

Miracles that follow the plow :: Testimonies of Victory Gained Over Sin (help)

Testimonies of Victory Gained Over Sin (help) - posted by EvangelTam, on: 2012/4/13 6:48

Hello all,

So lately I have been struggling with a lot of habitual sin in my life. It has been very draining and anguishing. I spend my spare time apart from school work, in prayer and worship and I am confused and distraught that I can enjoy His presence and grace while still constantly indulging in sin. I know I need to step out of this and to be honest I am at a lost of what to do, all I can do is pray and repent. I am in despair and in need of some encouragement. I know Christ is stronger and that HE claimed the victory on the cross so

*I am humbly asking if anyone has a testimony of victory gain over sin during their Christian life to kindly share the goodness and grace of the Lord in your life. I think this would be most beneficial to myself and many others on this forum.

Thanks
In Christ
Evangel

Re: Testimonies of Victory Gained Over Sin (help) - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/4/13 7:13

In my walk these resources have really helped my in the battle.

Secrets of victory Zac Poonen
http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?book=secrets_of_victory

The overcoming life 10 part series by Zac Poonen
http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/topical_bible_study.php#The_Overcoming_Life

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/4/13 7:15

for those that have fallen or struggling this book is of tremendous encouragement and is not long but has lifechanging material in it.

The purpose of Failure Zac Poonen

http://www.cfcindia.com/web/mainpages/book_window.php?book=the_purpose_of_failure

Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2012/4/13 9:52

I is not uncommon that God allows young Christians to suffer defeat in the Christian walk in order to teach that person to lose faith in their own ability but instead learn how to walk in the spirit and let the life of Christ which is inside the believer to take control. Although many are sincere and have good intentions, trying to please God by relying on self with resolutions, self-discipline, self-effort and sheer will-power will never succeed in the long run. If they could succeed, the believer would be filled with self-righteous pride and would never look to the Lord for His grace to give us the ability to please Him. God must allow all of this fleshly self-generated activity to fail. Learning to walk in the Spirit is not something I can give you in 10 steps. God hates formulas and methods that require no heart or relationship with Him. Christianity is first and foremost about relationship. Concentrate on you relationship (loving and trusting the Lord in every detail of your life every moment of your life). Actually some details are too mundane to bother the Lord with such as "shall I eat Raisin Bran or Grape Nuts for breakfast this morning?", etc.

I found the following book to be an excellent resource for practical walking in holiness. It is "Victory in Christ" by Charles Trumbull. You can read it for free at the link below. It has 7 chapters, each chapter has its own link near the bottom of the page. Click on each link to read that chapter or if you want to download, right-click the link and select "Save link (or target) As" and navigate to a folder on your computer where you can remember to return to if you wish to re-read it. They all

so sell this book at Amazon.com.

<http://baptistbiblebelievers.com/Books/VictoryInCHRISTbyCharlesGTrumbull/tabid/187/Default.aspx>

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2012/4/13 10:43

Quote:

I is not uncommon that God allows young Christians to suffer defeat in the Christian walk in order to teach that person to lose faith in their own ability but instead learn how to walk in the spirit and let the life of Christ which is inside the believer to take control.

Excellent post!!! This is very much true in my life. I came to Christ from a Hindu background 4 years back. But my first few years were spent struggling with Sin. After a year of accepting Christ I came to a Church that is based on Zac Poonen's teachings. I made this move thinking that hearing about Holy Spirit will bring victory into my life but it only got me more knowledge on the works of Holy Spirit but not actually experience the power of Holy Spirit towards victory over Sin.

Every time I went against the word of God I used to come back repenting and then asking for forgiveness. I know he has forgiven me but again I sin. This cycle continued until one day I hit the rock bottom of my limits. I was so frustrated that for the amount of truth that I hear, my life is not reflecting even 0.1% of it. I locked myself in a room and cried to Jesus saying - 'This life that you are offering me is true, but I have failed miserably, please tell me whether you really called me for this life. If not so, be frank with me and I will leave this faith now'. Something in me told me to open the Bible one last time.

I opened the Bible and it opened to John 14 -1, through this Jesus spoke to me directly, I never heard him speak to me so clearly before, but he did speak. He said that he has already reserved a place in his Kingdom for me and if it was not so he would have told me. I felt his presence in my life for the first time. I cried out loud with Joy that he has heard my cries and has answered me.

