

Bible Questions and Answers

(By Robert C. Veil, Jr.)

Question: I hear the Christian life described as a “victory.” How is this true?

Answer: The Scriptures very clearly teach that the Christian life is indeed a victory, in several ways. Being a Christian means being in Christ, (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14). There, in the body of Christ (the church), all spiritual blessings may be found, (Eph. 1:3). One of those spiritual blessings is spiritual victory, which the Christian enjoys in several ways.

First, in Jesus Christians have *victory over the slavery of sin* in their lives. While promising great excitement and freedom, sin actually produces miserable slavery in a person’s life. It may be slavery to alcohol and other drugs, lust and immorality, materialism, greed, selfishness, etc. The word “freedom” is a frequently misunderstood term. True freedom does not mean doing whatever we want to whenever we want. True freedom is found in serving Christ. Jesus said, “ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,” (Jn. 8:32). Further, “if therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed,” (Jn. 8:36). Only the Christian, who has experienced pure and dedicated service to Christ, has experienced true and fulfilling freedom. Such represents a real victory over the enslaving effects of sin.

Second, in Jesus Christians have *victory over the trials and tribulations* of life. “These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,” (Jn. 16:33). Jesus never promised his followers a “rose garden.” In fact, he promised that Christianity would produce division, strife, and disagreements, (see Lk. 12:51-53). The Christian life is not easy, and is accompanied by persecution, (2 Tim. 3:12). But the Christian can face trials with a peaceful and confident heart. “For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith,” (1 Jn. 5:4).

Third, in Jesus Christians have *victory over the power of death* itself. “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live,” (Jn. 11:25). Death comes to everyone eventually, (Heb. 11:27). And although there is sorrow at the separation of earthly ties, Christians can face death with hope. The Bible does not teach Christians to have no sorrow at death, but rather that their sorrow is not comparable to those of the world, who sorrow without hope, (1 Thess. 4:13-18). Although there is sorrow in death, there is ultimately victory in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ gives his followers the victory over sin, tribulation, and ultimately death itself. Those are some mighty good reasons to be a Christian! No wonder the apostle Paul describes the Christian life as a victorious life. “Oh death, where is that victory? Oh death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

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