

How Can I Become a Victorious Christian?

I'm sorry, my friend. You've asked the wrong question.

Yet, no doubt, though it may be asked in a hundred ways, it is the question most frequently asked by sincerely seeking Christians.

But it is indeed the *wrong* question. It is wrong because it leaves "I" in the driver's seat.

And victory is "*Not I, but Christ*" (Gal. 2:20).

We're terribly confused. We don't understand.

The Root Sins

Sin is our problem. Not the sins of adultery and murder and theft, and lying. Not even anger and impatience and lovelessness. At least these are not the root sins with which we need to concern ourselves, but pride and selfishness.

These are the root sins that separate us from God. They were the first sin – the devil's and Eve's.

My problem is not that I am not as good as I should be, that I lose my temper or become impatient. My problem is that I am eccentric.

We're Eccentric

I am off-center. My center has been removed from God in Christ by the power of the Spirit where it belongs, to myself where it does not belong.

An eccentric (off-center) wheel is likely to tear things apart. Just think of a car wheel that is off center, going down the road at fifty-five. How long will it be before everything starts flying apart? Not long at all! –So now you know what is wrong. You're prideful and selfish because you're centered in yourself instead of in Christ.

So now you know what has to change. You must be centered in Christ, not yourself.

So just tell the Lord that you choose to be centered on Him, not yourself, henceforth!

Right?

No, wrong again.

No Quick Fixes

Not only do we ask the wrong question, and give the wrong answer, we look for quick fixes that aren't there.

After Saul became the Christian, Paul, God rushed him off to spend years in the desert where He changed his center and focus.

Moses spent forty years in the desert learning to listen to God

God has a terrible time getting and keeping our attention. Sometimes He gets our attention through permitting illness or financial failure or family trouble. But even in this, do we turn our whole hearts to Him, or do we practice fox-hole Christianity? –“Get me out of this, Lord, and I'll serve you forever” –a promise as quickly forgotten as made.

We're Still Self-Centered

We have been self-centered all our lives and simply do not yield ourselves to Christ-centeredness readily or soon.

Oh, we think we do, only to find over and over again that we haven't

The “I” remains large even in the quest for victory. The victory we seek is “spiritual success” rather than yielding to Christ, repenting of and confessing openly our sins, acknowledging that in ourselves there is no good thing, abandoning ourselves to Christ, relinquishing ourselves to Him, resigning ourselves to receive equally that which is pleasurable or that which is unpleasurable as from His good hand, willing to take any direction in obedience just so that His name be praised, honored and glorified.

True Success

Yes, my friend, this is the victory God seeks for us: that we become nothing that He might be all ...both center and circumference of our lives.

You have a choice. Remain a spiritual failure no matter how little others recognize it, or succeed at becoming nothing that He might be all.

“Christ is All” (Col. 3:11).

Set your focus on Him, not even on your nothingness.

Start today taking more and more time alone in His Presence, worshiping and praising and loving Him, looking to Him alone. Seek His face. Seek His praise. Seek His honor. Seek His glory. Seek Him.

And never, ever quit. No matter how slow your progress, never give up. Pursue your God with the diligence of which the most important task in the world is worthy.

See Him revealed in His Word. Worship Him in quiet rest. Wait on Him to reveal Himself. Let Him reveal your sinful self that you may better see His glorious self.

He is All. He is our victory. Find Him so.

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