Jesus showed me that my problem was that, I am not guarding my heart enough against the thorns of this world and they are growing in me resulting in cutting the tree of life. I then started seeking his power to guard my heart against the thorns. Any thought of sin that I entertain is a thorn that can grow into a harmful sin.

From that night everytime I read the Bible I got a new revelation which I also share in my Church and other friends to encourage them. I am not sure whether the experience that I had can be called as Baptism of Holy Spirit but after that night I experienced the power of Holy Spirit in fighting against sin. I know very clearly that I am a broken man and if I rely on my Strength I will get pulled by the world again.

Quote:

Learning to walk in the Spirit is not something I can give you in 10 steps.

Perfectly said. To me this walk came by brokenness, which cannot be thought in schools. It is like teaching a lion that it is weak like a cat, the lion will never accept its weakness until it gets to know its weakness by itself.

I would encourage the original poster in this thread to pray that God breaks your heart to no longer rely on your power. One can say that he is completely sold out to God but it is a difficult thing to attain when our flesh has been entertained so much in our past life. But it is possible when we are spirit lead.

Victory Is A Man by Chip Brogden, on: 2012/4/13 11:19

Victory Is A Man
by Chip Brogden

Everyone who looks does not see. Everyone who hears does not listen. What are we looking for? What is it that we need to see? What would God reveal to us? There is but one desire of God for us, and that is that we may see Christ. God does not reveal one hundred, one thousand, or one million things to us. He is pleased to give us His Son, and He delights for us to look only to Him. Not even the things He gives, but to Him who is the Gift. We may pray for revelation into a great many matters, but only one thing is important to God, that is, that we may have revelation into the Son. If we know the Son, if we possess the Son, if we see the Son, we know and possess and see all that God has and is, for He has deposited all of Himself into His Son, and all of His Son He deposited into us.

As we progress we begin to ask for and seek spiritual "things" in order to have a victorious Christian life. We learn to do this from watching what everyone else is doing. We seek many blessings from God. We pray many prayers and make many requests. Sometimes it seems we are given what we ask for, and sometimes it seems we are unchanged. So we struggle on, always searching for something out in space a thousand miles away that will change us from being defeated to being victorious.

The whole problem is that we view victory as something out in the twilight zone of the Spirit, while we are struggling along here on Planet Earth, toiling and sweating as we wrestle and fight against a powerful adversary. To us, victory is something we do not have, something we cannot see, something we are not experiencing, something that we must search for and diligently seek out until we find it. The routine of daily life becomes old. We hope to find the victory we seek in a new book, or a tape, or a teaching, or a ministry, or a church, or a group, or a video, or a seminar, or a special speaker, or a website, or a special discipline, or a spiritual regimen. We go through them one by one, and some of them even seem to work short-term, but eventually they will sit on the shelf in the recesses of our mind, collecting dust and never being put into practice beyond the initial excitement of having learned a new thing or riding the wave of the latest spiritual fad.

God does not give us a thing called victory. Instead, He gives us His Son to be our Victory. Christ is Victory. It is not a question of going forth to war in the name of Jesus and claiming the victory in advance. May I say that Victory does not depend upon whether you "claim" anything or not. Victory is a Man! Overcoming is entering into Victory Himself, being clothed with Victory, sharing in the Life of One Who overcame. Thus, our victory is bound up in the Lord Himself. It is not a separate grace or gift which He grants to certain ones who learn some principles of spiritual warfare.

People are looking for a technique or method by which they may work out a victory on behalf of Christ. Not surprisingly everyone has their own way of waging warfare. Some emphasize intercessory prayer, and believe the secret is in getting hundreds of people praying for the same thing. Others lean towards praise and worship. Some stress binding and loosing. Others believe the key is in locating and naming certain spirits which supposedly control different parts of the world. Still others think there must be some prophetic act to be performed or declaration to be made. Here is the problem with virtually all of these things: they are just that - THINGS - methods, techniques, teachings, strategies, but they are not Christ. Victory is not this, that, or the other. It is not some spiritual thing. Victory is a God-Man. The one in Christ is seated with Him in the heavenly places. If we see ourselves in Him then we cannot help but understand that since the battle is already won, and Victory is ours, then we do not need a method or a technique designed to "get" a victory which we already possess.

