Living in victory all of the time

Are you sometimes a defeated believer? This isn't a pleasant question to be asked, but we need to face it quietly and frankly before the Lord Jesus. In the great calling God has given us, it is never acceptable to be living defeated, unsatisfying and fruitless lives. We might have once entered into the experience of:

- The peaceful life (Is. 30:15)
- The overflowing life (Jn. 7:87-89)
- The abundant life (Jn. 10:10)
- The joyful life (Jn. 15:11)
- The liberated life (Rom. 6:7)
- The triumphant life (2 Cor. 2:14)
- The loving life (1 Jn. 2:5)

But somehow we can lose it and we long to regain it!

What does it mean to live a victorious life?

Seven characteristics of such a life are mentioned above. I think it includes the following:

- It is never going to be a life in which it is impossible to sin. That would be impossible in this life, but will be true of the life to come. But I think it is a life in which it is possible not to sin. I believe this is what we should aspire to now.
- It is not an abnormal life attained by very few, but God's provision through the indwelling Holy Spirit for every believer.
- It is not an un-tempted life (where there is no temptation), but a life where temptation is overcome. Look up Heb. 4:15.
- It is not a life that just has the appearance of victory, but a life of inward and outward victory.
- It is not a fully grown life where further growth in grace is necessary.

The life of victory is a life of victory over sin, over self and over Satan. It is a life of freedom from the power of sin as well as freedom from the penalty of sin. It is a life we live that is not only reconciled to God by the death of His Son, but also a life in which we shall be saved by His life (Rom. 5:10).

Is such a life really possible?

Is it God's will that we should live such a life of victory? Has the Lord Jesus really made provision for each of us – and in fact all disciples – to be victorious all along the line? If this is really so, we sin against Him by accepting and being satisfied with anything less than His will for our lives. If it is not His will then it would be a sin against Him to expect or seek to live this life.

If you reverse the question it becomes clearer. Is it God's will that we, His children, should live defeated lives constantly sinning followed by constantly repenting? Is it necessary for us to be constantly overcome by such things as losing our temper, being touchy, being untruthful and being proud? The Bible is clear and supplies the answer, "No!"

There are seven provisions mentioned and these are summed up in Rom. 6:14, ***"For sin will not have dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."*** [See also: Phil. 4:11; 1 Thess. 4:3; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9; 1 Jn. 2:1]

All these Scriptures make it clear that God wants all believers to experience a life of victory over sin.

Four golden rules for living a victorious Christian life

1. Victory is not gained by human effort

When we have truly learned this lesson, we will be on the way to living a life of victory. It is impossible for us to live this life in our own strength. Look up 1 Sam. 2:9, ***"For not by might shall a man prevail."*** This is probably the reason for all our failure. We have tried to gain the victory over sin, self and Satan in our own strength and we have failed every time! Remember this: God has excluded the work of man from every aspect of salvation:

- We are not saved from the guilt and penalty of sin by our own works (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).
- We are not saved from the power of sin by our own works (Rom. 5:10).
- We will not be saved from the presence of sin by our own works (Jn. 14:3).

2. Victory is given – it is a gift!

This is very clear in 1 Cor. 15:57, ***"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"***. This victorious life is God's free gift, offered to everyone who will receive this gift. In fact this gift of a victorious life offered by God to all believers, is the victorious, triumphant life that His Son lived on earth.

While He was on earth, the Lord Jesus lived in victory and by His death He conquered sin and Satan. Now all the qualities of His victorious life are offered to you and to me as a gift to be received so that His victorious life can be reproduced in us and lived out through our bodies.

There is only one victorious life and when you receive the Lord Jesus (Jn. 1:12) you receive that life! Now you must let Him live His life in you and through you. Look up Joshua 6:16 – the victory over Jericho wasn't gained by effort and striving but by simple trust and obedience. That victory was a gift!

3. Victory is gained by choice

It is really important to understand this. As long as we are in this world we, as believers, will be faced with a choice. This choice involves a definite, conscious act of the will. If we are to experience victory, every time we are tempted to sin, we must deliberately choose to please our Lord Jesus who has already gained the victory for us and who is waiting to give the victory to us.

The moment we choose Him, we receive His power and enabling, ***"….. present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and your members to God as instruments for righteousness"*** (Rom. 6:13).

4. Victory is maintained by an attitude

Of course Victory is only victory as that victory is maintained. What is the secret of continuous victory? Here it is:

- Looking unto Jesus ……. Who gives us the victory!
- The warrant is found in Heb. 12:2 (our part) and 1 Cor. 15:57 (His part).

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who, for the joy set before Him, endured the Cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through Our Lord Jesus Christ."