

HOW TO GET VICTORY OVER SIN

INTRODUCTION

A Sunday school teacher was giving her class the assignment for the next week. "Next Sunday," she said, "we are going to talk about liars, and in preparation for our lesson I want you all to read the seventeenth chapter of Mark."

The following week, as the class began, the teacher said, "Now then, all of you who have prepared for the lesson by reading the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please step to the front of the room."

About half the class rose and came forward.

"The rest of you may leave," said the teacher, "these students are the ones I need to talk to this morning. There is no seventeenth chapter in the Book of Mark."

Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

Just like those children who stepped forward having lied about reading Mark chapter 17, we know that in each of our lives, sin lifts up its ugly head from time to time.

Does that mean we must just give up and live in sin because the Bible says we are sinners? Of course not, we need to die to sin!

How do we get victory over the sin that we sometimes struggle with? How do we deal with the snares, schemes and temptation that the enemy places before us? How do we live lives that are not filled with guilt and shame as a result of continually giving in to sin? How do we live the transformed life?

Romans 6 is a key chapter in the Bible for teaching us how we can live in victory over sin by accessing the blessings of God, which are freely available to us because of what Jesus did on the cross. This morning we will look at four principles from this chapter that will help us achieve this victory.

MESSAGE

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

In Christ Jesus, we have access to amazing grace and forgiveness for our sins, but God requires us to cooperate with His grace. He has done His part, but we also have our own part and responsibility in achieving true life-transformation. We need to apply, and live by certain principles if we want full victory.

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF "KNOWING"

Romans 6:3-6 (NKJV) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

We must know who we are in Christ and what we have received in Him.

- We have been baptized into Christ's death – in other words, as He died FOR sin, we need to die TO sin.
- Just as Jesus rose from death, so we have been raised up into the new, transformed life.
- As we have been united with Christ in His death, so we are united with Him in living the resurrected life. **Romans 8:10-11** (NKJV) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

We know that our old man is crucified, and we are no longer slaves to sin!

Do you truly know who you are in Christ Jesus? Do you realise that according to Romans 8:37, you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus? I encourage you to confess this every morning.

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF "RECKONING OR CONSIDERING"

Romans 6:10-11 (NKJV) For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The dictionary meaning of the words "reckon" or "consider" is described as follows: "believe, think, be of the opinion, be of the view, be convinced".

- We must reckon, believe, think of ourselves and be convinced about ourselves that we as being dead to sin.
- We must reckon, believe, think of ourselves and be convinced about ourselves that we are alive to God in Christ —alive to the realm of God— which includes being convinced that we are fully accepted by God, empowered through Jesus, and indwelt by His Holy Spirit.

The challenge we face is often not about reckoning or considering who we are in Christ Jesus, but sometimes it's taking that knowledge and applying it to our own thinking and self-belief. In other words living what we know!

Do you truly recon, consider and think of yourself as dead to and sin alive in Christ? This is a key to victory. Knowing who we are is not enough, we need to start believing in who we are in Christ! Romans 12:2 tells us we must be renewed in our minds!

3.THE PRINCIPLE OF “RESISTING”

Romans 6:12-13a (NKJV) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...

James 4:7 (NKJV) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

We have our part to do. We can't just say, "Lord, now I've given my heart to you and the rest is your responsibility". No, we need to say "NO" to sin. The enemy will not stop tempting us. We are warned that he roams about like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour. It's up to us not to backslide. It's up to us not to neglect our walk with God.

Predatory animals will often follow a heard of their pray and attack those who stray away or grow weak. It's important for us to stay strong, and not to drift away. It's important to regularly spend time with other believers.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- It's you and I that make the choice to allow sin to reign in us – Jesus already gave us victory, so we choose between victory and defeat!
- When we resist the devil and submit to God, the devil must flee.
- We will not be tempted beyond what we are able to handle!
- That responsibility can include getting an accountability partner.

Are we resisting sin? Are we avoiding the things that we know lead us to sin? Are we choosing victory or failure? Are we fighting the good fight or simply sitting back and accepting defeat? We have everything we need to live victorious lives, let us choose to live in victory!

4.THE PRINCIPLE OF “PRESENTING”

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Paul said that we should not present our body to situations that stir sin up in us. Don't go to that place that stirs you up to sin. Don't watch programs that

stir up sin. Avoid every sin-producing circumstance. We know ourselves; we know what tempts us to do wrong. Don't go there!

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

We must guard our hearts – Never say, "I've got this under control". Paul warned that we must be careful when we think we are strong lest we fall (1 Cor. 10:12).

The best way to make sure we are not presenting ourselves to sin is to present ourselves to the Lord instead. When we are actively filling our hearts with the pleasures of knowing the Lord, we are much more successful at resisting sin, Satan, and sin-provoking circumstances. (use deliverance example).

Have we been taking chances and presenting ourselves to things that are pulling us back into sin? Today we must choose to who and to what we will present ourselves.

WE CAN'T DO IT ALL ON OUR OWN

Finally, even as we apply the principals of knowing, considering, resisting and presenting, we do need help. Here are two more keys for victory over sin:

- The strength for our conquering and our victory is drawn continually from Christ. The Bible teaches that whosoever is born of God does not practice sin. It is like the story of the little girl who said that when the devil came knocking with a temptation, she just sent Jesus to the door. We have Jesus, when facing temptation, we can run to Him who overcame on our behalf.
- Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit. – As I said in my message on a transformed life last week, we have the holy Spirit to help us, we are not alone.

CONCLUSION

Romans 6:14 (NKJV) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

There are many other principles on getting victory over sin. One powerful key is found in Ephesians 6, where we are taught to put on the full armour of God so that we can stand and withstand the evil one. The principals in this message, however, came from Romans 6.

Victory over sin is achieved by our doing something about sin. We should be a people "**knowing** . . . that our old self was crucified with" Christ. We are a new creation in "Christ Jesus," and we should be "**knowing** . . . that we should no longer be slaves to sin." We are to be a people in which old things have passed away and new things have come (II Corinthians 5:17). We are to be a people who are "**knowing this.**"

Victory over sin is achieved by our doing something about sin. We should "**consider or reckon** (ourselves) to be dead to sin." If we are "knowing that our old self was crucified with" Christ then we should "**consider** (ourselves)" separated from "sin" and now "alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Victory over sin is achieved by our doing something about sin. We need to actively **resist** sin, **resist** temptation and **resist** the devil.

Victory over sin is achieved by our doing something about sin, therefore, we should "not go on **presenting** the members of (our) body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness" but rather we should "**present** (ourselves) to God as those alive from the dead," and as instruments of righteousness." As we **present** ourselves to God, we will find that we are no longer **presenting** ourselves to sin.

We can have victory over sin. The Bible teaches us how. Romans 6 and Ephesians 6 tell us how. We have Jesus and we have the Holy Spirit to help us. Let us decide today that we will live in the truth of Romans 6:14, sin shall not have dominion over us.