

## Ten Practical Points and Prayers for Victory Over Temptation

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Do you know how to have victory over sin and Satan? You are not alone if you are not sure how to gain victory in your Christian life. Being prepared for victory is half the victory. **If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.** Preparedness is the key to success and victory. Have you ever found yourself stalled out in your own Christian life because of some besetting sin and wanting to make a fresh start? If so, the Bible gives some important guidelines that you can follow if you want to experience victory in your daily Christian living. To experience victory over pride, greed, lust, envy, wrath, anxiety, worry, gluttony, rock music, and many other sins, you must surrender your will to God through disciplined prayer. You are to pray, “not my will, but thine, be done” (**Luke 22:42**). You cannot have two masters (**Matthew 6:24**). This means you have a choice to surrender to God or your sin nature. You cannot be neutral. It’s one or the other. We choose to live the undefeated or defeated life.

Winston Churchill famously said, “We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields, and in the streets ... We shall never surrender!” Churchill also observed, “Without victory there is no survival!” This should be your spiritual understanding, ambition, and prayer to God so you might live victoriously over sin and Satan. This is because you are in a spiritual battle (spiritual warfare) with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. This battle is defined as wrestling (“wrestle” - **Ephesians 6:12**), fighting (“fight” - **2 Timothy 4:7**) and “war” (**1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:4**). The Christian life is not a playground but a battleground. You need to enter the fight and learn how to win.



The doctrine or teaching about spiritual victory is life changing. Let’s start with some introductory thoughts on the importance of prayer. As a Christian, you must pray about everything and let God have His way in everything. Lack of prayer does not handicap you; it paralyzes you, whether you know it or not. Remember there are no shortcuts to Christian living. It involves constant prayer, meditation, obedience, and fellowship with God.

Prayer is the foundation of all victory. Prayer is not a last extremity - it's a first necessity. We need to be prayer-conditioned for the battle. In the victory chapter of **Ephesians 6:18** you are called to be "**Praying always** (maintaining a constant practice of prayer - **Colossians 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17**) **with all prayer and supplication** (all kinds of prayers – confession, intercession, thanksgiving, including supplication or petitioning God - audible, inaudible, public, private) **in the Spirit** (under the Spirit's direction and guidance), **and watching** (maintaining spiritual vigilance and alertness regarding Satan's temptations, deceptive tricks, and sinister workings) **thereunto with all perseverance** (persistence, diligence, steadfastness) **and supplication for all saints**" (that they within the conflict would remain victorious through God's grace and advance spiritually in their lives since the power of sin and Satan has been broken over their lives through their positional identification with Christ's victory).

These are not vague prayers ("Now I lay me down to sleep") but warrior prayers that involve doing battle with Satan. Christ was in "**agony**" when He prayed to the Father in the garden ("**being in agony he prayed more earnestly**" - **Luke 22:44**). These are prayers related to a spiritual conflict or fight with sin and Satan. We need to always be ready to flee to "**the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy** (God's sympathy and pity), **and find grace** (strengthening, enabling, and victorious grace) **to help in time of need**" (**Hebrews 4:16**). The enemy sometimes comes in like a flood (**Isaiah 59:19**) and lion to devour us (**1 Peter 5:8**). At this moment we must aggressively pray to God for help and experience God's way or escape from the enemy of our soul.

In **Ephesians 6:18**, the spiritual weapon of "**praying always**" (being devoted to prayer as you engage in the battle) and "**all prayer**" (using different types of prayer) is one that Satan cannot overcome. Prayers of petition, intercession, and praise result in victory. Yes, even praise changes things! Praise is a powerful weapon against the enemy (2 Chron. 20:21; Ps. 144:1; Joshua 5:14-15; 6:1-2; Judges 7:15; Acts 16:25-26). **Perseverance is the key – not giving up on your prayer life.** There is a type of persevering prayer that you must engage in for yourself and others so together we might remain strong while passing through temptation and possess victory. It's a prayer for the sanctification and victory of fellow Christians who are also in a spiritual conflict. You must be "prayed up" and keep in step with the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-17**) each day of your life to receive power and live in victory.

Jesus said in **Matthew 26:41**, “**Watch and pray** (keep staying spiritually alert for Satan’s temptations and keep praying for strength and sustaining grace – **1 Peter 5:8**), **that ye enter not into temptation** (avoid being caught off guard, unprepared to resist it, and overcome by it when passing through temptation): **the spirit indeed is willing** (wanting to do the right thing – possessing spiritual eagerness), **but the flesh is weak**” (our physical flesh or body tends to not do right for it is weak physically and emotionally and therefore because of human weakness we cannot possess victory without supernatural assistance and empowerment – **Romans 8:4**).

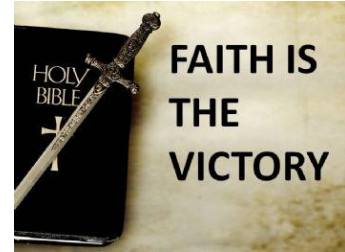
R. A. Torrey commented: “The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came.” “**Watch and pray.**” But the disciples gave up and slept. Jesus said they could find strength in prayer. Prayer is the believer’s source of strength in temptation. Someone said, “Watching *sights* the enemy; praying *fights* the enemy!” This means the spiritual battle is often won or lost before the crisis comes. Although you are assured of victory, you are not to regard this matter lightly.

**1 Peter 5:8** reminds you to “**Be sober** (metaphorically to be spiritually alert, in control of your thought processes, while possessing sanity of mind, being calm and collected – not fearing Satan’s temptations), **be vigilant** (watchful or attentive, be spiritually alert, take heed, a mindfulness of threatening dangers); **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.**”

We need to be prepared to face temptation by maintaining vigilance and our prayer life, depending upon God for strength and victory. We can only win the battle when we pray for prayer is at the center of the battle. Of course, there is no mechanical prayer that will give you victory. However, praying through the promises of God’s Word or acknowledging and applying your victory you already have in Christ is the key to experiencing victory in your life. You **MUST** totally rely on God as you pray for His power and assistance. **And remember, you don’t pray FOR victory - you CLAIM the victory you already have in Christ.** You must learn the secret of actively claiming God’s promises of victory as you pray and apply God’s truth and power to your life during the time of temptation. This is the only way to possess victory. William Cowper once said: “**Satan trembles when he sees, the weakest saint upon his knees!**” Pray, no matter how weak and helpless you feel in prayer. Pray and shake the foundations of hell!

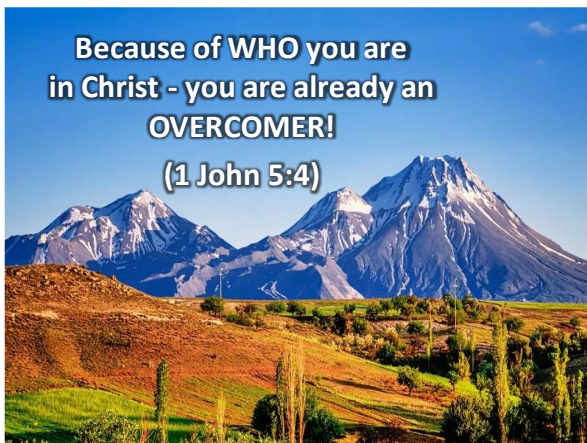
## ➤ Faith

Prayer and faith are inseparably bound together in God's masterplan for victory. Remember that when you pray in doubt you do without (**James 1:6-7**). **Faith is the victory!** Instead of trying harder to have victory you must trust in the victory Christ has already provided for you. I must approach God's truth and promises by faith and claim what I have in Christ – victory and freedom from sin and Satan's power. I don't fight *for* victory; I fight *from* a position or standing of victory I already have in Christ!



**1 John 5:4** - “**For whatsoever** (a reference to your human spirit) **is born of God overcometh the world** (through the new birth your spirit is given new life and the new nature or disposition to grant you a positional victory over the world system headed up by Satan through identification with Christ's life – sharing His resurrection life within you): **and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith** (your faith is placed in Christ at the time of salvation and you immediately receive the victorious position over the world, the flesh, and the Devil). **Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** (at the moment you express faith in Christ, you become an overcomer or victor, since through the new birth you have been identified with Christ's own life, nature, and victory).

**Overcomers are born – not made.** They are born again and share Christ's victorious risen life. Through the new birth you have become a new creature (creation) in Christ – sharing His life, nature, and victory (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).



Never forget this. You are already an overcomer (victor) because of your union and position in Christ. **Outlook determines outcome!** Christ overcame sin and Satan through His death and resurrection, and you now share His very own life and nature through the new birth. **This means you have already overcome in Christ. It's a done deal! This is a finished transaction. You don't BECOME and overcomer – you ARE an overcomer!** You are not only saved from the *penalty* of sin but also the *power* of sin because you are identified with Jesus Christ – His victory

and power. You do not overcome worldliness, the sin nature, and the Devil through striving harder, attending special church meetings, or passing through some electrifying experience. You have already overcome (become a victor) when you expressed faith in Christ, were born again, and began sharing His own life, nature, and victory. Today, all you must do is appropriate by faith who you are in Christ (an overcomer) and claim your victory.

Christians will sometimes reason or give the excuse for sinning by saying, "It's my nature." Well, they are right, but it's your sin nature that has overcome you instead of abiding in the new nature given to you through your identifying and overcoming victory with Christ.

In **John 16:33** Jesus taught: "**These things I have spoken unto you, that in me** (your union with Christ, sharing His life – **John 15:1-5**) **ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**" (through His coming death and resurrection). In other words, because you share Christ's life through union with Him, you also have overcome the evil world system that is against God. Therefore, you can apply Christ's victory to your life through faith and live an overcoming life. When you appropriate what you already are in Christ (an overcomer), it's only then that you can live an overcoming or victorious life. This overcoming victory begins at the time of salvation when we are born again (regeneration) and it continues in our Christian life (sanctification) as we live by faith in Christ's victorious provision. Here is God's psychology. You are born again to be a winner – not a loser! To win is everything! If you are presently overcome by Satan, then you are not living like an overcomer. **The way you begin the Christian life (by faith) is the way you live the Christian life.**

**Ephesians 6:16** – "**Above all, taking the shield of faith** (faith in God's presence, power, your position of victory, and promises of victory found in the Bible), **wherewith ye shall be able to quench** (extinguish and stop) **all the fiery darts of the wicked**" (the powerful and strong temptations the Devil sends your way).



The Bible does not teach that feelings are the victory. Faith is the victory. Your feelings can fluctuate and deceive you. Your emotional makeup can vary. **God's commands are directed to our wills, not our emotions.** He does not say, "Do this if you feel like it." Of course, this does not mean that feelings are not part of your Christian life and



commitment to the Lord. The right order to obtain and experience victory begins with the **FACTS** which are comparable to a locomotive on a train. **FAITH** then follows the facts and **FEELINGS** are the caboose. Your feelings and emotions must always align with the factual propositions of Scripture and your faith must be rooted in these facts. **Victory is a truth encounter – not a feeling encounter.** Don't allow your circumstances, feelings, or temptations that come into your life hide the truth that you are an overcomer in Christ. One thing is certain, without faith you will flop! We can commit emotional idolatry with something or someone else other than God (1 John 5:21).

### ➤ Failure

Failure comes when you lack the application of faith to your prayer life and choose to sin. The way of victory is the same for everyone who is a Christian. **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man” (1 Corinthians 10:13).** No person has special treatment over others. God is not a respecter of persons. If you fail, it's not because God's way of victory is flawed (it doesn't work as someone once told me). You fail because you make the choice to love your sin more than God (**Mark 12:30; John 14:15; 2 John 1:6**) and do not want to actively pursue and apply God's provision of victory to your life through persevering prayer. If you plan to fail, the Devil will make sure you do. Face up to it, you fail when you love your sins more than God and His truth. You love the darkness more than the light. But God has called you to **“walk in the light”** – not run from it (**1 John 1:7**).



### ➤ Fault



It's your fault when you sin against God because of a lack of committed, surrendered, and believing prayer. **The Devil did not make you do it!** Admit it. You did it. Don't live in a fool's paradise! It's your fault. You chose to sin. Don't give the lame excuses that "God made me this way," "It's my genetics," "It's my hormones," "I did not have a proper upbringing as a child," "I have a psychological problem," "Satan's temptations are too strong," "I cannot fight the constant pressure," "No

one else is like me or experiencing what I am,” “My needs are stronger than others people’s,” “I am a victim of my environment.” The old saying is true: “An excuse is the skin of a lie wrapped with a reason,” and “God won’t forgive me.” Stop deceiving yourself. Don’t foolishly believe that when you sin it’s not your fault. You can default to blaming others or claiming you are a victim of circumstance (**Genesis 3:12-13**).

Sometimes you can also be foolish when believing that you have not sinned, when in reality you have sinned against God and His righteous standard. “**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us**” (**1 John 1:8**). In this case, you need a reality check! But when you know that you have sinned against God, take the blame. Don’t live in a “no fault zone.” It’s your fault.

