

The Life That Wins!

There is only one life that wins, and that is the Life of Jesus Christ, and the truth is that everyone may have that life. I am not referring to just “*living a Christ-like*” life, I am referring to something far better. I am not saying to just receive Christ’s help; have power from Christ, or that one can be saved from sin. I’m talking about something *far better* than these things.

We all have thought, “*Someday I will be better!*” The question is how will you be better and when will it start? That’s what I want to share with you.

WHAT IS OUR PROBLEM?

There are three things that stand out in my mind:

1. THE FLUCTUATIONS IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

At times we feel the closeness in our fellowship with God, however, we have highs and depths in our spiritual walk, ups and downs. We are lifted up, but it does not last. We gradually experience a downhill process, then we experience some failure in a temptation. There’s a fluctuation in our spiritual walk with the Lord. We long for a life that is habitually on the high plane.

The second thing that comes to my mind is that, this fluctuation of our spiritual walk is the result of:

2. BESETTING SINS

We are not winning in the battle of sin on all fronts. I am not speaking of sinless perfection but, rather, I am speaking of uninterrupted, habitual progress in the path of victory.

The third thought that comes to mind is that, as a result of these besetting sins, there is...

3. A LACK OF DYNAMIC, SPIRITUAL POWER THAT WORKS MIRACLES, AND BRINGS ABOUT CHANGES IN LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE.

So many Christians are just going through the motions and not getting results! Doing “*Christian work*” isn’t what I am speaking about.

You may believe in Christ, and worship Him as the Son of God. You may have accepted Him as your personal Savior years ago. You may believe that in Him alone is eternal life and you are doing all you can to live in His service, giving your whole life to Him. You may constantly ask His help and guidance and believe that He is your only hope. You may be championing the very cause of the highest possible conception of Christ, working in some area of ministry. You say, “*How could a higher, or better, conception of Christ than yours be possible?*” You may feel that you are serving Him far better than you have ever done. This is *not* what I am talking about. I want to share with you, what may be a new concept to you.

Ephesians 4:12-13 teaches, “*Unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*”

Here is an unfolding of Christ, a Christ many Christians do not know. The greatest spiritual asset you can have is an “*habitual consciousness*” of the actual presence of Jesus Christ! Nothing will so strengthen you as the realization that Jesus is always with you in actual presence, regardless of how you feel, what you think you deserve, or any notions about God you may have. When Christ becomes “*at home in our thoughts,*” with your mind constantly turned to Him, talking constantly to Him (aloud when alone, silently when with others), when He becomes as real as any earthly friend, your spiritual walk with God will take on a whole new dimension.

ALL THE RESOURCES OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE IS JESUS CHRIST!

I’m talking about stepping out upon Christ in a daring faith and He will do **THROUGH** you = what He has already done **FOR** you!

This is what Paul was speaking of in Philippians 1:21, when he said, “*For me to live is Christ.*” Our life is Christ’s life. He must become our whole life. It is the *only* real life. Our life must become the unfolding of the life that is Christ’.

When you feel miserable, hopeless, unfit, and incompetent, spiritually tired, and think that life has let you down, you feel like a failure, and defeated, remember God says, “*Our life is to be a wellspring of living gushing water of life all the time!*” Jesus said in John 4:14 that He would give “*a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*” In John 7:38, Jesus said, “*He that believes in Me, as the Scripture says, ‘out from his innermost being springs and rivers of living water shall flow continuously.’*” [Amplified New Testament].

Jesus does not say intermittently, interrupted, (by anger, unforgiveness, or lust) “*springs of water*” but, a continuous, irresistible flow of living water that gushes forth from the believer! Jesus says in John 7:38, “*He that believeth in Me, from within him shall flow rivers of living waters.*” Jesus is not speaking of small bucketful, at certain intervals, but “*an artesian well, bubbling with overflowing supply of living water, a like that is like a wellspring of living gushing water of life to others all the time!*”

Have you ever seen one of those irrigating waterwheel like they have in India, or Oriental, countries? This waterwheel turns with a great deal of creaking and grinding, to spout out a few buckets of water, a little at a time. Jesus said, the kind of well water within you need not be like that, but life-bringing, abundant streams, flowing all the time. Nothing can stop it!

Want to know the secret? There are so many references throughout the New Testament of statements like, “*Christ in you, Christ out life, and abiding Christ*”

This is a literal, actual, blessed fact = not just figures of speech!

