

## PERILS OF THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

### John 10:7-10

**Introduction:** Christians sing the hymn, "Moment by Moment" which describes how to live with the Lord properly and hear messages about living a "Christ-centered life," on "letting Christ have complete control, etc." We need to be aware that once we have given ourselves to the Lord Jesus and are tasting the victorious life, there are some things Christians need to be on the alert/watch/look-out for.

### I. THERE IS THE TEMPTATION TO "HELP" - THUS SELF-EFFORT

1. We have a tendency to hug, to cling to the new victorious life, making effort, trying to do something ourselves to keep the indwelling of the Lord within us.
2. Satan tries to get us thinking that we can lose Jesus Christ, we can lose our salvation, that we can lose this wonderful victorious life.
  - We need to remember that it is not so much US possessing Jesus as it is Jesus possessing us.
  - Jesus Christ keeps us, it is not us keeping Him.
3. As puppies and kittens run to safety at the first strange sound, so should every Christian run back into the hands of Jesus - at every approach of temptation.
4. *Matthew 10:16* - How does Jesus send His people out into the world? Armed to the teeth? NO! but "harmless as doves." Why? Because Jesus Christ is our defense and protection.

### II. NO CHRISTIAN IS EVER FREE FROM TEMPTATION

1. The only person who has ever lived an unbroken life of victory over sins was the Lord Jesus.
  - He was tempted, yes, but never sinned.
  - Some angels were tempted (Lucifer, etc.) and they fell.
  - Adam and Eve were tempted and they fell.
  - The story of mankind and sin has been the same ever since the Garden of Eden.
2. Do not be surprised when you are tempted, Satan will do all in his power to drag you/us down.
3. Every child of God will be tempted, but those whose lives are Christ-centered will not yield to those temptations.

### III. IF A CHRISTIAN FALLS INTO SIN

1. There is always the possibility of sinning.
  - Every ship that is on the sea has lifeboats, not that every ship is going to sink, but some do.
  - Pilots wear parachutes, but not every pilot has to use it, but some do.
2. It is possible for even pastors and congregations to sin.
3. The Christ-controlled life is secured by an act of faith and it is maintained by a constant attitude of faith in Jesus Christ.
4. What happens when a Christian momentarily fails, and falls into some sin, then what?
  - Satan tries to persuade the sinning Christian that there never was a victorious life in the first place.

- He tries to get us to believe that if there was such a life, it's gone now because we have sinned and fallen from grace.
  - Don't believe either Satan or anyone who speaks, preaches or teaches such a dangerous lie.
  - God has given believers/Christians eternal life because of that one's belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus was asked into the believer's heart and Jesus wiped the past away with the countless sins with the sweep of His mighty hand. Will God therefore withhold eternal life, victorious life because His Child/believer/Christian has fallen again? NO!
5. If Satan cannot change your mind about living a life of victory, he will try to delay your recovery.
- Satan will tell you to "lie low for awhile, let things cool off for a bit.."
  - He will tell you that it will take a long time for you to ever experience victorious life again.
  - He will try to get you to believe that is' going to be a very hard climb, a tedious and humbling process of recovery.
6. Christian, did you receive your salvation, eternal life through YOUR hard work, church attendance, by tithing? Did you struggle and strive to receive victory, salvation?
- No, it was by your faith and God's grace.
  - It should be obvious that the same procedure is necessary to receive the victorious life over again.
  - Instant forgiveness and instant restoration happens. (*1 John 1:9*)
  - It is not God who has failed! Nor can God ever fail you.
7. **Philippians 3:13** - Do not let your memory of past sins hinder your present usefulness.
- It will often weaken one's confidence and prevents usefulness.
  - It reminds us of the "Pleasures of Sin."
  - Feeble witness, fruitless work, falling into sin over again is often the result of dwelling on one's past sins.
  - Remorse, agony of feeling, self-condemnation cannot heal the wound, only the blood of Jesus Christ can do that.
  - Look at the New Testament - after Pentecost, where are Christians told to pray for the forgiveness of sins? There is a COMMAND to simply confess them to God and thus forgiveness is assured.
  - When the Holy Spirit of Christ dwells in one's heart, sin is abhorred and a longing for forgiveness always gives way to confession.

#### IV. DON'T PRESUME THAT ALL WILL BE JUST FINE

1. Don't become too confident when you are experiencing a Christ-centered life.
- A person can begin to rely upon past victories instead of Jesus Christ to keep him/her safe.
  - The longer the period of freedom from sin, the safer and stronger one feels him/herself to be. Paul said, "*...Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed, lest he fall...*"
  - No Christian will ever be sufficient to live a life free from sin by him/herself. It is always Jesus who brings victory in the believer's life.
  - Ten years of not sinning does not add one ounce of strength for the assurance of continued victory is not one's past, but one's continued faith in Jesus Christ and His power over sin.
  - One's long victory over sin does not mean that Satan has become weak or that he has forgotten about him/her/you/us. He's waiting for an opportunity and will strike sooner or later.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. It is not by self-effort Christians attain a victorious life over sin.
2. Christians will never be free from temptation.
3. Christians are assured forgiveness when they confess their sin/s.
4. Christians are not to become too confident in their past history of victory over sin.
5. Victory over sin comes only through complete trust in Jesus Christ.
6. YOU can have a life free from the habit of sin - do you want it?