**James 1:14** – “**But every man is tempted** (to commit sin), **when he is drawn away** (seduced and tempted to sin) **of his own lust** (indicating personal responsibility and choice), **and enticed**” (lured and trapped by giving in to his lust).

**Don’t pass the buck!** Don’t play the blame game. Own up to your sin. You pushed the self-destruction button. It’s your fault. You only do what you want to do. Everything that used to be a sin is now a disease. Stop renaming, hiding, or covering up your sin. Satan uses his powers of persuasion to defeat us. We need to remember that the devil can *persuade*, but he cannot *push* us into temptation. The devil creates *temptation*, but we create the *transgression* (James 1:14). The Bible makes you personally responsible for your own sinful failures. But it also makes you responsible for your victory.

### ➤ Faithfulness

I have never met a perfect Christian. But even imperfect Christians, which all of us are, can still practice overall loyalty or faithfulness to God in their overall living and obedience. **Philippians 3:13** says, “**Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended** (you have not reached the state of perfection and being like Christ in every aspect of your Christian life): **but this one thing I do** (not many things), **forgetting those things which are behind** (past sins, defeats, lost time – not allowing them to control you today and in the future), **and reaching forth unto those things which are before**” (new victories, new beginnings, new spiritual goals, new life in Christ so I can become more like Christ).



The concept of reaching forth or moving forward speaks of faithfulness and commitment in life despite past failures. You cannot win the race by looking backward! You cannot rewrite your past. You can learn from the past and try not to repeat it. But you are foolish if you try to live in the past. Also, when it comes to **“forgetting those things which are behind”** you need to remember something else. **You cannot live today on yesterday’s victories!** Every day brings its own set of new victories. To put it in football language, you have a new set of downs every day. David Livingstone once said, “I am ready to go anywhere, provided it’s forward.” Live life in the present tense. Learn from the past but don’t live in the past. Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt! Getting victory over the past means you can have victory today.

So here is the point. No Christian has reached a state of perfection (**“I count not myself to have apprehended”** – laid hold of perfection). Therefore, you should not aim for perfection - aim for the goal of Christlikeness (**“I press toward the mark”** – **Philippians 4:13**) which is a transforming process where you are **“changed into the same image (of Christ) from glory to glory”** – one reflection of Christlikeness to another (**2 Corinthians 3:18**). Christlikeness in character and conduct should be the goal of the Christian walk on a daily basis – not perfection. Keep **“looking unto Jesus”** (**Hebrews 12:2**) and His victory for Christ alone will provide you with the incentive and inspiration to move forward and remain faithful to God after you have failed. Your victory does not lie in having your mind occupied with the enemy (Satan) but rather looking away from the enemy and keeping your eyes fixed upon Jesus and His victory!

So, despite your imperfections, you should always strive to be loyal to God, progressing in greater victory and sanctification in your daily life. The Lord wants you to be committed and faithful to Him (**1 Corinthians 4:2**), possessing your body **“in honour”** (**1 Thessalonians 4:4**), a respectful and dignified manner that reflects holiness, which involves a continual process of cleansing and obedience so you can live on the side of victory and not remain in the defeat mode of life.

Someone once said, **“I’m not perfect but I’m loyal.”** This sounds like a double standard. But realistically, this is true within the Christian life. You are not perfect. You do sin. **Winners are not people who never fail but people who never quit.** Therefore, when you sin you should always be quick to confess your sin (**1 John 1:9**), get right with God, and then seek to maintain an attitude and lifestyle of overall obedience and loyalty to God. You





do this by cleansing yourself or keeping yourself clean (maintaining purity) through applying Christ's victory to your daily life and obeying God as you Master.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves (by aggressively applying victory to your life and obeying God) **from all filthiness of the flesh** (the outward sins that overtake the body) **and spirit** (the inward sins that overtake your inner life, corrupt motives and thoughts), **perfecting holiness in the fear of God**” (maturing, reaching the goal of greater moral purity and sanctification as we demonstrate reverence and respect for God).

Staying clean is important in a morally polluted world. If you live spiritually soiled, you live in defeat. No, you are not perfect, nobody is, but you must learn to quickly clean up your life and remain faithful and loyal to God in your Christian life, experiencing more victories than defeats. Loyalty or faithfulness means you will strive to always live a clean life and remain “**unspotted from the world**” (**James 1:27**). You can cleanse yourself and live a holy life by actively applying God's victory to your life daily and being obedient to God. Don't give God instructions – just report for duty. Obey God. Don't put a question mark where God has put a period. Only you can take the initiative to choose victory over sin and remain faithful to God. Don't live in the “gray areas” or in the fog of neutrality. Obey God, stay clean, and stay faithful. **The ball is in your court!**



**Joshua 24:15** - “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” - sin or God, Satan or Jesus Christ. This is faithfulness. Victory boils down to a choice. You choose to do right or wrong. Living a Christian life of victory is not complicated. Make the right decisions and choices. You have no one else to blame but yourself when you make the wrong choice, sin, and dishonor your body which is God's vessel and temple.

➤ **Fake**

It's important to be real or genuine when seeking to live a victorious Christian life. Acting like you are pursuing victory



while in your heart you still want your old selfish ways (**Matthew 15:8**) is hypocrisy and will not result in being delivered from sin's power. Without the will to win you cannot be a winner. You are to **"be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ"** (**Philippians 1:10**). You must wear the belt of truth (**"loins girt about with truth"** - **Eph. 6:14**) if you want to experience victory in your life. This can refer to the *objective* truth of Scripture (believing we possess victory through the promises of Scripture) but it can also *subjectively* relate to being truthful, without pretense, hypocrisy, honest, filled with integrity, openness (**John 7:18, 28; 17:3**), a mode of life in harmony with what is right, truly wanting to possess victory in your life. **"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land"** (**Isaiah 1:19**). Have you ever said to God, "I am willing Lord to be just exactly what You want me to be."

**James 1:8** reveals, **"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."** This is the person who has divided interests and loyalties. It's when you waver back and forth and are undecided about following God. Also, beware of trying to keep one foot in the world while attempting to live in victory. This is impossible to do. **The will or desire to conquer is the first condition of victory.** You cannot be a phony and expect to live victorious over sin and Satan. You must possess a clear conscience free of sin and hypocrisy if you are going to be victorious. The problem is not with God's plan for victory – the problem is with your will. You really don't want victory. Your desire and loyalty is misplaced. You cannot expect victory and plan for defeat. You should desire **"truth in the inward parts"** (**Psalms 51:6**) - in the innermost recesses of your mind and heart. **Be real! Be truthful and genuine and victory will be yours.**

"I am resolved no longer to linger,  
Charmed by the world delights.  
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,  
These have allured my sight."

General Douglas MacArthur once said:

"It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it."

You must not only embrace or believe the truth that you are a victor in Christ, but at the same time you must be truthful before God, genuine, possessing no deceit regarding your inner desire to live a life of victory over sin. Your goose is cooked, you will suffer spiritual defeat, if you do not possess the desire to win and be victorious. The football coach said to his team, "We did not come here to lose but to win!" You are to run to win the race – not lose it (**Hebrews 12:1**). This should be your mindset when entering the spiritual battlefield.

➤ **Fact**

One thing you must always remember is that God *owns* you and therefore should *control* you. This is because your body is God's dwelling place. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** teaches

**You are a Temple of God**

**“that your body is the temple** (a dwelling place, a holy shrine that God owns, which is to remain holy and pure, demonstrating respect for God's presence) **of the Holy Ghost which is in you** (God lives on the inside of you), **which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?** (God owns us and we should reflect this ownership by the way we live and keep our bodies pure). **For ye are bought with a price** (Christ's death on the cross): **therefore glorify God** (bring honor and respect to God) **in your body** (the outward use of your body), **and in your spirit** (the inward life – your thoughts, decisions, passions), **which are God's”** (God's ownership).

God owns you lock, stock, and barrel. He possesses redemptive rights over your body and life. Therefore, you must effectively and dynamically pray so you can live victoriously and allow God to rule and control you. God wants to give us victory over temptation, circumstances, discouragement, the world, and self.

This brings you to the main part of the study. Together we want to investigate the practical points and prayers related to victory. After each point, you can write out some of the following starter prayers on notecards if they are helpful and advantageous to your spiritual victory and growth. Eventually you can pray without notecards, as you learn the secret of praying and claiming the promises of God, so you might experience greater victory in your life.

**1. Present your body to God in the moment of temptation.**

What we believe affects how we behave. For this reason, we must believe God's remedy for victory as outlined in Romans chapter six. **Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection He brought an official judgment on sin and provided a permanent victory for you over sin. Christ died to save us from the power and enslavement to sin.**

**Romans 6:11-13** - **“Likewise reckon** (count or consider it to be true by faith – take God at His word) **ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin** (freed from sin's power – you respond to temptation as a dead man!), **but alive unto God** (made

spiritually alive and given new life so you can now serve and live for God as your new Master) **through Jesus Christ our Lord** (through your union with Christ's death and resurrection power within you). **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body** (control your body and become a slave to sin), **that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.** **Neither yield** (present) **ye your members** (the members of your body –

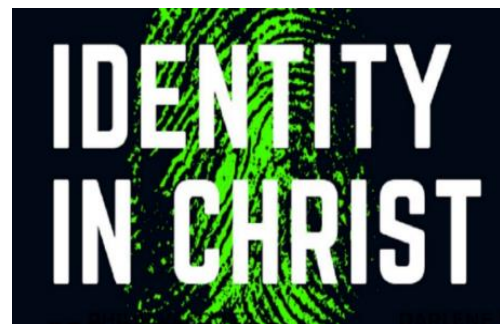


eyes, ears, nose, mouth, feet, hands, physical organs, etc.) **as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield** (present) **yourself unto God, as those that are alive from the dead** (who are born again and possess Jesus' resurrection power and life), **and your members** (the members of your body - tongue, eyes, ears, hands, all of your body parts) **as instruments of righteousness unto God."**

"Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin;  
Each vict'ry will help you, Some other to win;  
Fight valiantly onward, Evil passions subdue;  
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through."

**Romans 12:1** – "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God (in view of God's mercies extended to you), **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*"** (rational service and worship). The pathway to victory and obedience is surrender. You must yield to God. Relying on God must start all over every day.

Your IDENTITY (UNION) with Christ is important. It is a crucial part to living a victorious and sanctified life. Never forget this. Because you have died, were buried, and are now risen with Christ, as Romans 6 teaches, you can claim the victory that Christ has won for you over sin. Being in Christ, possessing a spiritual union with Christ, you have shared in His victory over sin.



You enter into His victory as though it were your own. The Bible teaches that you are identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. All this occurred in the past. **Outside of Christ, you were living in defeat; in Christ, you are already victorious.** Your identity in Christ is the key to victory.

**Romans 6:4-5** speaks of your identity or union with Christ and how you share in His victory: “Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was **raised** up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his **death**, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*.”

Your identity in Christ means that through union with His death, burial, and resurrection you actually shared in His victory over sin and Satan. His victory became your victory, and all of this came into effect and was made actual at the time of your salvation. Christ not only died and rose again to save you from the *penalty* of sin but also the *power* of sin. You need anchors in the storms of temptation. You need these truths to hold you steady. Your victory lies in the past.

**DEATH** with Christ indicates you died to the power of sin and the sin nature over your life. You are “**dead to sin**” (**Romans 6:2**) for Christ defeated the power of sin over your life in His death on the cross.

**BURIAL** with Christ (**Romans 6:4**) indicates the permanent putting away of the old life and person you used to be under sin’s power (“**seeing ye have put off the old man**” – **Colossians 3:9**). Your old self is six feet under – buried and gone!

**RESURRECTION** with Christ indicates you are now born again, sharing His resurrection life and power to live victorious and “**walk in newness of life**” (**Romans 6:4-5**).

This is your union or identity in Christ. Your old person and life as a slave to sin is **DEAD** (lifeless), **BURIED** (gone), but now you are **ALIVE** (with Christ – sharing His power for victory). A dead man cannot respond to sin. A buried man cannot come up from the grave. But a living (born again) man sharing Christ’s resurrection life and power can respond to God as his Master and live victoriously.

This identifying baptism (immersion) with Christ occurred when the Holy Spirit united you to Christ at the time of your salvation (**Galatians 3:27**), which in God’s reckoning placed you in union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, providing you with death to sin, the putting away of the old life, and bringing you into newness of life through sharing Christ’s risen and victorious life. Your water baptism is a picture of this victorious transaction!

**Romans 6:6** – “**Knowing this** (understanding and grasping this spiritual truth), **that our old man** (the old person you used to be under sin’s power and slavery to the



old nature) **is crucified with *him*** (put to death with Christ), **that the body of sin** (your physical body which was once ruled by the sin nature and the instrument of sin) **might be destroyed** (the relationship of your body to sin is rendered inactive, put out of business, and is therefore powerless over you since the power of sin was utterly broken by Christ), **that henceforth we should not serve sin**” (since sin no longer has the legal right to force its mastery and control on your life as a believer, for you have died with Christ and won the victory over sin).

