encouragement” then “Teachings.”*