Jesus said in John 15:1 “*I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.*” Verses 4 and 5 state, “*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches: he*

that abideth in Me and I in him, the same shall bringeth forth much fruit: for with Me ye can do nothing.”

Ephesians 3:14-17 teaches, “*When I think of the wisdom and scope of His plan I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. That he would grant you according to the riches of His perfect character, with the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit, that you be firmly rooted and established in love*” [Phillip’s translation states, “*that Christ may actually live in your hearts.*” The Living Bible states, “*I pray that Christ will be more at home in your heart. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love*”].

Verses 18-21 continue, “*That you may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Chris, which passeth knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen*”

Galatians .2:20 teaches, “*Christ lives in me, the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*”

The Apostle Paul sums it all up when he said in Philippians.1:21, “*For me to live is Christ.*”

That’s the secret; Christ living in me, and in you! God, in His long-suffering patience, forgiveness, and love does it for you. To many Christians Jesus Christ is only an *external* Savior, Who did a “*saving work*” for them, One who is ready to come along side and help, even give them power and strength, but the salvation God offers is even better than that! Jesus Christ actually, literally lives ***within*** to become our very life. He desires to take you into *union* with Himself. He wants to become you body, your mind, and your spirit. He desires to live through you. You will still have your own identity, your own will, and your own moral responsibility, but, He will live His life through you, if you let Him. Isn’t that better than some *external* helper?

This may surprise you, but, “*Don’t ask Jesus Christ to **help** you,*” as though He were one and you another. *Simply do His work, and will, realizing that He is **in** you, **with** you, working **through** you.*” You belong to Him. Your body is His. Your mind is His. Your will is His. Your spirit is His. As Paul said, “*I am crucified with Christ and it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me.*” His life is your life!

Here is an illustration. A tree was made into this pulpit, so our bodies have been made into members of the body of Christ. Scripture says, “*Ye are the body of Christ!*”

I can almost see Paul, tingling with joy and exultation when he says, “*For me to live is Christ!*” He did not say, “*For me to live is to be Christ-like,*” or, “*to have Christ’s help,*” or “*to serve Christ.*” No, He made a bold, glorious, mysterious claim “*For me to live **IS** Christ*” That’s the life that will win. the life of Christ!

Christ’s life is ours for the asking, *if* we let Him, in absolute unconditional surrender of our **WILL** to His will. Make Him Lord, Master, as well as Savior. Let Him enter in, occupy, and overwhelm our entire life, “*Fill us with all the fullness of God*” (Ephesians 3:19). This is not just

an “*intellectual concept*,” but it is a revolutionalizing, fundamental, change-of-life, without and within!

“*If any man be **IN CHRIST** he is a new creature*” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Don’t misunderstand me, Scriptures does not teach that we will never sin again. We still have a “*free-will*” and we can resist the Holy Spirit’s guiding. Scripture does teach that, when we fail, “*restoration*” can be supernaturally instantaneous and complete. God does not just promise to help us in our “*fighting against sin*,” He promises “*freedom from the **power** of sin*.” It is not just “*our*” conquering sin, the fact is that Christ has already conquered all sin. Our responsibility is to sustain an unbroken fellowship with Him, recognizing that Christ is our cleansing, reigning life.

The three problems I mentioned: (1) fluctuations in spiritual life, brought on by (2) besetting sins, that result in (3) a lack of dynamic spiritual power that works miracles in other people’s lives: are thus answered . . . (1) have intimate fellowship with God, (2) have victory by freedom, that is, we trust Christ Jesus for freedom over our besetting sins, and (3) share in the joy of heaven.

Jesus wants to be more than just “*a Helper*,” He wants to be your very life. He does not just want you to work for Him, He wants you to let Him do His work through you. He wants to use you like we would use a pencil. We become the finger of God.

If our life is Christ’s life, our life will be a winning life because Christ cannot fail. The fruit we bear is the result of His life, not the “*condition*” or the “*cause*” of our life, but His life!

How do I acquire this winning life?

1. Surrender absolutely, unconditionally to Christ as Lord

We must be willing to have God’s whole will done in our life

2. Believe that Christ has set you from the “*law of sin*” (Romans 8:2)

It is not that God *will do* this – He *has done* it! It is not that we are seeking “*a blessing, power, victory or service*,” but rather, we are seeking Christ. Isn’t this a better way? Christ is God’s best. He is God! You can have the best, you can have Christ, by yielding to Him in complete abandonment of self. It is not we who live, but Christ living in us.

Will you receive Him now?