Paul was not stating an experience you pass through in this life but a fact that occurred in the past. Christ died a death that judicially and positionally put to death the old person you used to be under sin’s enslavement, while at the same time passing judgment upon your sinful nature.

**Galatians 5:24** - “**And they that are Christ's have crucified** (past tense - at the moment you believed on Christ) **the flesh** (the sinful nature) **with the affections and lusts**” (through your union with Christ’s death and defeat of sin).

Through your spiritual union with Christ (sharing in His death), God has pronounced judgment against your flesh (sin nature). It is viewed by God as already being judged and condemned through your union with Christ’s death and burial. You must know the spiritual transaction that occurred and count it to be true in your daily living. When you died with Christ you died to sin’s power and mastery over your life. The power of sin was broken over your life. It no longer must rule you.

**Romans 6:11** – “**Likewise reckon** (count it to be true by faith) **ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin** (through your identification or union with Christ’s death you share in His defeat over sin), **but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord**” (you are made through your identification or union in Christ’s resurrection you possess spiritual life and power to live victoriously).

**Colossians 3:9** – “**Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have** (past tense - at the time of conversion and salvation) **put off the old man and with his deeds**” (the person you used to be with the sin nature ruling over your life). There is a positional putting off of the “**the old man**” (the unsaved and unregenerate person you used to be under sin’s power which was related to being in Adam) and a putting on of the “**the new man** (a born again or regenerated man with a new nature and new desires that is related to being in Christ and his victory over sin) **which after God is created** (you become a new spiritual creation and are born again) **in righteousness and true holiness**” – with the full potential to live a righteous and holy life (**Ephesians 4:22, 24**).

**This is a done deal – a finished transaction! The judicial judgment on the old man and nature has already been pronounced.** It was a positional judgment that occurred in the past when you were spiritually united and identified with Christ's victory over sin. It was like taking off an old set of dirty clothing and putting on a new set of clean clothes. You were removed from the realm of defeat (slavery to sin) and transferred into a new realm of victory in Christ. **Putting off the old man and crucifying the sin nature is not something you are to do. It's a statement of what God did for you.** The old man was put off and you became a new man in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature (you are a new spiritual creation that possesses new life, a new nature, new desires, new power, new victory through your union with Christ's life): **old things are passed away** (you have been severed from your past slavery to sin, your old sinful patterns of living when you were in Adam); **behold, all things are become new**” (you now possess a new life, new nature, new drives, new power, and a new determination to live a holy life through your union with Christ's resurrection).



Romans chapter six is the key to living the victorious Christian life. You must actively cooperate with God's plan for victory. Your part is to “**know**” or possess a deepening understanding of these wonderful truths of your death, burial, and resurrection with Christ (**Romans 6:6, 9**), “**reckon**” or count these spiritual realities as being true by faith (**Romans 6:11**). To reckon or count means to act in faith and credit the victory of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to your life by acting upon these truths and appropriating them through confident prayer and reliance upon Christ and the promises of victory (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). When you do this, you are then ready to “**yield**” (**Romans 6:13, 19**) to God as your Master and Lord instead of sin.

The knowing, reckoning, and yielding is a *mental process* that occurs whereby you give yourself over to these victorious positional truths (death, burial, and resurrection with Christ) and claim your victory in Christ. If you remain a slave to some particular sin it's because you have not truly gone through the mental process and by faith applied Christ's victory to your life. Of course, you might mentally understand about “reckoning” yourself dead, reckoning the old life as being buried and gone, and reckoning (counting it to be true) that you share the life of the risen

Christ and His power, but unless you claim this transaction by faith as the basis for your victory through persevering prayer, you won't have victory.

Furthermore, knowing precedes reckoning and yielding. You must first know the facts of the spiritual and victorious transaction that occurred with your death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, and then you must reckon or count all this as being true which should then result in surrendering (yielding) to God as your Master. The analogy and relationship between the **"vine and branches"** (**John 15:5**) means that you are spiritually united with Christ's life for the purpose of giving you a fruitful, victorious, and satisfying life (**John 4:14**).

"Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;  
Living with Jesus a new life divine;  
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,  
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine."

**"For he that is dead is freed from sin"** (**Romans 6:7**). **"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God"** (**Colossians 3:3**). This means we are dead to sin's enslaving *power* but not its *presence*. This is because the sin nature still exists within you creating an internal war or conflict of both bad and good. The sin nature tries to dominate your life by overriding the work of the Holy Spirit (**"the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh"** - **Galatians 5:17**). Remember that what your flesh wants and the Holy Spirit wants are total opposites. Each are seeking to gain control over your life in a different way. The Bible teaches that **"sin shall not have dominion over you"** (**Romans 6:14**), even though it is still present in you. Again, this death to sin is positional truth. Jesus died as your Representative and Emancipator (defeating sin's power over your life) and you share in His victory through union with Him. To know, reckon, and yield is God's Emancipation Proclamation for the Christian life. You must step out on believing ground, counting yourself to be dead unto sin but spiritual alive, sharing Christ's life and resurrection power.

**Colossians 2:11-12** explains your identification or union with the victorious Lord as a spiritual operation or supernatural work of God that took place in your life at conversion when the Spirit unites you to Christ (1 Cor. 12:13): **"In whom (union with Christ) also ye are**



**circumcised** (the non-physical but spiritual operation – circumcision or death to the flesh, the fallen sinful nature, which God performs within us by first positionally identifying us with Christ’s crucifixion or death – Rom. 6:3, 6-7) **with the circumcision made without hands** (not physical but spiritual in nature - without man’s physical and legalistic efforts), **in putting off** (laying aside - severing our relationship - breaking us away from) **the body of the sins of the flesh** (as in Romans 6:6 - being positionally released from a slave relationship with a sin-possessed body that was ruled by the sin nature - what you were in Adam - sinful, fallen, depraved, corrupt, and enslaved to the sinful nature through the vehicle of the human body) **by the circumcision of Christ** (the spiritual operation begins with our co-union or sharing in the victory of Christ’s death – Romans 6:6-7): **Buried with him in baptism** (the spiritual operation extends to your co-union or sharing in Christ’s burial where the old life is buried and gone - Romans 6:4a), **wherein also ye are risen with him** (the spiritual operation ends with your co-union or sharing in Christ’s resurrection which results in your new birth, being made alive spiritually and now possessing newness of life - Romans 6:4b-5) **through the faith of the operation** (effectual working) **of God** (faith in the supernatural work of God), **who hath raised him from the dead** (Christ’s resurrection).”

Circumcision with Christ is speaking of believers being set free from their sinful nature through union with Christ. Because of your union with Christ’s circumcision or death, you have died to the old man and its relationship with Adam and sin. This has freed you from the power of sin. The flesh, while still with you, has been stripped of its legal power over you, and you may enjoy deliverance as you believe the liberating message of union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection life.

**Galatians 1:4** - “**Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver (rescue) us from this present evil world (age), according to the will of God and our Father.**”

This is referring to a one-time deliverance, a completed transaction and transfer from the present age of intellectual, moral, and sinful darkness. Jesus not only died to deliver you from the *penalty* of sin but the *power* of sin. Christ’s sacrifice occurred once and the deliverance He won for you occurred once. The truth is that because you are identified or united to Christ’s death you share in His victory over sin and spiritual darkness. You are delivered! The power of sin has been broken in your life. Believe it and claim what Christ has given you – deliverance from sin’s power.

**Colossians 1:13** teaches a similar thing: “**Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.**” Once again,

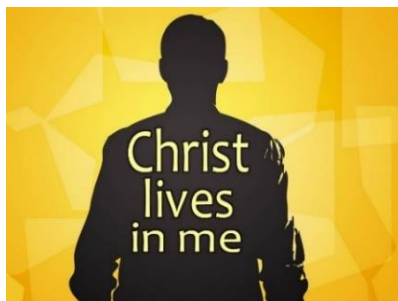
the word “**delivered**” speaks of your salvation and rescue from the power of darkness which includes sin, Satan, and his evil cohorts. This transaction occurs at the time of your salvation. The word “**power**” speaks of how you have been removed from the spiritual realm and authority of darkness (sin and Satan) and now have been given a new authority figure and Master for your life who is Jesus Christ. Through identification with Christ’s death, you are taken out of the realm of Satan’s kingdom of authority (a slave to sin and Satan) and placed into the spiritual sphere of Christ’s kingdom where you share Christ’s victory and authority over sin and Satan.

**Romans 6:18** explains it like this: “**Being then made free from sin** (it’s power and enslavement through our identification with Christ), **ye became the servants of righteousness.**”



Enjoy your freedom! But the only way you can do this is by putting into daily practice the dynamic trio of God’s victorious plan found in Romans 6 which is knowing, reckoning, and yielding. **KNOWING** you have died to sin’s mastery over your life (**in sharing Christ’s death**), that the old way of life is buried and gone (**in sharing Christ’s burial**) and you now possess resurrection power (**in sharing Christ’s resurrection**) means that you have the full potential to live in newness of life (**Romans 6:6,9**). It means you must no longer surrender to sin’s control and mastery. **RECKONING** all of this to true by faith means you can claim your victory in Christ, apply your victorious position to your life and say no to sin (**Romans 6:11**). As a result, you can keep **YIELDING** to God as your Master and Lord (**Romans 6:13,19**).

You are dealing with facts – not theories. This is not doctrinal fiction but divine facts. Knowing, reckoning, and yielding (the dynamic trio for victory over sin) is the weapon which God has placed in your hands to use in the time of battle. If you believe and apply these truths to your life you will experience victory.



**Galatians 2:20** – “**I am** (have been) **crucified with Christ** (the old unregenerate person you used to be under sin’s power and enslavement has been put to death through your union with Christ’s death and defeat of sin on the cross): **nevertheless I live** (you have been born again and now share Christ’s resurrection life and power to live victoriously); **yet not I** (you do not live by your own power and strength), **but Christ liveth in me**



(to grant you with power and victory): **and the life which I now live in the flesh** (physical flesh or body) **I live by the faith of the Son of God** (you are to depend on Christ's resurrection life and power within you, you must trust or express faith in Christ's present-day power and spiritual provision for your life, as He lives within your heart), **who loved me, and gave himself for me**" (the motivation to live a victorious life).

When you walk with Jesus, defeat turns into victory. A.W. Pink said, "Daily living by faith in Christ is what makes the difference between the sickly and the healthy Christian, between the defeated and the victorious saint." Being a Christ-indwelt Christian is the key to daily victory! When Paul says, "**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**" (**Ephesians 3:17**) he means that you should practice the presence of God, believing that Christ lives within you to empower your life and grant you victory over sin and Satan. Lee Roberson said, "The greatest faith is born in the hour of despair. When we can see no hope and no way out, then faith rises and brings the victory."

Notice that Christ dwells in your inner being (your heart) by faith – not feelings. Although Christ living within you does produce certain feelings and emotions of joy and gratitude, we are to act upon Christ's inner presence by faith, claiming His power and transforming grace. Again, faith rooted in facts must be our guide – not feelings. You might ask, "How can I increase my faith and be more victorious?" The Bible says in **Romans 10:17**, "**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" In other words, the greater you know and apply God's Word to your life the greater faith and victory you will possess.

**Galatians 5:24** again states: "**And they that are Christ's have crucified** (in the past at your conversion, when you were saved, placed in Christ, and given His victory) **the flesh** (the sinful nature) **with the affections and lusts.**"

Again, this is a judicial and positional victory that is already won for you. According to God's reckoning, He views your old self, along with your sin nature as being judged, dead, and buried with Christ (**Romans 6:3-5**). Paul is not talking about a present experience of self-crucifixion but a past fact that occurred when you died with Christ (**Romans 6:6,11**). Sin was positionally crucified or put to death in Christ's death and you shared in this victory over sin. Therefore, sin must no longer rule over your life. It's important to understand that the old sinful nature did not die within you (**Romans 7:14-25**), but it was positionally crucified with Christ, and you have died to its slavery and power over your life. You have died to sin, but sin has

not died or been eradicated in you. Don't fool yourself about this. The principle of indwelling sin still resides within you, but it does not have to rule you anymore. It is always possible that you might yield to sin, but it is no longer necessary.

Never think that by sheer willpower you can put to death your sin nature and keep the power of sin from overtaking your life. You are living in a dreamworld if you believe you can reform and conquer sin without God's help. Your death to the power and control of sin over your life has already occurred when you were placed in union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection at the time of your salvation (**Romans 6:5-6; Galatians 2:20**). This is what Galatians 5:24 is also teaching. Through your positional and spiritual UNION or IDENTITY with Christ, you have died to sin's power and now have Christ and His resurrection power ("**the power of his resurrection**" – **Philippians 3:10**) indwelling you so you can live victorious.



