

Can I Be A Victorious Christian?

"Emotionally, I'm the crying type," recently wrote a correspondent. "I get tired so easy and then fall apart. I feel I should be able with the Lord to not be this way. I'm not a victorious Christian but am praying to be and want you to just keep praying for us."

Now before you say, "I'm not the crying type. I don't fall apart" and throw this leaflet down as irrelevant to *your* need, let me tell you what this couple have been through.

They're Hurting!

She says, "We're broke farmers. Finally got the land sold --and now on help from government beside Social Security, food stamps, the whole bit. My husband hates help from government and feels a failure."

She had a heart valve replaced twenty-four years ago, has had a stroke and faces the likelihood of another heart operation shortly.

She says things are hard and her faith is shaken a bit.

Now, my dear friend, just put yourself in her place a moment and tell me that you would be a super-confident Christian, saying, "God is in His heaven, and all is well with the world."

I am grieved at the junk theology being sold today as truth that gives everybody a wonderful feeling so long as things remain on a relatively even keel, but lets the believer totally down when everything turns against him.

She's Cursed

Another correspondent wrote that her unbelieving husband and daughters make life constantly insupportable for her, the girls cursing her to her face, her husband having no use for her. But, attempting to be a loving Christian, she hangs in there. I face daily problems that seem both insurmountable and inescapable.

Can God Give Victory?

Can God give victory in circumstances such as these?

Yes, my friend, He can!

But with this statement I refuse to dump on you all the platitudes and truisms that are our usual solution.

- "Just trust the Lord, and He will make everything right."

- "Give Him your burdens, and He will carry them for you."

- "Let the Holy Spirit take charge of your life, and everything will be different."

Now, please don't misunderstand me. I know there is truth in all of these invitations to let God take charge. The problem is we don't know how to do it.

A Better Way

Oh, yes, we've all heard the stories of those who in crises have "come to an end of themselves and let God take over." And we know how many times we've asked God to take charge with much less than the sought-after results.

We've got to find a better way, a way to "let go and let God" become a reality, not merely a slogan.

Our trust has to be removed from ourselves and placed in Him. Our dependence has to be removed from ourselves and placed in Him. Our hope has to be removed from ourselves and placed in Him. Our love has to be removed from ourselves and placed in Him.

In other words we are just plain self-centered needing to become Christ-centered.

In this brief space I can only tell you how to begin.

Begin by setting aside a major amount of time each day to seek God in Christ alone, seeking not nearly so much to be changed as to fall in love with Him who alone can change you and make you like Himself. Let it be not to your benefit but to His glory alone that your attention be directed.

Keep at it. Make it your lifetime practice. Never give up no matter how much you fail to find quick answers to your quest.

Keep your attention on Him not yourself nor your circumstances, and little by little you will find your focus shifting from yourself and your need or failure to Him Who is our Victory.

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? -I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:25).

He is our victory. Seek Him only.