

Victory in Christ Jesus

“*Victory*” is a great word in the New Testament. Many Christians received Christ as their Savior, they are “*born again*” and have passed from death to life, but they are deceived by a “*counterfeit victory*.” God wants us to have the real thing.

“*What is the real victory which I speak of? What could I be substituting for the real victory?*”

John 8:34-36, “*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house forever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*”

Romans 6:14 states, “*Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace!*”

God said in 2 Corinthians 12:9, “*My grace is sufficient for you.*”

The law says, “**DO**” Grace says, “**DONE!**”

Paul’s cry to the Galatians, making a passionate protest, “*You have relapsed from grace into law!*” He says, “*I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me!*”

To the Philippians he says, “*For me to live IS Christ.*”

To the Corinthians he says, “*Thanks be to God, Who Gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.*” The one word that should stand out in this triumphant thanksgiving is **GIVES!** Read that text again! It is found in 1 Corinthians 15:57. That is grace! That is the test of the real victory!

Any victory over the power of sin, *gotten by working for it*, is a counterfeit! If we get any victory by trying real hard, is a counterfeit! If you are trying to live a victorious life and say, “*I did so and so under certain circumstances,*” it is not real victory! As long as you are trying to live a victorious life, you are cheating yourself out of the real victory Christ desires you to have! The real victory, Christ offers, does **not** come by “*trying,*” but by “*trusting.*”

You say, “*Can’t we do both at the same time?*” The answer is No! Scripture teaches that real victory is giving it all to the Lord, letting Him set us free.

Some Christians wrongly think, “*Victorious living is like weeding your garden, rooting out the bad weeds!*” This method gives attention to the bad weeds – sin being the “*bad weeds.*” These, who try this methods, say, “*It may take a long time, but I’ll keep at it, day-after-day, week-after-week, until I weed that sin out of the garden of my life!*” And they say, “*When I get rid of that sin. I’ll take another weed, and keep at it until I have them all out! I’ll work on another weed, then another weed, then another weed, = until I have all sin out of my life!*”

You won't find that in God's Word! Victory is not a gradual conquest over evil, getting one sin after another out of your life. That's a counterfeit victory! Jesus does not offer "*gradual victory*" over sin!

Let me illustrate for you: Let's say that I am a thief, a pickpocket, and I pick about a dozen pockets a day. Then, I become a Christian. I realize that I have to give up that way of making a living! I know I can't earn my livelihood that way any more. What do I do? Can I say, "*Now that I'm a Christian, I'm only going to pick eight pockets a day for the first week, then next week, I'll cut back to picking just six pockets a week. On the third week, I'll cut down to three or four pockets a week. In a month, I'll give up entirely, because now, I'm a Christian?*"

You know it is foolish to try and reason that way. But many Christians attempt to get rid of their sins that way. They say, "*I'll just reduce some sinning, and eventually, in the vague future, I'll give them up entirely?*" No! The victorious life is a life of freedom from the "*power*" of sin. It is not a gradual gift. God's gift of a "*victorious life*," is a gift, it is not a growth.

"Thanks be unto God who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

Let me ask, "*How long does it take you to grow into your Christmas presents?*" One minute a gift is not yours. (It is labeled with your name, but it is not yours.) The next minute it is yours. Why? Because you took it. You came down the stairs Christmas morning, and received it. "*How long does it take you to grow into the gift?*" You don't "*grow into it*," you take it!

Victory is yours. Take it!

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying, "*There is no growth.*" Such teaching would be absolutely false, and untrue to God's Word. We grow after we have entered into victory. It is only after we have entered into victory that we have the chance to grow. We "*grow in grace.*" As long as we live, we will be growing, learning more of the Lord all the time, growing in God's Word. However, we do not grow in freedom from the power of sin. That victory is ours today as completely as it ever will be. Victory does not come by fighting down wrong desires, that's a counterfeit victory. Concealing wrong feelings is a supposed victory. Just keeping our "*wrong feelings*" from expressing themselves, that's not real victory.

Let me give you an illustration: A lady, who never lost her temper in the most trying circumstances. Nothing seemed to ruffle her. Someone once asked her, "*How do you keep so sweet in situations that would cause me to boil over?*" Her answer, "*True, I don't boil over, but, if you only knew what boiling was going on inside.*"

This example is given as wonderful Christian victory, however, it is a poor kind of victory. It is a counterfeit victory because it denies the offer God gives to us. You cannot help but admire those who attempt to travel this route, but it is not Biblical victory. It does not take "*supernatural grace*" to keep from boiling over. Businessmen, who want to sell their goods, who want to get you to sign contract, so they can make money, "*keep from boiling over*" all the time. They can smile, and not let feelings show, for selfish reasons. That doesn't take God's grace, isn't a miracle, and it's not real victorious living.

I told you in the last lesson of a Christian man who was completely surrendered, yet, lived a defeated life. He let circumstances of life upset him. However he arrived at the place where he could say, “*I not only didn’t slam the door, I didn’t even **WANT TO** slam the door!*” That’s real, genuine, victory!