The victory is already won! All you must do is **reckon** it to be true (believe God's word it true) and then surrender or yield to God as your new Master, claiming the victory that is yours in Christ. Think about it, you are already a winner in Christ! Sometimes you don't always feel like a winner, but that doesn't mean you're not a winner (victor) in Christ's victory. You can essentially pray, "Lord I know and count it to be true that I have died to sin through my death with Christ. I also know and count it to be true that I am alive in Christ and share His resurrection power. On this basis, I can and will say no to sin."

In a practical way you can "**mortify** (put to death through self-mortification) **the deeds** (sinful deeds) **of the flesh**" (**Romans 8:13**), "**cast off the works of darkness**" (**Romans 13:12**), and "**denying ungodliness**" (**Titus 2:12**). This simply means you can stop sin from ruling your life. But you can never do this in your own power or strength. You can only do this when you prayerfully apply the victorious position that you already have in Christ to your daily temptations and struggles in life and therefore obey God. When you rely on your positional victory over sin (your identity in Christ), you can stop sin in its tracks. You can put it death or keep it from enslaving your life by claiming your spiritual identity in Christ's victory over sin.

**The Christian must declare war on sin! You cannot win the war by being passive.** Even though you may not win every battle, it should be your aim to put to death the sinful practices of the body by claiming your position in Christ and obeying God

as your Master. Of course, one defeat does not mean you lost the entire war. When you fail, you must get up, dust yourself off, and go for another battle. Never say, “I’ve fallen and can’t get up!” You can get up and reclaim your victory in Christ. The declaration of war on sin must always stand. Confess your sin and jump right back on the road to victory.

**I’VE FALLEN, AND  
I CAN GET UP!**

Again, the victory is already won! What is true *positionally* (victory in Christ) can and must become *practical* in your life when you yield to the indwelling power of God. In other words, from a practical perspective, you can say no to sin, put to death sin in your life, or stop it from ruling over you, when you yield to Christ and apply His blood-bought and resurrection victory to your daily life.

“He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free.”

**James 4:7** - “**Submit yourselves therefore to God** (in a military fashion place yourself under God’s authority and yield to Him and His way). **Resist the devil** (taking a defensive position, courageously stand against the Devil through claiming your victorious position in Christ, through the blood of Christ, and using the Scriptures – the sword of the Spirit), **and he will flee from you**” (God’s promise).

The word “**submit**” is a military term. Submitting and yielding is your personal responsibility. You are called upon to yield the members of your body “**as instruments of righteousness unto God**” (**Romans 6:13**). Submission means absolute surrender and allegiance to God. The resisting must be done on the basis of your identification with Christ and His victory over Satan for on the cross Christ overcame Satan’s power and authority, delivering you from His control over your life. Therefore, you can unreservedly yield to God.



As you can see, this is an aggressive resistance, not a passive warfare against Satan. This is a call to arms. You need to get with it and get ready for battle. Elsewhere in **1 Peter 5:9** you are called upon to resist Satan’s temptations - “**Whom resist steadfast**

**in the faith”** – the faith being the truth that all Christians embrace and believe, adherence to the Word of God. When the devil comes in like a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**), you must resist him by standing upon the truth of our victory in Christ.

Should you rebuke the Devil when resisting him? Resisting Satan does not mean talking to Satan. You should not dialogue with the Devil by speaking to him and rebuking him during temptation. Our focus is to be on Christ and not Satan (Heb. 12:2; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21). The New Testament epistles which are directed to the church reveal that you should deal with the Devil through resisting him. You do this by using the word of truth (**Matthew 4:6-7, 10; Ephesians 6:17**) and by faith claim your victorious position in Christ (**Romans 6**). The Christian is instructed to pray and talk to God - not the Devil (**Matthew 6:9**). Victory is not a shouting encounter with the Devil but a truth encounter. Furthermore, you are instructed to live by putting your faith in the power of the Son of God for victory (**Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 6:10**) - not by rebuking the Devil. Remember that you are not Jesus who directly encountered the Devil during his earthly ministry (**Luke 4:8, 41**) nor are you one of the apostles that were specially endowed to deal with the Devil and demons in an open and direct fashion (**Mark 6:7**). The Church epistles tell you how to have victory over the Devil. You resist him by submitting to God and standing on the truth.

You cannot kick Satan around like a plastic ball. Yes, in Christ you do have authority over him and his power (**Ephesians 1:19-23**), but you should follow the example of Michael the archangel and not openly rebuke him (**Jude 9**). You are told to resist the Devil and wrestle with demons (**Ephesians 6:12**) who represent Satan by submitting to God as your Master (**James 4:7**) – not by scolding the Devil. We also resist the Devil by using the truth, faith, our position in Christ, a guarded mind, and prayer (**Ephesians 6:14-18**). You do not go on the *offense* (chasing down demons and rebuking them) but set up a *defensive* stand against spiritual darkness and wickedness (**Ephesians 6:11, 13-14**) and claim the victorious ground you already possess in Christ. This is the instruction given to Church Age saints on how to have victory over Satan and demons.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** reveals that through Christ’s death he “**destroyed**” (rendered useless, deactivated, canceled, bring to an end) the power of the Devil over our lives who were once “**subject to bondage**” or the slavery of Satan. Jesus died on the cross to “**destroy the works of the devil**” over your life by freeing you from His power (**1 John 3:8**). This means the Devil has no right or authority to rule you anymore. His power has been broken and you no longer must yield to Him. Instead, you can submit to God by claiming your victory in Christ.

You can pray, “I have died with Christ and therefore I know that Satan has no more power over my life. The blood of Christ has made me free. Therefore, I resist this temptation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.” With God’s victory over Satan and infinite power on our side, Satan cannot overtake our lives. He no longer has authority over you. Enlarge your spiritual horizons and claim your victory over the Evil One.

The difference between a strong and weak believer is their faith in God’s provision. Remember that if you have the thought in the back of your mind that you are going to sin anyway, then you have not truly yielded or submitted to God. This is because you have not expressed sincere faith and confidence in His power and provision for victory. Yielding to God as your Master is not a feeling but a determined and purposed action of obedience that can only occur when you are firmly standing on victorious ground. **Don’t say I wish; say I will!** This is the settled confidence you are to have in God’s provision of victory for your life.

**Philippians 2:13** states, “**For it is God which worketh in you** (through your union with Christ) **both to will and to do of his good pleasure**” (sanctified and separated living through Christ). This means it is God that energizes you through granting you the willpower (“**to will**”) or the desire and determination to do what is right through the new nature. With God working in your heart you can truthfully say, “I want to do this.” At the same time you can say, “I can do this.” This is because God also gives you the power to accomplish His will for your life (“**to do**”). You can confidently say, “**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me**” (**Philippians 4:13**). You can do it through Christ!

**Every area is covered – the want to (incentive) and way to (power) for victorious living!** The only thing you must do is yield to God and let Him do a work of sanctifying grace in your heart and life. **Sometimes we must find the grace that we never knew!** We must discover that God provides us with the strengthening, enabling, victorious, and sanctifying grace we need to live an effective Christian life. God tells us, “**My grace is sufficient for thee**” (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). You cannot be victorious on your own strength or by complying to some list of rules. Your strength comes from the sufficiency of God and His power (**2 Corinthians 3:5**).

**Philippians 1:6** - “**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you** (deliverance from the penalty and power of sin) **will perform it** (execute and complete it) **until the day of Jesus Christ**” (deliverance from the presence of sin).

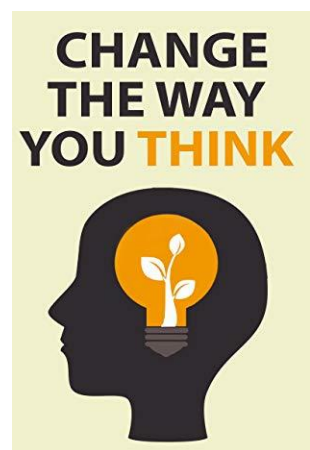


In other words, God is not going to give up on you! You can have total confidence that He will continue to work out sanctification, holiness, and victory in your life as you yield to Him. The greater you **“yield your members (the members of your body) servants to righteousness unto holiness” (Romans 6:19)**, the more victorious and spiritual your life will become. The victory has already been won through Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection and your IDENTIFICATION with Him and His victory. Sin has been defeated and you are already a victor in Christ. You have the promise of God’s continual sanctifying and life-transforming work taking place in your life.

It is Christ **“who will keep you from falling”** or stumbling into sin, falling away from Him and His way for your life (**Jude 24**). Now claim your victory through Christ, yield to God, trusting in His complete power and provision, and live on victorious ground.

**Prayer:** “Dear God, right now in the moment of temptation, I am presenting my body to You. I am giving myself to You since You are my Master. I am yielding every member or part of my body to You instead of sin. I submit myself to Your authority and mastery over my life. I turn away from the temptation of this sin because You have promised that I am free from sin’s power and no longer must live as a slave to sin. At this very moment, I resist Satan through the blood of the Lamb and dedicate myself and every part of my body to You. I claim my victory through Jesus Christ, Who defeated sin on His cross for me and gives me His resurrection power and victory today. ‘Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 15:57). Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## 2. Destroy the wrong thoughts during the time of temptation.



Don’t believe everything you think! Your thought life must be based on **“the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)**. Here is the game changer. If you don’t learn to control your thoughts, you will never learn how to control your behavior. Garbage in means garbage out. What consumes your mind controls your life. The way you think is the way you live. We are to possess a **“sound mind”** – a mind of self-control (**2 Timothy 1:7**). Remember that thinking a sinful thought or having a lustful or evil thought pass through your mind is not sin, but when you yield to the sinful thought (instead of God) and allow it to control you, it then becomes sin (**James 1:13-14**).

In other words, when you open the door of your mind and heart to sinful thoughts and willfully entertain them, then you pass from the place of innocence to personal guilt which results in the need for confession (**1 John 1:9**). You must take immediate action to get rid of sinful thoughts in your mind before these thoughts overtake your heart and life and cause you to sin. The Bible tells you how to do this through an aggressive mental process.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** – “**Casting down** (demolishing, imploding, destroying) **imaginings** (the sinful, lustful, angry, envious, prideful, bitter, unforgiving, negative, depressive and hopeless thoughts you are thinking about), **and every high thing** (a barrier that is seeking to stand between you and God) **that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God** (God’s character, ways, what is best and right for your life), **and bringing into captivity every thought** (surrendering each thought of your mind to God, to control every thought, making yourself think as you should by replacing wrong thoughts with right thoughts based upon the truth of God’s Word – **Ephesians 6:17**) **to the obedience of Christ**” (so you might obey Christ and follow His will for your life – allowing Him to be your Master instead of sin).

**Welcome to spiritual warfare!** The battlefield is the mind. Satan wants to control your thinking. The way to possess victory over your mind is simple: “**out with the bad and in with the good**” (replacing the bad with the good). More on this in the next point. You must do battle with Satan and sinister beings who are always seeking to place sinful thoughts in your mind and who are trying to defeat and control your life through mental manipulation. Satanic forces are all around you and are waiting for a chance to tempt and defeat your spiritual life. The attacks come upon your mind or thinking process. Satan and his emissaries seek to control your thought life by getting you to *doubt*, *distort*, and *deny* the truth of God’s Word. They will also try and get you to doubt God’s goodness (**Genesis 3:1-6**). Their end game is to remove your loyalty to God. Even if you sin with your eyes open, without deception, as Adam did (**1 Timothy 2:14**), you are still overcome by Satan for he has stolen your will and loyalty away from God.

When tempting you, demons try and pressure you to move away from God and His purpose for your life in what the Bible calls the “**evil day**” (**Ephesians 6:13**). They make sin look inviting, satisfying, and enticing (**James 1:14**) until like a trout swimming in the stream, you take the fake spinner and are caught in Satan’s trap.



Remember the old saying: “Sin will take you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay” (**Proverbs 13:15** - “the way of transgressors is hard”).

Many times, demons will get you to rationalize or justify your sin. They will try and get your thinking patterns away from your devotion to Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:3** reveals the “mind game” that goes on in our head through temptation. “**But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled (deceived) Eve through his subtilty (craftiness), so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity (singleness, devotion, sincerity, mental honesty, free from hypocrisy, openness) that is in Christ**” (our relational union with Him). Beware of mind manipulation. Be on guard. Know the truth about God and His Word and stand upon it. Don’t waver in your stance.

Evil thoughts come racing into your mind, and these thoughts or wicked imaginations are called “**the fiery darts of the wicked**” (**Ephesians 6:16**). In other words, they come from the Wicked One (Satan). As a result, you must mentally place upon yourself “**the helmet of salvation**” (**Ephesians 6:17**) or deliverance which speaks of your mind being delivered from evil thoughts. This deliverance occurs when you replace wrong thoughts with the truth of God’s Word. We will discover this in our next point. Of course, there are many trends in Christianity today but there is only one standard. God and His Word is the unchanging standard. “**Thy word above all**” (**Psalms 138:2**). This means the truth of the Bible should be placed above your feelings, passions, and selfish goals or desires.

