

ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES
TOOLS FOR LIFE
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CHRIST GIVES THE VICTORY

Until the Christian comes to understand and experience what it means to let Christ give him His victory, he will not experience the consistently obedient life he desires. In today's devotional I will present how to let Christ live out His victorious life in you. When you come to understand and experience this truth, your Christian life will never again be the same. Instead of a life of sporadic obedience and broken promises to God, you will, in time, experience a life of victory through Christ over every temptation and sin that Satan brings your way.

Is such a consistently obedient life really possible? Can we truly have victory over every temptation and sin in our life? That is the kind of life God calls us to live:

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6).
“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (verses 11-14).

Ellen White agrees:

“He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God” (*Manuscripts 161, 1897, p. 9*).

So what is the answer to how we can live a consistently victorious Christian life? The answer is to let Jesus live out His life of victory in us, a truth taught throughout the Bible.

“I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I

shall not be moved” (Ps. 16:8).

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (Isa. 26:3, 4).

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:4, 5).

Christ’s mind was filled with pure, holy, virtuous thoughts. If we have asked Christ to live in us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, if we believe He does, and if we believe He will manifest His love – His pure, holy, virtuous thoughts in our minds – He will do just that. It is a matter of faith; believing He will truly manifest Himself in our lives. Paul recognized this fact when he wrote:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Eph. 3:16, 17).

In order to experience true abiding in Christ you must realize that Jesus does literally abide in you. He said that He does, and you can believe Him. This happens as you daily receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:16 – 18).

“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us” (1 John 3:24).

With Jesus living in you, you have His mind:

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

We have His love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance – all the fruit of the Spirit:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Gal. 5:22, 23).

Through Jesus living in us via the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we have His likes and dislikes, His pure thoughts, His forgiveness – the list could go on and on. Every virtue of Christ is in you through Christ abiding in you.

How is the Christian to apply this truth? Simply put, the steps are these. When you become aware of a temptation to sin:

1. Choose to turn your mind immediately away from the temptation:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

2. Believe that the power of your sinful nature’s attraction to the temptation to control you is broken.

3. Believe Jesus is in you, and ask Him to manifest His virtue in you in relation to the temptation. Be specific.

4. Believe that He will manifest Himself in that manner, rest in that belief, and don’t fight the temptation. When we fight the temptation we are actually focusing on it and trying to resist it in our own strength rather than looking to Jesus for the victory:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1, 2).

5. Thank Him for the deliverance He has just given you.

Personal Reflection and Discussion

According to the Bible and Ellen White, is a consistently obedient life possible?

What does the Bible teach about Jesus living in the Christian? Give Bible verses.

What is the benefit to you of having Christ live in you?

What are the steps to allow Jesus to give you victory over a temptation?

How do you plan to apply this teaching in your personal life?

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