

## SPIRITUAL VICTORY (18)

**(Reason #5) - It makes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit possible for every believer.**

The Holy Spirit cannot take up residency in something evil. Our sin nature is evil and the only way the third member of the Holy Trinity can take up residency in us is that a condemnatory judgment at the Godhead level must be made against that nature, thus clearing the way for Spirit indwelling. God will never have any fellowship with darkness and our sin nature is very dark.

**(Reason #6) - It clearly proves to us that spiritual victory will never be found in our sin nature which God condemns.**

It is absolutely insane to think that our sin nature, which God has positionally condemned, would be a nature in which we could expect to find spiritual victory. Yet untold millions of Christians believe spiritual victory may be found in them. It will never be. Spiritual victory will be produced by God, specifically by the Holy Spirit. This doctrine is critical to realizing this. A God-honoring walk will never be achieved by our old, condemned nature, but His Spirit.

**QUESTION #6** – Who are our enemies against spiritual victory?

Christians are in a big-time war and the enemy forces are far more powerful than flesh and blood enemies (**Eph. 6:12**). Dr. Morgan said “saintship means definite conflict with spiritual forces, spiritual powers of the air” (Vol. 3, p. 83).

The Christian is in war and the presence of the spiritual conflict is not sinful; it is defeat that is sinful. Dr. Stanley Toussaint observed, “God’s child is never asked to live without battle, but he is commanded to be victorious in it” (*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 123, Dallas Theological Seminary, pp. 314-315). However, our weapons for victory are by Divine power, not by our power, as Paul said, “for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful” (**II Cor. 10:3-4**).

It is imperative in warfare that we understand our enemies and since we are in spiritual warfare, God has revealed much about ours and He expects we will know ours. The recognition of our enemies further establishes the reality that we cannot possibly experience victory depending on ourselves. We don’t have a chance. It must be said, however, that **none of our enemies are superior to the Holy Spirit**. This is an important acknowledgement, for **spiritual victory will never be found in our sufficiency, but in our dependency on Him**.

There are three main enemies that we all face. Each one is designed to keep us from any spiritual progress or victory. These enemies are real and powerful and prove there is no possible way we may expect to have victory depending on self:

**Enemy #1** - There is the enemy of our own flesh.

I believe this is the worst enemy we actually have - our own corrupt, degenerate, sin nature. The reason it is our worst enemy is because there are times when we may isolate ourselves from worldly and even satanic influences, but we cannot ever isolate ourselves from our flesh.

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This, in my opinion, is why it is so important to recognize the truth that our flesh is a ferocious enemy of a victorious spirituality. We have already spent a great deal of time discussing our old flesh, but we again reemphasize that our sin nature will not ever choose what is right. Every one of us is in war with our self and we do not have the power to win the war. We are drawn by our flesh to evil and this is true in every moment of every day.

**Enemy #2** - There is the enemy of the world.

When we speak of this enemy we are referring to the highly organized satanic world system that includes its governments, goals, education, pleasures and even religion that is contrary to God and His Word and are embraced by a world that does not know God (**I Cor. 1:21**). When John writes that we are not to love the world nor the things in it (**I John 2:15-17**), he is not referring to enjoying good things in God's world and helpful amusements; he is referring to the world that is a satanic system that has "its educational standards and ideals which resist and ignore every fact and feature of revelation" (Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 180).

Now we need to quickly acknowledge that our enemy, the flesh and old nature, is drawn to this world. It is drawn to love this world and is attracted to it. In fact, when John speaks of getting victory over this enemy, he taught that it was by dependency on God that gives it (**I John 5:4-5**).

**Enemy #3** - There is the enemy of the devil.

Satan is a roaring lion seeking who he may devour (**I Peter 5:8**) and his onslaught will be aimed at using the world to appeal to the flesh in an attempt to devour. When we carefully look at Paul's description of armor in **Eph. 6:10-18**, the emphasis for victory is dependency on God and certainly not a dependency on ourselves. The truth is God's and "the instructed Christian is girded for battle," the righteousness is God's and "no rags of human righteousness will serve as a breastplate in this combat," the Gospel is God's and the grace gospel means we "are standing in the saving power of another," the faith is a gift from God and "the fiery darts of the wicked one" are specifically directed at faith, the helmet of salvation specifically protects the mind concerning "every aspect of saving grace," the sword the Holy Spirit uses is the Word of God in the hands of one "who knows that Word and is yielded to God" and prayer for deliverance waits on God for victory. **Victory over the devil is not possible by relying on our own human resources, but only God's power is able to give the victory** (Lewis Sperry Chafer, *The Epistle to the Ephesians*, pp. 144-145).

**QUESTION #7** – After we truly acknowledge the truth about ourselves and after we acknowledge our total dependency on the Sovereign Grace of God for spiritual victory, how does this all practically work?

Let me restate the critical point - the ability to willingly obey the Word of God is not found in us, but it is found in the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual success and development will be due to Him. This point cannot be overemphasized because our entire spirituality is linked to this very point.