The problem with a spiritual warfare "method" is it deceives us into thinking we have something with which we may overcome the enemy. We do not. If yours is a "method", then the method will fail. There are no methods for Salvation, for Christ is Way. He does not show us the way, He is Way. Similarly, Christ is not present with us in order to show us a way to victory. He is Victory. If we have any hope of overcoming by taking a little piece of Christ and incorporating it into our spiritual warfare program then we have failed before we have begun.

We must realize that our grounds and basis for victory is Christ. The many schemes, plans, formulas, and strategies that we devise in order to gain some sort of advantage over the enemy are but wood, hay, and stubble. Why do we seek such methods? Because we have not seen ourselves seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.

WINNING THE WAR BUT LOSING THE BATTLE

Let us look at some spiritual warfare methods. There is a distinctive amongst these methods, that is, darkness is glorified, darkness is talked about, darkness is exalted. Such teachings are, for the most part, enemy-oriented. Where is the re

velation of Christ? It is not to be found. Instead, we are often told to seek revelation into satan, the demons, the works of darkness, and how we may overcome them.

For instance, we have been told that we must discern the names of the principalities and powers over certain areas in order to bind, rebuke, and cast them out. How does this method glorify darkness? It does it by getting people to seek revelation into other "things" apart from Christ. When we engage in this pursuit we are no longer praying for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, we are instead praying for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of satan. Since God does not reveal anything to us apart from His Son, from whence comes the "revelation" of satan?

As Christians we use a lot of spiritual phraseology without understanding what it really means. For instance, we say, "The battle is already won." What does this mean? If we take it for what it says, it means that there is no fighting left to do, and we are already victorious. It means either victory has been handed to us, or we have already fought the battle and won. Both of these have, in fact, been done for us in Christ. We have been handed a victory, and we have also already fought a battle in which we obtained the victory. On the one hand, we did nothing at all for it, and on the other hand we have already fought the battle: yet not we ourselves, but through Christ. Since Christ overcomes, and I am in Him, I overcome as though I fought the battle myself.

This ought to be good news to us. But for the most part our Christian experience is more along of the lines of winning the war but losing the battle. Some have accepted this situation as inevitable so long as they live on the earth. They do not see victory on this side of heaven. They want to believe that Christ has really overcome the devil and destroyed all the works of the enemy, but then they look at their own failures and defeats and wonder why they are losing the battles if they have already won the war. Well, that is a good question. Here is another question to consider: if the war is already won, why are we still fighting battles at all? Why wrestle when we can stand?

Can you see the difference between wrestling for a victory that I do not have, and standing in a Victory that is mine already? How can we see the difference in our experience? It is quite easy to mark where we are and see if we are living and walking in the truth. When we fight according to the flesh we have no choice but to wrestle. But when the enemy is spiritual, we wrestle by **STANDING**, not by fighting.

If I see victory as something that I have to wrestle the devil for then I will be under great stress of spirit, soul, and body, I looking for the devil under every rock and in every dark corner. At the slightest discomfort or annoyance I will presume the adversary is out to get me again. I will become obsessed with darkness, demons, and devils. The more you swat at a hornet the more likely you are to be stung. And sure enough, the more attention I pay to the devil, the more diligent he is to harass me.

I will experience lots of failures and very few victories. Whatever victory I do experience is fleeting and brief. Just when I think I have bound the devil he gets loosed again, and I am in for yet another round. Around and around we go. He goes, and comes, and goes, and comes. I resist, he flees, and comes again. My dreams bother me by night and flashing thoughts disturb me by day. Since I am fighting the devil I have to take time out to "come against" every single thought. I have to answer every single accusation. The tiniest temptations become huge weights. I have little joy, no peace, no real confidence. Only fear: fear of failing, fear of giving ground to the devil, fear of what he might throw at me next. This is what many people call spiritual warfare. It is not. What I have described is wrestling as a flesh and blood person who is following flesh and blood rules. For...

VICTORY IS A MAN, NOT A METHOD

When God is pleased to reveal His Son to us, we will learn that Victory is not a thing, but a Person; that Victory is not an experience, but a Man; that God does not give me a thing called victory, but has given me His Son in the place of victory in order to be my Victory. Then Victory will never be future-tense and far-away, but Ever Present and Now. For Victory is Christ. And Victory lives within you. Thus, Victory has nothing to do with the devil, and everything to do with Christ. Since most Christians have more faith, assurance and reverence for the devil than they do for the Lord Jesus, it is easy to see why so many are defeated.