The mind is connected with the heart. This is why the Bible says, “**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee**” (**Psalms 119:11**). D.L Moody said, “The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.” So, keep removing the sinful cobwebs from your mind and “renewing” (renovating – completely changing) the way you think (**Romans 12:2**) by applying God’s Word (truth) to your thinking process. Out with the bad and in with the good.

**When you fix your thoughts on God, God fixes your thoughts.** Once again, the thoughts which initially come into your mind are not a sin. It’s what you do with these thoughts that makes the difference. If you demolish them, you won’t sin. If you meditate on them, you will be defeated (**Matthew 5:28**). You have a short time span to rid yourself of these thoughts or else you will allow them to overcome and defeat you. Sometimes REPETITION will be necessary when battling with evil thoughts that seek to overtake your mind. God grants victory to those who persevere in prayer (“with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” -

**Ephesians 6:18**). You may have to repeatedly cast (implode or demolish) the sinful thoughts from your mind (**2 Corinthians 10:5**) before these wicked imaginations take root and cause you to sin. **Just keep on praying and claiming your victory in Christ.** Stay in the battle. Eventually the thoughts will leave, and victory will be yours.

“Pray when the storm clouds, Gather overhead,  
Hiding the light from you, Filling your soul with darkness and dread.  
Pray till the light breaks through,  
Just keep on praying till light breaks through,  
The Lord will answer you!  
God keeps His promise His word is true,  
Just keep on praying till the light breaks through.”

Dr. Harry Ironside used to quote a man from Wales. He answered in response to a question about how to avoid temptation, “I can’t keep the birds from flying over my head, but I can keep them from nesting in my hair.” Ironside was teaching that even though sinful thoughts enter your mind, you don’t need to be overcome by them. You can overcome them by demolishing those thoughts before they lead you into sin and defeat your Christian life.



**Prayer:** “Dear heavenly Father, at this very moment, while I’m being tempted to sin against You, I cast this sinful thought out of my thinking process, so it does not overtake my mind and heart and cause me to sin against You. According to the instruction and promise of God’s Word, I refuse to allow this sinful thought to control my life. I will not allow this sinful thought to become a barrier between me and You.

“Dear God, I want to do Your will and only those things that honor You. For this reason, I surrender this sinful thought to the obedience of Jesus Christ Who is now my Lord and Master. I want to follow the path that Jesus would choose to walk and yield to His authority over my life. Footprints of Jesus that make the pathway glow; I will follow the steps of Jesus where’er I go. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

### 3. Replace the bad with the good.

R. B. Ouellette said:

“When you have a choice between doing right and doing wrong, the only good time to do right is right away. It gets harder the longer you wait.”



It's good to get rid of the bad thoughts, but we should always remember to replace them with thought patterns that are biblical, holy, and righteous. **Out with the bad and in with the good!** Your mind cannot be neutral. Satan uses a vacant mind as a dumping ground. You cannot be neutral in your thinking or living. Beware of shifting into neutrality and possessing the disease of sanctified paralysis. Beware of shifting and drifting in your life. You must take action to rid yourself of the wicked imaginations that are overtaking your mind and heart and then replace them with a biblical thought process.

**Romans 12:2** - “**And be not conformed** (patterned or molded) **to this world:** (the fleshly, prideful, and sinful things that seek to overtake your heart and life which consist of a system of ideas, people, activities, purposes, pursuits, and pagan concepts which are against God and designed to take you way from God) **but be ye transformed** (changed into a spiritual Christian) **by the renewing of your mind** (by renovating and changing the way you think – thinking right thoughts that agree with God and the Bible), **that ye may prove** (know and discern) **what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**” (so you can know how to live a holy life that honors God).

**Ephesians 4:23** - “**And be renewed** (spiritually transformed) **in the spirit of your mind**” (possessing a mental attitude and disposition in relation to God and spiritual truth).

**Proverbs 23:7** - “**For as he thinketh in his heart** (the control center of your life), **so is he**” (how we think is the way we live).

**Philippians 4:8** - “**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true** (truthful, reliable, valid), **whatsoever things are honest** (honorable things worthy of respect and reverence - opposite of lies), **whatsoever things are just** (righteous in character, upright), **whatsoever things are pure** (holy), **whatsoever things are lovely** (acceptable, agreeable, and pleasing to God), **whatsoever things are of good report**



(something that is proper to openly talk about); **if there be any virtue** (something morally pure or good occurring in your life), **and if there be any praise** (something that is praiseworthy or commendable and honorable taking place in your life), **think on these things**” (reflect on the things that are true, pure, wholesome, holy, honorable, respectful, and righteous for they will spiritually transform your life).

How you think is how you live. What you think is what you become. Sow a thought – reap an action. Exchanging sinful thoughts with the righteous and wholesome thoughts of God’s Word, character, and ways will result in your victory. **Victory is won or lost in the battlefield of your mind. Ephesians 6:17** mentions the importance of the protective **“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”** (the rhema or spoken declaration) of God’s truth to help you obtain victory. You must speak victory - not defeat. Truth must replace falsehood. Your mind cannot be an open vacuum. You must only allow the absolute and unalterable standard of God’s truth to occupy your mind. Anything less will eventually lead to your defeat in some specific area. Jesus said, **“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).**

If you really want to be free from sin’s deception, bondage, and power, then seek what is spiritually real and true! Think on these things! Reflect and meditate on the true, righteous, and honorable things mentioned in Scripture and which pertain to God’s flawless character. God and His Word will grant you the victory over the sin nature and Satan’s temptations which often work in concert (together) to defeat your Christian life.

Earl Radmacher said it best:

“The truth of God establishes our vision, straightens our course, and resets our compass on the North Pole of accurate thought.”

If you are struggling with a particular sin, you can find some verses that deal specifically with that sin (worry, unforgiveness, anger, anxiety, lust, depression). You can then pray through the verses, agreeing with what God’s Word says about a specific sin, replacing the sinful thoughts that are seeking to overtake your life with God’s true thoughts, and then claim your victory over them. You can pray through verses dealing with God’s peace (**Isaiah 26:3-4; Philippians 4:7**) to rid your heart of anxiety. If you are dealing with anger or lust, find the verses that deal with those subjects (**Ephesians 4:26; 1 Peter 2:11**).

Agree with what God says about your sins and pray claiming God's truth, promise, and victory. You can also pray through verses that deal with victory (**Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 5:4**) to help you overcome particular sins that have been defeating your Christian life. You can do it! Get started right now. You are an overcomer in Christ. Now live like one!

**Prayer:** "Dear heavenly Father, I thank You that I can replace my sinful thoughts with holy and righteous thoughts. Right now, I want to mentally replace my sinful thoughts with only those thoughts that are true, holy, and pleasing in Your site. I claim 'the helmet of salvation' or my deliverance from thinking wrong thoughts, as Ephesians 6:17 declares, by replacing my sinful and wrong thoughts with righteous and good thoughts rooted in the truth of Your Word.

"Your Word tells me, 'Be ye holy for I am holy' (1 Pet. 1:16) and commands me to 'flee fornication' (1 Cor. 6:18). It reminds me to possess my vessel or body 'in sanctification and honour' (1 Thess. 4:4). At this very moment, I am replacing the wrong thoughts with the right thoughts, the sinful thoughts with the righteous thoughts, the unholy with the holy.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,  
By the pow'r of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
And my will be lost in Thine.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

#### 4. Claim God's victory by daily praying through the promises of God.

Remember: The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory! You must learn the secret of praying through the "the word of God" (**Ephesians 6:17**) or the spoken word of God, a statement about the Scripture. In other words, you are to use God's Word in the time of temptation. Praying through the promises of God's Word regarding victory over sin, Satan, and demons, and countering Satan's lies with "the word of truth" (**2 Timothy 2:15**) is a very powerful and proper way to experience your personal victory in Christ. In your spiritual warfare you must stand on God's promises of victory, claiming your victory in Christ, through heartfelt and purposeful praying.



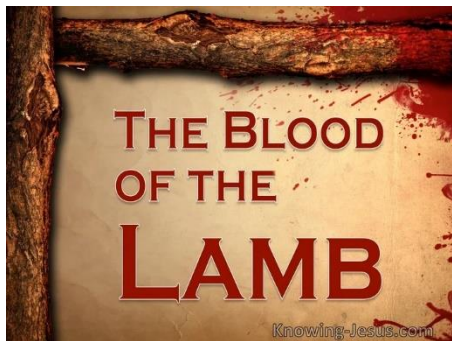
Again, we don't PRAY for victory but CLAIM our victory in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 2:14** – “Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph (have victory) in Christ.”

**Colossians 2:15** – “*And having spoiled* (defeated on the cross) **principalities and powers** (the Devil and demons that seek to overcome and defeat you), **he made a shew of them openly** (when Jesus died on the cross), **triumphing over them in it**” (Jesus getting the victory over the Devil and demons, so you can share in this same victory today). You are the winner and Satan is the loser!

Jesus paid it all on the cross when He died for your sins; He won it all to provide you with victory, and He deserves it all! We should surrender our lives to Him and live in victory (**Romans 12:1-2**). In other words, Christ won the victory on the cross by defeating the power that the Devil and demons held over you (**Hebrew 2:14-15**). If you claim the victory Christ has already given you, through prayer and faith, you can experience spiritual deliverance from the Devil's temptations and slavery.

**Revelation 12:11** - “**And they overcame him** (the Devil) **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony ...**” (a spoken word based upon your victory through the value of Christ's sacrificial blood and death).



This means you can experience victory through Christ's shed blood on the cross by claiming your victorious ground over sin and Satan. Not only are you saved from the power of sin but Satan's power through the shedding of Christ's blood and sacrificial death. S.D. Gordon said, “Prayer is repeating the victor's name (Jesus) into the ears of Satan and insisting on his retreat.”

Satan is utterly defeated, stripped of his power over your life through the shedding of Christ's blood and death (“**the prince of this world is judged**” - **John 16:11**). Satan lost the battle at the cross which is the reason the Lord Jesus could say in view of His cross that “**now shall the prince of this world** (Satan) **be cast out**” (**John 12:31**). You are protected from Satan's power by the blood of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death. You are under the blood. In your daily walk you must reckon by faith this to be true. You died with Christ and share Christ's defeat over Satan and his followers

(demons). Satan flees from the message of the blood! Do you want to be free from the power of sin? There's power in the blood!

“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.”

**Romans 8:31** – “If God *be* for us (God is on your side), **who can be against us?**” (no person, demon, or the Devil himself can overtake your life and defeat you).

“If God is for us, who can be against us?  
No power on Earth can take his love away,  
If God is for us, who can be against us?  
We can live in victory today!”

**Romans 8:37** - “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors (a super-conqueror) **through him that loved us**” (through Christ’s death on the cross where He defeated Satan’s power over our lives).

**1 Corinthians 15:57** – “But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (what Jesus did for you on the cross gives you victory over death, hell, and the strength or power of sin).

**1 John 2:13** - “I write unto you, young men (those who are targets of Satan), **because ye have overcome the wicked one**” (this means you are victor because Christ defeated the Devil for you and now shares this victory with you).

**1 John 3:8** - “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested (Jesus came into the world to die on the cross), **that he might destroy the works of the devil**” (the sinful works that the Devil generated in your heart and life to keep you in bondage or slavery).

Satan has been judged through Christ’s death on the cross. Both sin (**Romans 6:5-6; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9**). and Satan (**Colossians 2:14-15; John 12:31; 16:11**) have been utterly defeated. They have no power over you! Satan is a defeated foe. In God's timing Satan's full sentence will be carried out when he is cast into the eternal Lake of Fire (**Revelation 20:10**). According to Jesus’ words,

you have already seen the lightening related to Satan's judgment when he fell from Heaven (**Luke 10:18**); the thunder will follow!

The next time Satan reminds you of your past, remember about his future! Satan and his followers (demons) are defeated foes. Once again, you must claim your victory over Satan and the satanic strongholds in your life through your IDENTITY with Christ's utter demise and defeat of the Devil and demons through His death and resurrection. You share in Christ's victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. You don't have to be a loser. You are a winner!

**1 John 5:4** – “**and this is the victory that overcometh the world** (the system of sinful and carnal passions), **even our faith**” (by placing your faith in Christ you can claim your victory today over sin and Satan because you share this victory with Christ).

**1 John 4:4** – “... **Greater is he that is in you** (the Holy Spirit of God), **than he that is in the world**” (Satan and his workers)

**Philippians 4:13** – “**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me**” (who gives you the ability to overcome temptation).

**Ephesians 6:10** – “**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might**” (you must fully trust in Christ's power to give you victory and freedom from sin).

**Proverbs 18:10** - “**The name of the Lord is a strong tower** (providing stability and protection): **the righteous run to it, and are safe**” (not harmed, overtaken, defeated).

