

Power and Victory

How Do We Overcome?

When temptations and trials rush in upon us, let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty; but will give us grace and strength to overcome, and to break the power of the enemy (*Review and Herald* vol. 513).

Only by 1) earnest, determined effort and 2) faith in the merits of Christ can we overcome, and gain the kingdom of heaven (*Youth Instructor* 461).

It is our privilege to be overcomers by the blood of the Lamb and the word of or testimony (*Review and Herald* vol. 513).

Whatever may be the habits and practices of men, they may overcome them in His name and through His merits.... Divine power may combine with human effort, that through Jesus many may stand free, a conqueror (*Review and Herald* vol. 401).

The Lord wants His people to stand far above all selfish interests. He wants them to conquer the temptations they meet (*Review and Herald* vol. 524).

God's watchmen must not study how they shall please the people, nor listen to their words and utter them; for they must listen to hear what saith the Lord, what is His word for the people. If they rely upon discourses prepared years before, they may fail to meet the necessities of the occasion. Their hearts should be laid open so that the Lord may impress their minds, and then they will be able to give the people the precious truth warm from heaven . . . (White, *Reflecting Christ* 40)

It is essential that you remain surrendered because walking by the Spirit involves following. You can't follow and lead at the same time. Somewhere along the way there is going to be a conflict. Somebody is going to lose out. Most of the time it is the Holy Spirit. As powerful as He is, He never forces Himself on anyone. He simply stands aside and allows us to hang ourselves . . . To walk by the Spirit is to live with moment-by-moment dependency on a sensitivity to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit. It is a life style (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life* 159).

Christ: the Source of Power

As I focus more and more on Christ and what He desires for me to have life and health, He works in me to guide my thoughts and to give me His POWER. Victory is not by me focusing on my problem. Victory is by me focusing on Christ and His desire to give me His power.

Paul said, "I have learned to be content in every situation." To be content you cannot be striving for anything and must live constantly in the thought that God is in charge of your life and He has everything under control. Christ lived in a state of peace for the same reason. His Father was overseeing all. He was simply doing what His Abba wanted Him to do.

I can do all things THROUGH CHRIST who gives me His strength. (Philippians 4:13). Our Lord does not save us, then leave us helpless to battle with the devil. The Christ who redeems us from sin's condemnation delivers us from sin's power. The Savior who died to forgive us lives to empower us. We do not save ourselves; God saves us. We cannot deliver ourselves; Christ delivers us . . . Jesus says, "Without me you can do nothing." Our growth in grace our joy, our usefulness – all depend upon our union with Christ (White, *Steps to Christ* 69).

Battling alone, we are powerless. The enemy is much too strong. His temptations are overpowering. The living Christ offers to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. He offers us His power, His strength. As we open our hearts to Him He will deliver us from the chains of sin that bind us. In Christ, through Christ, by Christ, with Christ, we are truly set free. He is our Almighty Deliverer (Finley, *Solid Ground* 30).

Christ longs to fill your life with His power. He longs to empower your choices. Just yield to the impression of His Spirit (Finley, *Solid Ground* 33).

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17). After Christ was baptized of John in Jordan, He came up out of the water, and bowing upon the banks of the river *He prayed with fervency to His heavenly Father for strength to endure the conflict with the prince of darkness* in which He was about to engage. The heavens were opened to His prayer, and the light of God's glory, brighter than the sun at noonday, came from the throne of the Eternal, and assuming the form of a dove with the appearance of burnished gold, encircled the Son of God, while the clear voice from the excellent glory was heard in terrible majesty, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (*In Heavenly Places* 39).

Spirit Waiting to Manifest God's Power

There is altogether too little of the Spirit and power of God in the labor of the watchmen. The Spirit which characterized that wonderful meeting on the Day of Pentecost is waiting to manifest its power upon the men who are now standing between the living and the dead as *ambassadors for God*. The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice (White, *Reflecting Christ* 40).

The Battle Against Sin

Every sinful act is committed twice: once in our heads and once in our behavior. To win the behavior battle, we must first win the battle that takes place in our minds . . . For years I was defeated in this areas. Part of the reason was that I focused almost exclusively on *not doing wrong things*. I was preoccupied with good behavior . . . Not too long after my life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit, I saw what my problem was. I wasn't taking part in the battle before the battle. Walking in the Spirit requires a mind-set, a pre-occupation with truth. The battle begins not with the temptation to do something but with the temptation to dwell on anything that conflicts with what is true. This is the battle before the battle (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life* 150).

Think back on the times when Satan tempted you to focus on the perceived wrong motives or actions of others toward you, and yet you lived with a heart full of peace and joy. Praise God, that He is able to help you live "above the circumstances" and not "under the circumstances" (White, *Steps to Christ* 71, 72).

Who Are We Allowing to Lead Us?

If you are like me, you will be shocked at how many times a day you are tempted to take hold of one of these deceitful speculations (wrong daydreams) and dwell on it. I am convinced that most Christians aren't aware of what they are doing. It becomes a habit . . . We think, as long as I don't follow through with what I am thinking it isn't much of a problem. That is the trap. But remember, "those who are walking according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh" (Romans 8:5). Our mind-set is the chief indicator as to what or who we are allowing to lead us (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life* 156).

Victory As a Way of Life

Nothing I have done has produced more immediate change in my life than destroying speculations and taking every thought captive. I was amazed. The difference was instantly recognizable. Victory became a way of life rather than the exception . . . I noticed too that most battles are easier to win at the level of the mind than at the level of behavior. There are certain sins that once we allow the thought to take hold, it's all over (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life* 156).

After Receiving God's Power

Receiving Jesus we receive peace and pardon and power and purpose...In Christ we have a new purpose for living. Christ gives us a new direction for our lives. He gives life a sense of meaning (Finley, *Solid Ground* 34).

When I experience Christ's power in my life, I am victorious and want to do His will (purpose) even more. All four are gifts to me from Jesus that I can only receive by receiving Him.

"In the heart of Christ where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause or dejected by censor and disappointment. Amidst the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment He was still of good courage" (White, *Desire of Ages* 330).

God's Promises of Power

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof (Psalm 46:1-3).

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden. Wait on the Lord: be of courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say on the Lord (Psalm 27:14).

Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them (2 Kings 6:16).

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength (Isaiah 40:29).

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord (Psalm 31:24).

In all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:12,13). My Father is in charge of whatever circumstances touch my life. No matter what I am faced with, God has His solution in mind for me. Therefore, I can do all the things He wants me to do through the presence and power of Christ in me.