God revealed His Son to me only after I had failed as a pastor, when my church was closed, when I had thrown away all my books and tapes and magazines and notes on spiritual warfare and was left with nothing but Christ. I had looked for victory in spiritual warfare by focusing my attention on the devil, but God never taught me anything about spiritual warfare, nor did He reveal anything to me about the devil. He taught me concerning His Son. God did not show me how to be v

ictorious, He merely revealed His Son to me as Victory. Having done this, it was sufficient to make me victorious. I remember the day when it happened. I was sitting in my backyard one morning with my Scripture translations opened to Ephesians and two texts before me. The first was:

"And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:19-23).

I was thankful for this passage, but it did not register much with me. Praise the Lord that Christ is risen from the dead and is exalted far above every principality and power, demon and devil. This I can agree with. This I can believe in. But I found no comfort for me in my particular battle. I did not doubt the Lord Jesus' victory, I doubted MY victory.

So I did not understand the significance of the first passage until I read the second passage before me:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6).

Now I had read Ephesians through probably one hundred times, but something arrested my attention on that day. A beam of light struck me and the words seemed to leap up from off the page and slap me in the face. I stopped for a moment and read the first passage again, then the second passage. "...He raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named... And raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Together, together, together, together...For the first time in my life, I saw Christ, sitting at God's right hand. And I saw myself seated with Him. His victory is my victory. TOGETHER we were raised from the dead, TOGETHER we were set at the right hand of God in the heavenlies, TOGETHER we were seated far above ALL principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named! I began to laugh at my own stupidity. What is there left for me to do now that I am far above all these things? What is left for me to fight? I can find nothing to do now except to simply abide in Christ and allow Him to be my Victory, just as I allow Him to be my Salvation.

I did not come to this conclusion after years of study. I did not learn it from any Bible teacher. It came to me from out of the clear blue sky. There it was, right there in the Bible. How could I have missed this? I missed it because my eyes had looked, but had not seen. I had scanned over the verses with my eyes and memorized them, but they never struck me to the ground. They never took up residence within me. They were letters in a book, good letters, wonderful words, but nothing that lived or breathed in me. I did not see Christ in the Book until that moment.

I looked up from where I was sitting, and I do not think I was in the Spirit, and I do not think I had a vision, but it was as though I could see beyond the sky and all the way up into Heaven. Everything from the Cross through the Throne was spread before me. Now that I could clearly see myself seated with Christ everything fell into place. For if I was seated with Him, I had to have been raised with Him! And if I was raised with Him, I had to have died with Him! And if I died with Him, I had to have been crucified with Him!

Everything opened up before me in an instant. Whether I saw it in my mind's eye or with my heart I am not sure, but I saw Christ on the cross, and me crucified with Him (Galatians 2:20). I saw myself buried with Him by baptism into death (Romans 6:3). I saw myself raised with Him to newness of life (Romans 6:4). I saw myself ascended with Him, and seated with Him in heavenly places. I saw it backwards and forwards, upside down and rightside up. But I did not have the words to describe it. Even today I have a hard time explaining it. All I can say is, "I saw it." It sounds so plain and uninteresting that way, because I do not claim to have seen an actual vision, yet it was indeed a seeing. It was definitely a perceiving.

I finally realized that victory over the enemy would never be a problem ever again. From that day onward I understood that my victory was secured by Christ Himself, and there was nothing left for me to do or to obtain but to receive His finished work and accept His Victory as my victory. As surely as Christ does not struggle with the devil, as certain as His overcoming is, so certain is my overcoming with Him. I thank and praise God that today Christ is Victory.

CHRIST IS REST FROM OUR LABOR

By revelation I understood that we may "stand therefore" only when we have learned to sit with Christ, that it is more about rest and faith, and less about fighting and struggling. Seeing myself in Christ for the first time was like walking out of one room and into another, closing the door behind me. I got a glimpse into another world that was beyond me. Finally I saw the inconsistency of claiming Christ as my "victory", or even asking Christ to give me the "victory", and then battling my way through life as if I still had to do something to earn it. Because if Victory is MINE then there is nothing left to do but praise God for it and live out of it.