**Ephesians 6:13** – “**Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God** (all of God's protection by surrounding your life with it – possessing a sincere desire for victory, living a righteous life, knowing your position in Christ, maintaining faith, and adhering to the absolute standard of truth in God's Word), **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day** (the time of temptation), **and having done all, to stand**” (standing against the Devil and temptation and possessing victory in your life).

**Ephesians 6:16** – “**Above all, taking the shield of faith** (faith in God's presence, power, and promise found in the Bible), **wherewith ye shall be able to quench** (extinguish and stop) **all the fiery darts of the wicked**” (the powerful and strong temptations the Devil sends your way).

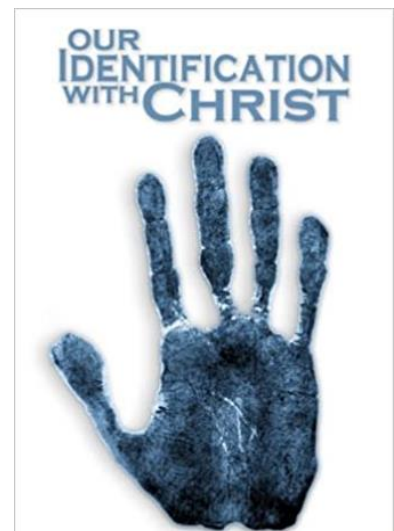


“Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in his strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer;  
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting (lacking) there.”

**1 Corinthians 10:13** – “**There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man** (we all face the same type of temptations – evil cravings that seek to rule over our lives – the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life – 1 John 2:15): **but God is faithful** (God can be trusted), **who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able** (God will control the pressure and power of the temptation); **but will with the temptation also make a way to escape** (by giving us His strength and power), **that ye may be able to bear it**” (so we can endure it, not be overcome by it, and get the victory over it).

**Remember: You are a victor - not a victim!** You don't need to live with a victim mentality. People say, “I'm trapped in this body.” “I cannot help myself.” Don't victimize yourself as a Christian. **The first rule for victory is not to lose. The second rule is not to forget the first rule.** Since we are in Christ and share His victory over sin and Satan, we do not have to be a loser. You must never be satisfied with losing. You must get angry, terribly angry about losing for the Bible says, “**be ye angry, and sin not**” (**Ephesians 4:26**).

**The problem with many Christians today is that they have an identity crisis.** Instead of identifying with Christ and the positional victory they have in Him, they identify with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. They want to identify with the culture and corrupt friendships instead of Christ. As previously mentioned, understanding your **IDENTITY** in Christ's victory over sin and Satan, through your union with Him and His victorious work, is a vital link to your personal and daily victory (Romans 6:1-15; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; John 12:31). The meaning of identification speaks of your association or identity with the sanctifying and victorious work of Jesus Christ (His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension).



You must also understand that you possess a peaceful standing of acceptance before God through your identity/position/standing/union with Christ. The Bible says you are to have **“your feet shod (bound) with the preparation (readiness) of the gospel (good news) of peace”** (**Ephesians 6:15**) which simply means that you must always be ready to use your position of a peaceful standing or acceptance before God through the Gospel (**Romans 5:1; 8:1**) during the time of temptation. The Gospel or good news of peace means that God is not angry with you, He loves you unconditionally, He has judicially forgiven you of all your sins, justified you, and has declared you legally righteous in His presence. Claim this precious truth and don't allow Satan to crush you with guilt, hopelessness, and condemnation.

God continually accepts you as His child; He will always forgive you when you fail and restore your fellowship with Him (**1 John 1:9**), and He will always be there for you. God won't let you down. He won't give up on you. He won't abandon you. Never forget that you are at peace with Him. God is not angry with you even though you might stray from Him. He fully and forever accepts you in Christ as justified, forgiven, and loved!

“I hear the accuser roar of ills that I have done.  
I know them all and thousands more.  
Jehovah findeth none.”

Christ's victory must be claimed and lived out in your life. You can do it through Christ. You don't have to surrender to sin. Put up your **“shield of faith”** (**Ephesians 6:16**) and claim your victory in Christ. Trust in His provision and power. You have new heights to climb. Live on higher ground!

“I'm pressing on the upward way  
New heights I'm gaining every day  
Still praying as I'm onward bound  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”

**Go higher – not lower!** Live your life on the highest plain. Up, up, and away you go! Many times you fail in your Christian life because you don't go high enough.

**Psalm 61:2** – **“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”**

**Psalm 121:1–3** - **“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help [cometh] from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will**

**not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.”**

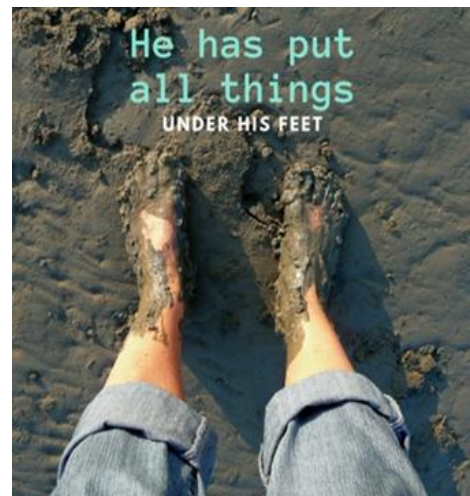
**Colossians 3:1** - **“If ye then be risen with Christ** (positionally sharing His risen and ascended life in the throne room of Heaven), **seek those things which are above** (*what we share with Christ in Heaven*), **where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God”** (seek His power and victory over Satan and the evil forces of sin and emulate Christlikeness - His character of holiness, righteousness, love, peace, joy, patience, and longsuffering toward others).



If we go high enough into the **“heavenly places”** (celestial realms) where Christ resides (**Ephesians 1:3; 20; 2:6; 3:10**), we will find ourselves in the throne room of Heaven (in Christ), forever accepted, pardoned, declared legally righteous, and sharing Christ’s blood-bought, risen, and ascended victory over sin and Satan! Our riches are not on earth but in Heaven!

**Ephesians 1:22** – **“And hath put all things under his feet** (Satan and his evil forces of demons are under Christ’s authority and power since He defeated them on the cross and ascended into Heaven declaring his victory over them), **and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.”**

Don’t forget your position or standing in the heavenly Christ! You are identified with Christ’s ascended authority over Satan. If everything is under the feet of the heavenly and victorious Christ, including the Devil and demons, the same is true for you! You share His risen life in Heaven. The sinister forces of this world do not have authority over your life any longer as a Christian. This is because they too are under your feet as you share in the victory of the risen, ascended, Lord of glory. **We need to keep looking up but also looking down from our victorious position in Christ!**



**Prayer:** “Dear God, I am claiming the victory promises that You have given to me in the Bible. I cannot fight on my own strength and gain victory. You have fought the

fight for me, and I claim the victory that You have already provided for me through the cross. I believe Satan's power is defeated and he can no longer keep me in slavery to sin. I can overcome the Devil's temptation, through the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ), as I proclaim the victory Jesus Christ provided for me.

"Since God is for me, neither sin nor Satan can overtake my life. I thank God that in Jesus Christ I have overcome the wicked one (Satan). I am a super-conqueror through Christ. I can triumph today and right now, at this very moment, in victory. I actively claim all the protection that You have given to me and place my faith in Your power and truth to give me victory over temptation. I want to live on the higher ground.

"Lord, I know this temptation does not have to overtake my life. You have promised to never allow temptation to be more than I can bear. You have made a way of escape for me. I stand against temptation and the Devil in the strength, victory, and power of Jesus Christ. I know that I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! O glorious victory, that overcomes the world. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## 5. Don't set yourself up to sin.

Doug Barnett remarked:

"If you don't want the Devil to tempt you with forbidden fruit, you had better keep out of his orchard."

**Romans 13:14** – "But put ye on (like a garment) the Lord Jesus Christ (through prayerfully and mentally applying to your life Christ's virtues and values – adopting His lifestyle – appropriating His person and power), and make not provision for the flesh (don't set yourself up to sin by placing stumbling blocks in your path), to fulfil the lusts thereof" (to follow the evil cravings and desires that seek to overtake your life).



In other words, you need to stay out of the Devil's neighborhood and not place yourself in those places and predicaments that will make it easier for you to sin. Be careful where you go, what you watch, who your friends are, and how you conduct yourself. You can set yourself up to sin by being careless. You dig your own grave and then jump in it! At all costs, do everything and anything you can to avoid sin.



This begins by making boundaries, so you don't keep falling into the same hole (**Luke 6:39**). How much longer are you going to allow yourself easy access to your particular besetting (**Hebrews 12:1**) and controlling sin? Spiritual boundaries are important. **2 Corinthians 6:17** commands you: "**Wherefore come out from among them** (the unsaved – their sinful patterns, perverted plans and places, pagan culture, and evil purposes), **and be ye separate** (making boundaries you won't cross over), **saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing** (that which is against God's nature of holiness); **and I will receive you**" (you will experience fellowship and communion with God). **Too often we put up with things we should put out of our lives.** Learn to discipline your life. Start right now!

The simple strategy of practicing Bible separation (making boundaries) from the perverted values and vices of worldly or carnal people (and the world in general) will greatly assist you in obtaining victory. Again, get out of the Devil's neighborhood. Separate from the sins and unrighteous ways of sinners as Jesus did (**Hebrews 7:26**). Remember if you don't take precautions and create boundaries between yourself and sinners, your light will not rub off on them - their darkness will rub off on you. Crossing over biblical boundaries will eventually result in sin. In other words, when you don't practice Bible separation from worldliness, the wicked, and their rebellious ways, you set yourself up for sin. The following verses remind you of the importance of not making it easy for you to sin by creating boundaries and promising to God that you will surrender and be devoted to Him.

**Psalm 101:3** - "**I will set** (dwell on something purposely, keep looking at it and wishing it was yours) **no wicked thing before mine eyes.**"

**Job 31:1** - "**I made a covenant with mine eyes** (to not use your eyes as the vehicle of sin); **why then should I think upon a maid?**" (commit lust in your heart through your eye gate).

**Proverbs 4:14-15** - "**Enter not into the path of the wicked** (don't sin with other sinners), **and go not in the way of evil men** (don't follow the path of sinners). **Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away**" (do everything you can to stay away from sinners – don't set yourself up to sin).



**Psalm 1:1** - “Blessed is the man that walketh (a casual compromise) **not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth** (a more settled compromise) **in the way of sinners, nor sitteth** (full-blown compromise) **in the seat of the scornful.**”

**This is the power of negative thinking!** In other words, do everything you can to stay far away from sin. Don't see how close you can get to the line! Don't straddle the fence. Don't walk on a tightrope above a ferocious crocodile! Don't take chances with sin. You should go as far as you can on the right road! Choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong. Live responsibly. Discipline yourself. Don't set yourself up for sin. Be cautious. Be smart. A wise person senses danger and takes action to avoid trouble.

**Matthew 6:13** – “**And lead us not into temptation** (God in His providence allows us to be tempted by the Devil so your prayer should be that you might be led away from temptation), **but deliver us from** (spare us from or deliver us out of) **evil**” (a humble prayer of a Christian who wants to stay far away from temptation and even escape temptation altogether, not allowing himself to be influenced and overcome by the Devil).

This is a plea for God's providential help in your daily battle with the temptation of sin. It's a request that God would minimize the occasions of your testing that could possibly result in your sinning. **It is a desire to stay as far away from sin as possible.** God does not tempt you (**James 1:13**) - only the Devil tempts you to sin (**1 Peter 5:8**). However, God often allows temptation to come into your life to test your faith, love, and loyalty to Him. Your prayer and desire should be to escape the time of temptation, as much as possible, since this gives you less opportunity to sin. In summary, you should possess a deep passion and longing to steer yourself away from sin. Take every possible step and road to not expose yourself to sin, so you might not be tempted or overcome by it.

**Prayer:** “Heavenly Father, right now I want to ‘put on the Lord Jesus Christ’ and not make it easy for me to sin. I reclaim the victory I have in Christ through His death on the cross. I will also rely on ‘the power of his resurrection’ (Phil. 3:10) to grant me victory today. I'm recommitting my life to Christ's victory so I might not knowingly or carelessly place myself in the areas of temptation. I do not want to make it easier for me to stumble and sin. I am also making ‘a covenant with mine



eyes' (Job 31:1) to not look at anyone or anything that will lead me to sin against You. Dear God, my desire is that through Your blessing, goodness and providence, You will 'deliver me from evil' (Matthew 6:13), that You will keep me from the very time of temptation, if it be pleasing to You. I am making this new pledge to stay as far away from sin as possible. My desire is to live for You.

“My life, my love I give to Thee, Thou Lamb of God who died for me;  
O may I ever faithful be, My Savior and my God!”

In Jesus' name, Amen.”

## 6. Run away from sin.

It's easier to avoid temptation than resist it! Run, run, run! Make tracks! Dr. Hutton used to say it like this: “God always makes a way of escape and sometimes the way of escape is the king's highway and a good pair of heels.”

