

THE SECRET OF VICTORIOUS LIVING

Acts 9:1-6

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Looking around at Christians, it is very obvious that some are living busy, victorious lives for the Lord, constantly doing something for Him and then there are those who are just living - nothing going on in their lives, just the same old routine stuff. Every Christian is saved the same way by his/her belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and that happens suddenly, not a long drawn out process, so why are some Christians active in doing things for the Lord and some are not? Paul's conversion and life thereafter is an example of the secret of victorious living.

I. WHAT FOLLOWS SALVATION IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING

1. Paul encountered the Lord Jesus on a road and was blinded but became a believer and then asked what the Lord wanted him to do.
 - He wanted to do something for the Lord Jesus.
2. Paul was not told to do anything great but simply get up and go on where he was going before he met the Lord.
3. Paul did what he was told. Ever think about the difference IF Paul had disobeyed and simply turned back?
4. Paul did not question but accepted what he was told to do.
5. The example Paul gives is whatever the Lord has in mind for any Christian is to simply do what the Lord wants whether understood or not, whether it is what one wants or not, just do it.
6. Consider the results of Paul's obeying the simple command, "*...Arise, and go into the city....*"
7. The next thing after salvation the Christian is to do is DO what Jesus says without question.

II. OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD JESUS MAKES ALL THINGS NEW

1. Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians but was saved on the roadside and that changed his whole being.
2. Paul was told to continue on to Damascus, not some new direction, not some new city, just keep on going the direction he was already going.
3. Like Paul, sometimes the Lord Jesus gives no drastic, new direction or change in a person's life after being saved, things seem to be the same, except one's life and purpose have changed drastically.
4. Paul's destination was still the same after being saved, but the purpose of his going had been changed.
5. Obeying the Lord Jesus gives one a new purpose, vision for the same old surroundings, all things become new.

III. ONE CAN BECOME A LIGHT ON THE SAME OLD ROAD

1. Life is routine and there are periods when one is content, happy, satisfied, "going with the flow" and there is no desire to change anything.
 - However during life there comes a desire for change or changes happen unexpectedly and things happen.
 - The road to Damascus becomes boring and a new direction is desired.
 - It's not easy to keep on doing the same old things, going the same old direction and a great desire for change sweeps over a person.

2. Thus it is so with Christians who, like Paul, are told to continue on the road to Damascus. "Surely the Lord has something else, somewhere else that He needs me to do or go..."
3. Duty, obedience, vision does not mean there is going to be a change in location, change in direction, change in vocation, etc..
4. The Lord Jesus wants Christians to "shine," to be a "light" in the same old familiar "road," area of one's life.
5. The secret to victorious living is to be obedient to whatever the Lord Jesus wants, no matter how boring or uninteresting it might appear.

CONCLUSION:

1. Paul is a wonderful example of how to live a victorious life - he was obedient and did what the Lord Jesus told him to do, even though he wanted, at times, to do otherwise.
2. What if EVERYBODY who is saved changed direction, "roads" and became totally strangers where they had been living? Who would be left to witness? To teach? To do the Lord's will?
3. Everybody is saved the same way, by belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and that happens instantly, but living as the Lord Jesus wants is a day by day process, a gradual, slow way of obedient lifestyle.
4. As Paul was told by the Lord to continue on his way to where he had been headed, to Damascus, after his being saved, so the same command is given to most Christians, continue on where you are, however your purpose in life has been changed.