THE Victory Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church

His Delight

From "Very Good" to "Well Pleased"

November 8, 2026

Our ministry in Keene, NH is drawing to a close, at least for now. I have struggled with this decision. I do not want to leave, but Gloria has helped me see that God has closed the doors for us here. I love Keene. Since February 7, 2013, I have thought of Keene as my home and where God put me every day. My hope is that someday, He will allow me to come back and try again, perhaps fulfilling what Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24)." We have not been fruitful as we'd like. God knows. I am willing. Tentatively, our last service will be December 6, 2026, which will be a potluck. Stay tuned.

Key Verses

Genesis 1:31 "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

Jeremiah 31:3 "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Today's Thought

From the "very good" of Genesis to the "well pleased" of the Gospels to the worship of Revelation, Scripture presents a single unbroken thread: God does not merely tolerate humanity — He delights in the people He made, chose, and redeemed. You were not ordered. You were wanted.

1 — The Crown of a "Very Good" Creation

Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7; Psalm 139:14, 16

Not an accident, not an afterthought

- For five days God simply spoke: "Let there be light" (v. 3). For mankind the language changes to deliberation: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (v. 26).
- Tov *me'od* ("very good," v. 31): tov is "good, pleasant"; *me'od* is "muchness, abundance." The phrase appears nowhere else in the creation account.

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

- "The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7). Every other creature was spoken into being; man was formed by hand.
- "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Not mass-produced, but personally attended to. What you do may not always be very good, but you are.

Key truth: "You are not an accident — you are the deliberate, personally-formed high point of God's 'very good' creation."

2 – Chosen, Not Earned

Deuteronomy 7:7–8; Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 11:1

Love that came first

- "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number … But because the LORD loved you" (Deuteronomy 7:7–8). No merit, no impressive resume.
- Chashaq ("set his love") is rooted in "to bind": to cling to, to be attached to, to delight in. Not a legal transaction, but binding affection.
- "When Israel was a child, then I loved him" (Hosea 11:1). Jeremiah 31:3 joins *ahavah* (love), *olam* (everlasting), and *chesed* (covenant lovingkindness).
- The delight comes first. Obedience, worship, and love respond to delight already given, not a wage earned.

Key truth: "God's delight in you was never a wage you earned — it is a love He chose to set on you, everlasting and unearned."

3 – He Rejoices over You

Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 15:1–2, 7, 10, 20, 32

Not quiet tolerance, but active joy

- Zephaniah 3:17 stacks up joy-words: *yasis* (exuberant delight), *yagil* (to spin around, to dance for joy), and *rinnah* (a joyful shout, a ringing cry).
- A lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son, and each story ends in joy: "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).
- Jesus told these parables to critics who murmured, "This man receiveth sinners" (Luke 15:2). Their complaint assumed God only reluctantly tolerates the wayward.
- The father saw his son "a great way off," ran, and "fell on his neck" (Luke 15:20). Heaven celebrates the very moment of turning back.

Key truth: "God's delight in you is not quiet tolerance — it is active joy, God Himself rejoicing over you with singing."

4 – Delight Sealed in the Son

Ephesians 1:4–5; 2:10; Matthew 3:17; Revelation 4:11

Chosen before the foundation of the world

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

- "He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). "Good pleasure" (v. 5) is *eudokia*: a freely chosen, gracious will made in warm love.
- "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). *Eudokeō* is the same word family. Those adopted in Christ (Ephesians 1:5) share in that delight.
- "We are his workmanship" (Ephesians 2:10). *Poiēma* is a crafted work, the root of our word "poem." The Maker who formed Adam re-forms every believer in Christ.
- "For thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). The Bible opens with "very good" and closes on the very same note.

Key truth: "In Christ, the delight that named you 'very good' was sealed before the foundation of the world, and it is yours as surely as the Father's delight in His own Son."

Our Passages at a Glance

Passage	Movement	Message
Genesis 1:26–31; 2:7	Created	You were formed by hand and called "very good."
Deut. 7:7–8; Jer. 31:3	Chosen	His love came first and was never earned.
Zeph. 3:17; Luke 15	Celebrated	God rejoices over you with singing.
Eph. 1:4–5; 2:10; Rev. 4:11	Sealed	In Christ, His delight was settled before the world began.

For Reflection & Discussion

- Do you tend to think God merely tolerates you, or that He delights in you? Where did that belief come from?
- Have you been trying to earn a love God has already given? What would change if you rested in it?
- How does the picture of God rejoicing over you with singing change the way you come back to Him after you fail?
- What does it mean to you that you are His workmanship, chosen in Christ before the world began?