There is no higher place in the universe than to be seated with Christ in the heavenly places. Indeed, since Christ is larger than the universe, then to be seated with Christ is to be above and beyond all time and space and dimension as we know it. To be seated with Christ is to overcome as He has overcome. It is entering into His victory. It is not a fight to obtain victory, but a sitting down having already been made victorious. It is rest, but it is not "rest" in the sense that we do not thing. It means we have rested from our labors and now we work according to His power which works in us and through us.

God does not give us victory, God places us into Christ as our Victory. Since we are one with Him, it is nevermore a question of our ability, gifts, talents, or power. Everything we ARE is swallowed up and eclipsed and surpassed by everything HE IS. Today, in Christ, I overcome: but not because I am anything. On the contrary I am nothing. But since I am in Christ, Who is God's Everything, His overcoming is my overcoming. If the Head overcomes, so does the Body which is joined to the Head. If the Vine overcomes, so do the branches which are joined to the Vine. Can you see this? Take the weakest member and put it in union with the Head and they will go the way the Head goes. Take the weakest branch and put it in union with the Vine and it will go the way the Vine goes.

When we begin looking to the Son as the Sum of All Things then we are giving Christ the preeminence. We are entering into the very heart, mind, thought, intent, purpose, and plan of God - that Christ Himself would fill all things, that His glory would be reflected in all things. If our way is a method, then the method gets the attention, and the man who created the method gets the credit, and the people who put the method into practice get the glory. But if my "method" is Christ, then Christ gets all the attention, Christ gets all the credit, and Christ gets all the glory. In this way Christ is magnified, the heart of God is satisfied, and we ourselves are attuned to His Will in Christ.

Re: Victory Is A Man by Chip Brogden - posted by lylewise, on: 2012/4/13 12:40

I do hope like many a good post, that this does not get lost in the shuffle. When we were saved, it came by way of the revelation of Christ to us. That revelation should also bring us to the truth of ourselves being 100% deficient apart from Christ.. We do not forge the armor given us for the fight that is not of flesh and blood, for the substance from which it is made is also from the Master. I have heard more and more teaching of the dependence on Christ over self lately and I do thank God for this graceful enlightenment, given to the bride, as He is making her ready.

Re: , on: 2012/4/13 13:51

"When we begin looking to the Son as the Sum of All Things then we are giving Christ the preeminence. We are entering into the very heart, mind, thought, intent, purpose, and plan of God - that Christ Himself would fill all things, that His glory would be reflected in all things. If our way is a method, then the method gets the attention, and the man who created the method gets the credit, and the people who put the method into practice get the glory. But if my "method" is Christ, then Christ gets all the attention, Christ gets all the credit, and Christ gets all the glory. In this way Christ is magnified, the heart of God is satisfied, and we ourselves are attuned to His Will in Christ."

Excellent choice of a message. Thank you, Tuc!

Re: - posted by EvangelTam, on: 2012/4/13 13:54

Hey all thanks for your replies so far. I think I have read up on all the things regarding victory and such so much so that it just makes me more anxious. It would be awesome if there were people who could share how the Lord has delivered them.

Re: Testimonies of Victory Gained Over Sin (help) - posted by MichaelLiao (), on: 2012/4/13 16:01

Hey Evangel,

<http://youtu.be/BNSau4jwbKI>

<http://youtu.be/dZba1uw0oYc>

<http://youtu.be/TIAkmbOv8uY>

http://youtu.be/_VwH1_foFL4

The first two links, I'm not saying you are struggling with that particular sin, for I do not know what sin you're struggling with. But for all sin, it's the same thing: "Look to Christ! Trust in Christ! Rest upon Christ!"

Don't focus on victory. Focus on Christ! Victory is not the prime-product, Christ is. It is when Christ is exalted before the believer that we naturally have victory.

In Christ,

- Michael Liao

Re: , on: 2012/4/13 16:57

This is going to sound VERY unorthodox but it has worked for me. If you find that you've sinned, begin to thank the Lord for that sin. Paul tells us to give thanks in all things for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us.

One day as I was sitting there wallowing in my self pity over my habitual sin, a thought passed into my mind to give thanks for my sin. At first I thought that this was crazy, but I did it anyway and I was glad that I did. I just said, Thank you Jesus for _____! My self wallowing stopped and I felt encouraged.

It wasn't a quick fix, but the condemnation stopped every time I did.