

What is a Victorious Christian?

“A victorious Christian is a happy Christian.”

“A victorious Christian is a powerful Christian.”

“A victorious Christian is one who has victory over the sins of the flesh.”

“A victorious Christian is an effective soul winner.”

“A victorious Christian is a prayerful Christian.”

“A victorious Christian is ...”

What do you think a victorious Christian is?

If we mean a Christian who is what God would have him be ...then a victorious Christian would be a Christian who is utterly dependent for everything on God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit – utterly dependent for everything.

That is the ultimate victory!

Yet all of us know that perfect tense is foreign to our experience while still in the flesh, so the words “utterly” and “for everything” are overblown.

And surely it is high time we began being totally honest and realistic about our Christian experience.

We should be joyful. We should be powerful. We should be prayerful. We should be victorious over the sins of the flesh. We should be soul winners.

Yes, and by God in Christ we can be, through the power of his Spirit at work in us.

But –if we’re not, there is a reason. And we need to start right where we are right now and allow God to show us where we’re wrong, why we’re wrong, and what can be done about it.

One of my best-loved verses of scripture is found in Romans 11:36. But I have rarely head it quoted in my half-century-long exposure to the Word and the people of the Word.

It reads –*“Of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things to Whom be glory for ever. Amen.”*

We all know the verse that follows it: --*“I beseech you, therefore, brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God”* (Romans 12:1)

As someone has said, “Wherever there is a ‘therefore’ there is a ‘wherefore.’”

The wherefore which should lead us to therefore presenting our bodies to the Lord is this: ALL THINGS are from Him, through Him, and to Him, and He is to be praised and given glory forever. Amen.

He originates everything except sin. Everything good is done only through His power. And everything will ultimately resound to His praise and glory once sin is done away.

This is the way it should be in our Christian lives here and now. Everything ought to be increasingly from Him, through Him and to Him for His glory and praise in the right now!

Our goal is to be *“that in all things He might have the preeminence”* (Col. 2:18). And to this end the context here in Colossians tells us *“He is before ALL THINGS, and by Him ALL THINGS consist, and He is the head of the body, the church”* (Col. 2:17,18a).

This, then, is the scriptural pattern and picture which emerges: --We are to present our bodies to Him, making Him our head, recognizing that all things proceed from Him, are designed to be accomplished only through Him, and should return to His praise and glory. It is all that in all things He might have the preeminence which He so richly deserves.

How much does this differ from our first answer!!

My first answer to the question, “What is a Victorious Christian?” were all around myself. I should be happy, powerful, prayerful, soul winning, and victorious over sins of the flesh.

The Bible answer is that *He* from, through, and to Whom are all things is head over my body –that in all things He might have the preeminence.

What a difference! In our first answers we start with “I”. In the Bible answer we start with “He”.

And, you see my friend, the problem with starting with “I” is you end with “me”, “my”, and “mine”, just as when you start with “He” you end with “Him” and “His”.

Now what should this mean in practice?

It means we need to first start getting acquainted with Him so that in the end He might have the preeminence, the honor and the praise and the glory.

And it is to this goal I give myself, “That I may know Him.”

How?

By beginning immediately to seek Him in prayer –prayer that is not a list of ‘gimees’ but a bending of my will to His will in the holy pursuit of God Himself in the quiet time.

There I seek nothing for myself but everything for Him. Self bends to God and God takes the throne in my throne room where He belongs as head over all.

Self seeks to intrude into this rich and loving communion, but little by little the joy of seeing His face and seeking to please Him in love replaces all other joys. Little by little this reality of the quiet time creeps into the rest of my days too. This is the path to victory, eternal and blissful. He is All.

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