

YEAR 2 (2 of 12) 5 & 10 - Victorious Christians You Should Know: William Tyndale

Dear Church Family,

There are moments in church history when faithfulness to God's Word comes at an extraordinary cost. One such moment was the life of **William Tyndale**, a man whose quiet determination forever changed the English-speaking world.

Born around 1494, Tyndale was a gifted linguist and scholar who became convinced of one simple but dangerous truth: **God's Word belongs in the hands of God's people**. At a time when the Bible was largely inaccessible to ordinary believers, Tyndale famously declared that if God spared his life, he would cause "a boy that driveth the plow" to know more Scripture than the learned clergy.

That conviction set him on a collision course with both church and state.

England forbade translating the Bible into English without approval. Rather than compromise, Tyndale left his homeland and became a fugitive for the sake of Scripture. He moved from city to city across Europe, translating the New Testament directly from the Greek and arranging for copies to be secretly smuggled into England.

This was painstaking, dangerous work. Every page had to be printed in secret. Every shipment risked discovery. Every knock on the door could mean arrest.

Yet Tyndale persevered.

Much of the English Bible we read today—phrases like "*Let there be light*," "*the powers that be*," and "*the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak*"—comes directly from Tyndale's translation. His words shaped not only the Bible, but the English language itself.

Eventually, Tyndale was betrayed, imprisoned, and condemned as a heretic. In 1536, he was strangled and burned at the stake. His final prayer was simple and prophetic: "**Lord, open the King of England's eyes.**"

God answered that prayer.

Within a few years, English Bibles—largely based on Tyndale's work—were legally placed in churches across England.

William Tyndale never pastored a church. He never lived to see the fruit of his labor. Yet through faithfulness, sacrifice, and unwavering trust in God's Word, he shaped generations to come.

His life reminds us that victory in Christ is not measured by safety or success, but by obedience. God's Word is always worth the cost.

May we treasure our Bibles, read them deeply, and live them courageously—because others once paid dearly so that we could hold them freely.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Chris