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When we read passages such as **Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19** or **I John 1:9**, we cannot deny that an appeal is made for us to choose to do something, namely be spiritual. But when we also read “walk by the Spirit,” “yield to the Spirit,” “be filled with the Spirit” and “do not quench the Spirit,” **it becomes quiet obvious that our will must yield to God’s**. All of these admonitions reinforce critical doctrine for spiritual victory and clearly this victory is not found in us. They all indicate that spiritual victory will be found in spiritual adjustments we are making in regard to the Holy Spirit. What makes us holy is not our flesh; it is the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is true the moment we are saved and continues to be true after we are saved.

**What we must learn to do is to use our will in a way that permits God’s Spirit to work.** As Dr. Chafer said, “The believer must learn the life of faith in which he depends upon the provided power of God” (*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Dallas Theological Seminary, Vol. 150, p. 267). We are totally dependent upon God for victory which comes by dependency on the Holy Spirit.

**When all is said and done, the proof of spiritual victory will turn out to be not something we do or don’t do; it will be something we see or observe.** G. Coleman Luck observed: “Contrary to popular notions, after a person is saved Christian character is neither built nor cultivated. It is rather the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit, which He produces in lives yielded to Him. There is much talk about building character. There is absolutely no such thing presented in the Scriptures” (*Bibliotheca Sacra*, 118.471, Dallas Theological Seminary, July 1961, p. 232).

The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for every believer to live a life of spiritual victory to the point that it manifests some amazing, supernatural realities. As Dr. Stanley Toussaint said, “The resources of the Holy Spirit are available so that a God-pleasing life is possible for every believer. ... When the Christian turns to Christ and looks to Him for strength, the Holy Spirit enters the struggle on behalf of the believer and victory is assured” (*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 123, p. 315).

**(Reality #1) - The victorious spiritual manifestation of walking in the Spirit. **Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16****

One of the Biblical metaphors used in the context of spiritual victory is the metaphor of “walking in the Spirit.” In physical walking, every step becomes a possibility of a fall. In each step of walking, the body shifts all weight to one foot and then quickly back to the other foot so one does not fall. There is a total dependency on the foot that is not weight bearing for any step. This is precisely the image of what God wants us to grasp. Spiritual victory comes by walking in the Spirit, which means we put all of our weight of dependency on Him with a confidence that He will move us forward in the true ways of God. **The critical key to spiritual victory is to learn the difference between walking which depends upon our self and our flesh and walking that depends entirely upon the Holy Spirit.**

In **Eph. 4:1**, Paul challenges believers to walk worthy of their calling. It is contextually clear that this worthy walk comes by the Spirit (**4:3**), as we grow in all aspects pertaining to Jesus Christ (**4:15**).

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Every believer must come to carefully understand that a victorious spiritual life will never be gained through some man-made methodology or system of rules or works, but only by totally and completely relying upon God. This type of walking is learned, just as physical walking is learned. It is a marvelous discovery for the believer to learn that the Holy Spirit can be depended upon in every situation of your life. A key to this is prayer. A specific prayer that acknowledges to God how prone we are to fall and fail and how desperately we are depending on the Holy Spirit to guide us through the day lest we fall.

Dr. Chafer said when one is walking in the Spirit, “the fact and force of the Spirit’s energy will be seen in the quality of the results and not in any recognition of the manner of His working.” He goes on to say, at the end of a day in which a believer has actually walked in the Spirit, depending on Him, that believer will be moved to give thanks to God (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 264).

**(Reality #2)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of yielding to the Spirit. **II Chron. 30:8;**  
**Rom. 6:13-16**

Dr. Chafer said, “All the responsibility resting on the believer ... is summed up in the one word yield” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 253). Our entire possibility for spiritual victory depends on this one word. One would logically ask, if our entire spiritual growth depends on us yielding to the Spirit of God, why wouldn’t every believer immediately yield without any hesitation? The answer is because the old nature doesn’t want to yield. One must come to the place where one admits this.

Every one who has ever driven a vehicle on public streets knows what yield means. You slow down and even stop in order to let someone who has the right of way go. This is precisely what this means in the spiritual life. We stop leading ourselves at some life intersection and let the Spirit take the lead. Now the issue for spiritual victory comes down to this: you either yield to yourself and your will to try and get it or you stop and allow the Spirit of God to take you.

Now the actual word used in **Rom. 6:13, 16** that is translated “yield” or “present” is a Greek word (παριστημι) that literally means to present something to the mind. To yield means to place something beside your mind or to provide something to your mind (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 345). Now specifically in the **Romans 6** context, it is the idea of presenting to your mind the fact that a judgment has been made against your sin nature, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit you have been made alive to God. It is also the idea that you present to your mind the truth that the Spirit must take charge in order for you to have any spiritual victory. If you are a slave to unrighteous things, you have not truly gone through this mental process. You have not truly mentally yielded to the Spirit but are still trying to mentally rely on yourself.

**(Reality #3)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of being led by the Spirit. **Rom. 8:14;**  
**Gal. 5:18**

Since the Spirit of God lives in you, you have the potential to be directly led by Him.