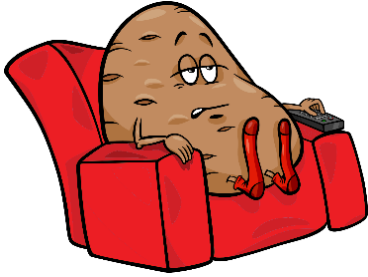
**2 Timothy 2:22** – “Flee also youthful lusts” (evil and lustful cravings that seek to control you during the early years of your life).



**1 Corinthians 6:18** – “Flee fornication” (sexual sin).

**Genesis 39:12** - “And she caught him (Joseph) by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out” (to escape the pressing temptation).

**Proverbs 4:14-15** - “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (from the sinful path). We must make a point to avoid sin which means to make the decision to turn from it and run away from it, as FAST as we can, and as FAR as we can. Running is still a good option! Go in the opposite direction of sin. **Don't see how close you can get to the line. Stay as far away from the line as possible!** Discipline yourself so you don't defile yourself (**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**). **Discipline is not legalism.** Legalism is when you try and have victory through your own strength and willpower, when trying to comply to some erected standard, but not relying on God's inner power for victory (**Romans 7:14-25**).



**You must also remember that idle hands are the Devil's workshop!** Keep yourself busy and active from both a physical and spiritual perspective (living and serving the Lord). Don't become a couch potato (lazy person). Satan likes to tempt us when we are lazy, tired, and not actively engaged in the spiritual battle and serving the Lord.

Vance Havner said:

"Many people are in a rut and a rut is nothing more than a grave with both ends kicked out."

**1 Timothy 5:13** - "**they learn to be idle** (you are lazy and not doing anything that is physically or spiritually profitable), **wandering about from house to house** (to disrupt the lives of others); **and not only idle, but tattlers also** (uttering foolish and silly things including gossip) **and busybodies** (you are fussing about things of no value while meddling in the affairs of others), **speaking things which they ought not**" (instead of minding your own business you are saying things which are of no spiritual value and detrimental to others).

In other words, it's important to stay busy and actively serving the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:58**), doing what is right, and you will keep yourself from much temptation and stay out of trouble. When David tarried at Jerusalem instead of being engaged in the fighting, he eventually committed adultery with Bathsheba (**2 Samuel 11:1-5**).

Here is the lesson to learn. Remaining idle in your Christian living and service, ignoring the spiritual battle that is occurring around you, will eventually result in your defeat and demise. So, stay active in your service and commitment to the Lord. You are to wear "**the breastplate of righteousness**" (**Ephesians 6:14**) which speaks of actively living a righteous life in your everyday decisions and actions. **If you expect to be in God's will tomorrow, you had better be in God's will today.** There is only one way to be right and many ways to be wrong. Don't complicate things. Just do right! Don't become in-active but actively pursue holiness. "**Be ye holy; for I am holy**" (**1 Peter 1:16**). Concentrating on righteous and holy living maintains victory in your life. You are not to view holiness as optional! If there is a hole in your holiness you cannot possess victory. Staying on the right road, the straight and narrow path, or maintaining a holy and righteous lifestyle, will keep you from experiencing defeat. Don't veer off the tried-and-true path.

Let's review some important matters. If you are going to live a righteous and victorious life then **don't make it easy to sin (Romans 13:14)**, **don't look at sin or fix your eyes upon it (Psalms 101:3)**, and be sure to **run away from sin (2 Timothy 2:22)**. This is good practical advice that will help you to walk in victory.

**Prayer:** "Lord, I am going to flee this temptation right now. I know I don't have to be in this specific place and predicament. Right now I make the choice to get up and move away from the temptation that I am facing. I will flee fornication and youthful lusts. I will avoid this wrong and sinful path. I choose to not pass by it. I turn away from it and ask for Your strength and claim my victory in Christ right now as I make this commitment and pledge to turn away from sin. I am taking charge of this situation as I rely upon Your strength and power. I don't want to be idle but actively serve You and do Your will for my life.

Humbly at Thy cross I'd stay,  
Jesus, keep me there, I pray;  
Teach me more of Thee each day,  
Jesus, blessed Jesus.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

## 7. Stay humble.

Don't think for one minute that just because you are doing better you can't fall back into sin. After the walls of Jericho fell, which was a great victory, the people were defeated at Ai (**Joshua 7:1-5**). Stay humble and totally dependent upon God for His power and victory. Don't become overconfident and think that you can't be overcome by temptation. The greatest danger occurs at the moment of victory. Don't let victories go to your head, or your failures go to your heart. Stay balanced.



**1 Corinthians 10:12** – “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth (that you can always possess victory and live right without falling into sin) **take heed** (be careful to not have confidence in your own self and don't boast about yourself) **lest he fall**” (into sin and are overcome by Satan's temptations).

**Hebrews 3:12** – “**Take heed** (consider your human frailties and weaknesses), **brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief** (no longer believe that God’s way is right and best for your own life), **in departing from the living God**” (you move away from God’s will for your life and sin).

**Proverbs 16:18** - “**Pride goeth before destruction** (a spiritual collapse), **and an haughty** (boastful) **spirit before a fall**” (being defeated by sin).

**James 4:10** – “**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up**” (honor your life with many blessings – including victory).



Don’t become overconfident in yourself. Maintain your confidence in Christ and His victory which He has provided for you. **If you don’t have confidence in Christ, you will always find a way not to win.** If you keep depending on Christ, yielded and surrendered to Him, you won’t come crashing down like Humpty Dumpty. Nor will you

live a roller coast (up and down) Christian life.

You can daily “**walk in the Spirit**” (**Galatians 5:25**) by experiencing His presence, power, and provision, enjoying freedom from sin’s enslavement as you rely upon the inner working of God’s strength in your life. You are also to be “**led by the Spirit**” (**Romans 8:14**), “**led of the Spirit**” (**Galatians 5:18**), being directed and guided in the way of victory, and “**filled with the Spirit**” (**Ephesians 5:18**), which means the Holy Spirit will dominate the way you think, the way you act, and the way you feel. These verses mean that the Holy Spirit will control you and enable you by His power to maintain victory. The problem is that you are sometimes filled with yourself and not the Spirit and therefore “quench” His life-transforming work in your life (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**). When you quench the Spirit, you put out the fire! You extinguish the flame of His inner work in your heart and life. True spiritual victory quenches your own will, not the Spirit’s will.

It’s the Holy Spirit that reveals and applies the life of Christ to you (“**the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**” - **Romans 8:2**). You are “**strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**” (**Ephesians 3:16-17**). In other words, there is an interrelationship between the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Both work together to grant you victory. You possess a personal relationship



with Christ through your union with Him (**Galatians 2:20**) and the Spirit makes this abiding relationship real to you (**John 14;16-20; 16:14**). Depending on Christ is the same as depending upon the Holy Spirit and vice-versa. The Holy Spirit wants us to experience our relationship with Christ (**Philippians 1:21**) as He works in our hearts to reveal Christ and His victory to us. The New Covenant ministry or “**newness of the Spirit**” (**Romans 7:6**) is the work of the Holy Spirit occurring in your life that produces a new freedom from sin’s slavery, a new motive of love in your service and living for the Lord, a new power, and a new way of sanctification and victory. All of these new things are experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit revealing your union and relationship with Christ.

**Prayer:** “Dear God, I don’t want to become lazy and complacent in my Christian life. I want to stay spiritually alert to sin and my own weakness and frailties. I want to ‘watch and pray’ (Matthew 26:41). I know that I can fall into sin if I take my eyes off You. I want to be ‘looking unto Jesus’ (Hebrews 12:2) and keep relying upon Him for victory. I humble myself before You, I fall before You in humility and acknowledge that without You ‘I can do nothing’ (John 15:5). I am totally dependent upon You to live victoriously. I need the newness of the Spirit operating in my life. I don’t want to be overcome and ruled by sin. At this very moment I reaffirm my total commitment, allegiance, and faith in You to grant me victory and freedom from sin. My desire it to surrender to You for victory because You are my Lord and Savior.

Bow the knee, Bow the knee  
He is King of all the ages, Bow the knee  
God alone on His throne  
See Him high and lifted up and bow the knee.  
Kneel before Him, All adore Him  
As you live to love Him more  
Bow the knee.

This is my prayer. I will bow before You in surrender. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## **8. Repent and confess your sin.**

Acknowledging your defeat is necessary to get you back on the right path. In fact, victory is sweeter for those who have known defeat. When you experience a defeat and are overcome by

**sin** **repent**  
**confess**

some specific sin, don't delay in repenting and confessing your sin before God. Get things right and restore your fellowship with God. The longer you wait to repent and confess your sin before God, the harder it gets.

**Revelation 2:5** - “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen (where and when you sinned against God and how you used to live for God), **and repent** (change your mind and heart about your sin), **and do the first works**” (go back to living for Jesus and serving Him).

To repent means to change your mind, attitude, and heart about your sin. You should see your sin as a terrible offense and stench before a holy God and want to forsake it.

**Isaiah 55:7** - “Let the wicked forsake his way (sinful way), and the unrighteous man his thoughts (sinful thoughts): and let him return unto the Lord (in fellowship and communion with God) and he will have mercy upon him (express sympathy to you); and to our God (our loving God who always accepts us and welcomes us back into His arms!), for he will abundantly pardon.”

**If you do business with God, God will do business with you.** He will forgive and cleanse your life from the stain of sin. Repentance in the Christian life is interrelated to the confession of sin. In fact, repentance results in the confession of your sin before God. The two harmoniously work together.

**1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins (name our sins before God), he is faithful (trustworthy) and just (righteous) to forgive us our sins (God will do what He promises), and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (forgive our sin so we can once again walk in fellowship and communion with God).

To experience occasional defeat is true of all Christians. Nobody is perfect (“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves” – **1 John 1:8**). E. Stanly Jones said, “Victorious living does not mean freedom from temptation, nor does it mean freedom from mistakes.” Therefore, when sin does invade your heart and life you must confess this specific sin to God and accept your forgiveness. Put it in the past (**Philippians 3:13**) and live in the present tense. It is important that you settle your accounts with God. Keep short accounts with God by quickly confessing your sin and getting right with Him. Don't delay in your confession. And don't try and cover up your sin and hide from God.

**Proverbs 28:13** – “He that covereth his sins (tries to hide them from God) shall not prosper (in their spiritual life): but whoso confesseth (names them before God) and forsaketh *them* (abandons them) shall have mercy” (God will express sympathy to you and forgive your sin).

Again, remember that one defeat in your battle with sin and Satan does not mean you have lost the entire war. If you fall off a bike you pick yourself up, get back on the bike, and start riding again. **Proverbs 24:16** says, “For a just man falleth (into trouble or calamity) seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (stumble to his ruin in a single misfortune). If



you sin and fail in your Christian life, immediately confess your sin to God and begin to walk in victory and fellowship with God once again (**James 4:7-8**). You cannot afford to live in your past defeat. **The Christian life is a series of new beginnings!** You must forget the things that are behind you by accepting Christ’s forgiveness and refusing to allow them to destroy your spiritual life today. You must get right with God and move forward. **It only takes a spark to get a fire going!** Let God ignite your soul and passion again for living victoriously and virtuously, fruitfully and faithfully for the Lord.

**Philippians 3:13** again reminds you: ... “but *this one thing I do* (not many things), forgetting those things which are behind (past sins, defeats, lost time), and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (new victories, new beginnings, new spiritual goals, new life in Christ so I can become more like Christ).

**You cannot live victoriously by looking in the rearview mirror.** You cannot allow past regrets and defeats to run your life today. You cannot rewrite history. Get a fresh start in life. Begin a new way of life.

**Prayer:** “Dear Father, I have sinned against You. I don’t want to go on living in my sin. I can’t stand offending and hurting You. I want to specifically confess my sin of \_\_\_\_\_ right now. I want to forsake my sin and put it behind me. I ask for Your forgiveness and do claim Your gracious and merciful promise of forgiveness. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51:10). Thank You for loving me unconditionally even when I fail You. I’m so thankful that nothing will

ever 'separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus' (Rom. 8:38-39). Thank You for always being there for me. I've never been out of Your care and loving embrace. Thank You for not giving up on me. I do love You and want to live for You and serve You. I want to experience new victory in my life, a new beginning, a fresh start. My goal is to become more like You Son Jesus Christ. I surrender my life to Thee.

"I will serve Thee because I love Thee  
You have given life to me.  
I was nothing before You found me,  
You have given life to me."

In Jesus' name, Amen."

## 9. Take back the territory.

Satan wants to steal our freedom or liberty we have from sin (**Romans 6:18, 22; John 8:36**) and one way he does this is by stealing small portions of our hearts and lives.

**Ephesians 4:27** brings out this concept of warfare: "Neither give place to the devil" (a specific opportunity and way for the Devil to get his foot in the door and work in our lives). In other words, don't allow sin and the Devil to have it's fling in your life!