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

Closing Prayer

My Heavenly Father, thank You that we are not an accident or an afterthought—You formed us personally, breathed life into us, and called the result very good.

Thank You that Your delight in us was never something we had to earn — You chose to set Your love on us before we had done anything to deserve it, and that love has not run out since.

Thank You that You do not merely tolerate us from a distance, but rejoice over us with singing, and that heaven celebrates the very moment any of us turns back to You.

And thank You that in Christ, this delight was sealed before the foundation of the world, so that the same pleasure You take in Your own Son is now Your pleasure in us. Where we have been living as though we must perform our way into being noticed by You, forgive us, and help us simply receive what You have already given.

Let every heart here today walk out knowing it is delighted in. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Scripture

Text: Genesis 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.
30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.
31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

*Genesis 1:3 * (Let there be light)*
*Genesis 1:6 * (Let there be a firmament)*
*Genesis 1:11 * (Let the earth bring forth)*
*Genesis 2:7 * (the Lord formed man from the dust and breathed life into him)*
*Psalms 139:1, 16 * (fearfully and wonderfully made)*

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

7 The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:
8 But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31:3

3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

*Hosea 11:1 * (Israel loved as a child)*

Zephaniah 3:17

17 The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Luke 15:7, 10, 32

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

...

10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

...

32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

*Luke 15:25 * (A party thrown)*
*Luke 15:1-2 * (Parables directed to "sinners")*

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

...

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Revelation 4:11

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

*Matthew 3:17 * (Well pleased)*
*Acts 2:38 * (Obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ)*
** Not directly quoted: for your later study*

The church's website:
https://thevictoryfellowship.org/
Pastor's email:
pastor@thevictoryfellowship.org

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

(Fanny Crosby – 1869)

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
[Refrain]

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever,
'Til my ransomed soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed His beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]

Victory in Jesus

(Eugene M. Bartlett – 1939)

1 I heard an old old story
How a Savior came from glory
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me
I heard about His groaning
Of His precious blood's atoning
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory

Chorus

O victory in Jesus
My Savior forever
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood
He loved me 'ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him
He plunged me to victory
Beneath the cleansing flood

2 I heard about His healing
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see
And then I cried, "dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit!"
And somehow Jesus came and brought
To me the victory [Chorus]

3 I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea
About the angels singing
And the old redemption story
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory [Chorus]

My Jesus, I Love Thee

(William R Featherston – 1864)

1 My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2 I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Refrain

I'll love You in life, I will love You in death,
With every beat of my heart, with every breath.
I love You in life; yes, I love You in death,
With every beat of my heart, with every breath.

3 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
[Refrain 3x]

He Paid a Debt

(Ellis J. Crum—1977)

Chorus

He paid a debt He did not owe
I owed a debt I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sins away
And now I sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay

1 He paid that debt at Calvary
He saved my soul and set me free
I'm glad that Jesus washed all my sins away
I, now, can sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay [Chorus]

2 One day He is coming back for me
To live with Him eternally
Won't it be glory to see Him on that Day?
And now I sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay [Chorus]

Nothing but the Blood

1 What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

2 For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

3 Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

4 This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.

OUR MISSION

The Victory Fellowship is in Keene, NH, offering the community a hand of friendship. Our purpose is oriented toward Keene and Cheshire County. We are here:

- To glorify Almighty God;
- To share the love of Jesus Christ;
- To preach the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole community;
- To lead those who will to victorious salvation in Jesus Christ through love and fellowship;
- To equip our people to live the life God intended them to live;
- To render aid we can to the hurting and lost.

OUR VISION

That all will hear the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached in the days of the Acts of the Apostles; that all will have the opportunity to respond to His love; we desire that all be saved.

Victory: The fruit of purposeful effort, effort spent overcoming obstacles, difficulties, and challenges. Obstacles, difficulties, and challenges are part of life. One need never face these aspects of life alone. Through fellowship with Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ (His Church), we can obtain victory!

Jesus said, *In the world, you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world* (John 16:33b, NKJV).

Fellowship: Whether sitting with friends, relaxing and sharing a moment, or striving together to overcome life's obstacles, difficulties, and challenges, there is an opportunity to share, maintain a common focus, and offer mutual support.

New Hampshire-Vermont District

UPCI
UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
THE WHOLE GOSPEL • TO THE WHOLE WORLD • BY THE WHOLE CHURCH

All Rights Reserved © 2026 The Victory Fellowship UPC, Inc.