The concept of giving "place" or ground and territory to the enemy (Satan) is very critical. Sometimes spiritual territory needs to be reclaimed for God if you have allowed Satan to control your life in some specific area (physically, emotionally, spiritually, sexually, musically, monetarily, lustfully, pridefully). It has been said, "The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy."

**2 Corinthians 2:11** - "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: (a part, portion, gain, or share in our life) **for we are not ignorant of his devices**" (the deceptive tricks and ways Satan tries to trap and defeat our lives).

The Devil strategically and subtilty (**Genesis 3:1**) tries to get an "advantage" or portion of our lives when we "give place" to him. You do this when you allow the Devil to begin a tiny or very small sinful work in your heart and life (bitterness,

unforgiveness, pride). This means you can surrender some aspect of your life and do the Devil's will and bidding instead of following God's will for your life in a certain area. As a result, the Devil steals away your total allegiance to Jesus Christ and controls part of your life. **But if you give the Devil an inch of ground, he will want to take a yard!** The Devil knows your "Achilles heel" or your vulnerability and weakness and will often target this area seeking to take over some territory in your heart and life. He knows what your trigger points are which will lead you away from the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3) into the paths of sin.

You must never forget that God wants the keys to every room of your heart. Beware of opening a space or room where the Devil can begin to overtake your life. Giving place to the Devil (**Ephesians 4:27**) means to give him a foothold or a beachhead (starting or entry point) to work from. You allow Satan to take control of one area of your life when you become involved with sin and fail to confess and forsake it, or when the Devil deceives you, and you no longer think that what you are doing is a sin (**Hebrews 3:13**). Satan can in a subtle and sneaky way steal ground or territory in your Christian heart and life which God wants to possess and rule. And remember, if you allow Satan to get a portion of your life, it will weaken you spiritually and keep you from possessing victories in other areas. It will eventually disconnect you from God's fellowship, power, and victory. Don't give ground to the Devil. It will have a bad ending.

**Ephesians 6:11** calls this "the wiles of the devil" (his tricks and deceptive ways). The Evil One wants to deceive you about your sinful state and the ground you have surrendered to him. E. M. bounds wrote: "The devil disguises sin as the colors of the rainbow." The Devil uses "the lust of the flesh" (unlawful passions = indulgence) "the lust of the eyes" (unlawful perception = visual), and "the pride of life" (unlawful position = recognition) as the center of his temptation tricks (**1 John 2:16**). Don't fall for his old bag of tricks!

The Devil calls it weakness – God calls it willful rebellion; the Devil calls it an accident – God calls it an abomination; the Devil calls it ignorance, but God calls it iniquity; the Devil calls it sickness – God calls it sin. You might rationalize away your sin and conclude: "I don't believe my lifestyle is wrong." **But what you believe is not important - what God believes is important!** Your opinion does not matter. Admit when you have sinned against God. Don't allow the Devil to get you to *doubt, dilute, deny, and disobey* God's Word (**Genesis 3:1-6**). Satan wants to steal truth from your heart (**Matthew 13:19**). Eventually, the Devil will try and take more and more of



your life by deception and trickery that comes through mental manipulation – his “**devices**” (mental suggestions and purposes) that run contrary to the absolute standard of God’s truth (**2 Corinthians 2:11**). The good news is that you can take back the territory that the Devil has stolen from your heart and life through knowing the truth, repentance, and confession.

**Prayer:** “Dear Lord and Master, I want to reclaim the territory that Satan has stolen from my heart and life. I acknowledge my transgression against You and know that I have sinned. The Devil has overtaken a specific area of my life and I want to rededicate my life, all of my life and every part of my body, back into Your hands, so I can once again be used for Your holy purposes and glory.

“Father, I don’t want to open myself up to Satan’s deception any longer. I want to discipline my life by Your power and victory and bring my body ‘into subjection’ (1 Cor. 9:27). I refuse to allow the Devil to have His way in my life any longer. Take me, I’m Yours. Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in endless praise. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## 10. Live with a new purpose.

**Daniel 1:8** – “**But Daniel purposed in his heart** (made a decision and lived with his convictions) **that he would not defile himself**” (sin against God and spiritually corrupt his life).

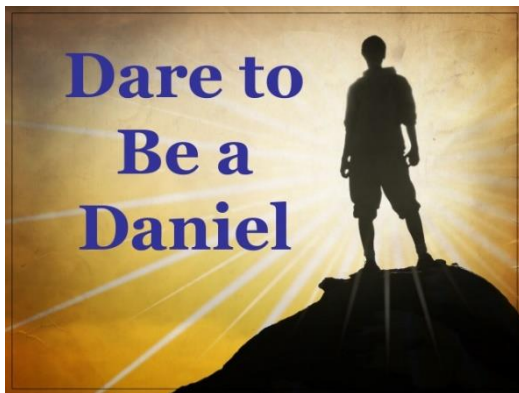


Daniel was committed to purity. His spiritual motto was: “**No compromise.**” Don’t try and get on the same side as the world. Don’t give in. Don’t drift with the current of the times. Don’t become “wishy-washy.” There are times you must say NO!



You must have the same fixed purpose and goal in life as Daniel. Your purpose and deep conviction should be to wholeheartedly live for God and not corrupt your body and life with sin. Caleb and Joshua “wholly followed the LORD” (**Numbers 32:12**). These men were consecrated to God’s way and purpose for their lives. They made the decision to follow God without reservation. There would be no *retreats*, *regrets*, or *reversals*. This was their mindset. You should also possess this same mindset and purpose today. Paul also “**purposed in the spirit**” (**Acts 19:21**).

Don't follow the ideology that says, "We are all in the same boat, we are sinful Christian buddies who often fail, and we must be content with a certain amount of failure." This is a half-backed approach to victory and is actually a defeatist mentality. This type of thinking opens you up to defeat – not victory. Don't second guess the path God wants you to walk and the victory that is yours in Christ. Don't search for a second opinion or philosophy that will permit you to have your selfish way. Follow your biblical purpose and conviction and don't waver back and forth. God isn't a talent scout looking for someone who is "good enough" or "strong enough." Vance Havner once said: "God is looking for someone with a heart set on Him, and He will do the rest." Be like Daniel and possess resolve and a purposed heart of deep conviction to do what is right. This is where the rubber meets the road!



"Standing by a purpose true,  
Heeding God's command,  
Honor them, the faithful few!  
All hail to Daniel's Band!  
Dare to be a Daniel!  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm!  
Dare to make it known!"

**James 4:8** – “Draw nigh to God (you take the initiative), and he will draw nigh to you (your desire to fellowship with God means God will fellowship with You). **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners** (the outward body from sinful practices); **and purify your hearts** (referring to your inward motives and desires), **ye double minded**” (wavering and being divided in your loyalty between God and a sinful lifestyle).

Cleansing is always the prerequisite to fellowship with God. You cleanse your life through confession and a newfound commitment to remain loyal to God, not possessing mixed or divided motives and emotions regarding living for God versus your sinful desires. You need to be like Daniel possessing a single purpose and not a divided attitude about your commitment to God's will for your life. Don't be divided in your loyalty and try to walk the middle of the road. Like Daniel, purpose in your heart to not defile yourself.

**Psalm 40:8** – “**I delight to do thy will** (whatever God wants you to do and however He wants you to live), **O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart**” (God’s truth is in your heart and with your whole heart you should want to follow God).

Jesus said in **John 8:29**, “**for I do always those things that please him**” (God the Father). Do you really want to please God with your life? Do you want victory? Are you really serious about doing God’s will? If so, make your choice. Stand your ground. Don’t give any territory to the Devil. Don’t allow sin to defeat you. **You don’t have to sin. You can say no to sin.**

**2 Corinthians 7:1** again declares, “**cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh** (outward sins of the body) **and spirit**” (inward sins, wrong motives and thoughts, our stubborn will, emotional rebellion) by prayerfully acknowledging and claiming your victory in Christ and therefore obeying God instead of following sin.

Through God’s inner strength and power, you can yield to God and **choose not to sin**. Never forget what you have studied about concerning your IDENTITY in Christ and His victory. **You are a victor - not a victim!** Remember that you are what you think! You are an overcomer in Christ which means you no longer must be overtaken by sin and ruled by Satan. Satan no longer has authority over your life.

“Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”

**Philippians 1:6** once again reminds you that God will never give up on you: “**Being confident** (persuaded) **of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you** (salvation from the penalty and power of sin) **will perform it** (execute it and bring it to completion) **until the day of Jesus Christ**” (salvation from the presence of sin).

This is God’s promise! God is not finished with you! He will never give up on you. He will keep working in your heart and life to give you victory, transform your life, and make you more like Christ.

“He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be.  
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars,  
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.  
How loving and patient He must be, He's still working on me.”



I was talking to a Christian man in a grocery store who said to me, “I gave up.” In other words, he *gave in* and *gave up* fighting for the right cause and stopped battling sin, error, and unsanctified living. You must continue to ask the question: “**Is there not a cause?**” (**1 Samuel 17:29**). Christian friend, there is a righteous cause, and you should never give up for God has not given up on you! You are a victor (overcomer) in the victory of Jesus Christ! You are on the winning team! **Don’t live beneath your privileges.** You have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). They are at your disposal. Claim your riches in Christ and live victoriously.

“On the victory side, On the victory side;  
No foe can daunt me, No fear can haunt me,  
On the victory side,  
On the victory side, On the victory side;  
With Christ within, the fight we'll win,  
On the victory side.”

**2 Chronicles 20:15** - ... “**Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.**”

**Proverbs 21:31** – “**The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety (deliverance or victory) is of the LORD.**”

When you turn your spiritual battle over to the Lord and depend on His supernatural power – the battle really becomes God’s battle! Bringing this into the New Testament perspective, you are not fighting FOR victory but FROM the victory the Lord has already won for you. All you must do is yield or surrender to Him (**Romans 6:13, 16; 12:1**) during your earthly battles with temptation and the Lord will give you the supernatural strength to be victorious as you claim your victory in Christ. The victory is already yours through your identification with Christ on the cross and the strength that comes from your identification with Christ and His resurrection power which resides within you today (“**the power of his resurrection**”

- **Philippians 3:10**). Therefore, you can “**be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might**” (**Ephesians 6:10**). “**For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you**” (**Deuteronomy 20:4**). The strength of the Lord comes from within you, and you can be sure God is on your side! He will give you the victory. Remember that victory is not the absence of problems, it is the presence of power - God’s power operating inside of you!

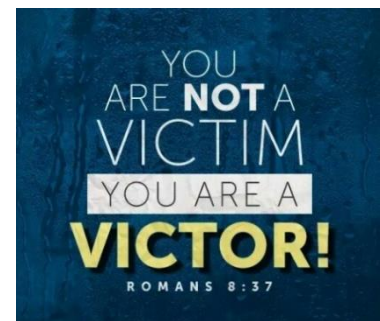
So, the battle is not yours but God’s! He has *done* everything and *given* you everything so you can experience victory. You lack nothing. You are “**complete in him**” (**Colossians 2:10**) – in Christ’s sufficiency. Cast your faith upon the Lord. He has already won the battle and will make sure you win. John Piper said, “The most dangerous thing in the world is the sin of self-reliance.” Our self-sufficiency must be exchanged for Christ’s sufficiency. Our selfishness must be overcome by Christ’s supernatural power working within us (“**the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe**” – **Ephesians 1:19**).

**Prayer:** “Dear Lord, I want to live life to the fullest. I want to live the abundant life that Jesus promised I could have on a daily basis (John 10:10). Thank You for not giving up on me. I will not give up on You. My purpose is to do Your will and not stray from Your plan for my life. I want to remain strong in my convictions like Daniel and not defile my life with sin. I know that You have provided victory for me in Christ. Through Jesus Christ I am no longer a victim of sin and Satan. I am a victor in Jesus Christ and want to please Him with my life. I want to live with this new purpose, conviction, and vision for my life. I am on the battlefield for my Lord. I have decided to follow Jesus and there is no turning back for me. I want to remain dedicated to You as my Master, Lord, and Savior.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself for me;  
I own no other Master, My heart Shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

I pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Again, you are what you think! Don’t remain in the defeat mode. Reboot your spiritual life. Today is a new day, so rise up and move forward in the victory God has already given you! **Every day is a chance to begin again! Every new day is a chance to change something in your life.** With the new





day comes new strength, new thoughts, and new victories. Rise and shine, it's a new day, a new way, a new life, and a new start. The past is gone and today can be full of victorious blessings. Wake up, get up, and light up for Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:37

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

“We are more than conquerors  
Thru Him who loved us so.  
The Christ who dwells in us  
Is the greatest pow'r we know.  
He will fight beside us  
Tho' the enemy is great.  
Who can stand against us  
He's the Captain of our fate.

Then we will conquer never fear  
So let the battle rage.  
He has promised to be near  
Until the end of the age.  
We are more than conquerors  
Thru Him who loved us so.  
The Christ who dwells within us  
Is the greatest pow'r we know.”

