

## SPIRITUAL VICTORY (21)

Every believer must come to carefully understand that a victorious spiritual life will never be gained through some man-made methodology or system of rules or works, but only by totally and completely relying upon God. This type of walking is learned, just as physical walking is learned. It is a marvelous discovery for the believer to learn that the Holy Spirit can be depended upon in every situation of your life. A key to this is prayer. A specific prayer that acknowledges to God how prone we are to fall and fail and how desperately we are depending on the Holy Spirit to guide us through the day lest we fall.

Dr. Chafer said when one is walking in the Spirit, “the fact and force of the Spirit’s energy will be seen in the quality of the results and not in any recognition of the manner of His working.” He goes on to say, at the end of a day in which a believer has actually walked in the Spirit, depending on Him, that believer will be moved to give thanks to God (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 264).

**(Reality #2)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of yielding to the Spirit. **II Chron. 30:8;**  
**Rom. 6:13-16**

Dr. Chafer said, “All the responsibility resting on the believer ... is summed up in the one word yield” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 253). Our entire possibility for spiritual victory depends on this one word. One would logically ask, if our entire spiritual growth depends on us yielding to the Spirit of God, why wouldn’t every believer immediately yield without any hesitation? The answer is because the old nature doesn’t want to yield. One must come to the place where one admits this.

Every one who has ever driven a vehicle on public streets knows what yield means. You slow down and even stop in order to let someone who has the right of way go. This is precisely what this means in the spiritual life. We stop leading ourselves at some life intersection and let the Spirit take the lead. Now the issue for spiritual victory comes down to this: you either yield to yourself and your will to try and get it or you stop and allow the Spirit of God to take you.

Now the actual word used in **Rom. 6:13, 16** that is translated “yield” or “present” is a Greek word (παριστημι) that literally means to present something to the mind. To yield means to place something beside your mind or to provide something to your mind (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 345). Now specifically in the **Romans 6** context, it is the idea of presenting to your mind the fact that a judgment has been made against your sin nature, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit you have been made alive to God. It is also the idea that you present to your mind the truth that the Spirit must take charge in order for you to have any spiritual victory. If you are a slave to unrighteous things, you have not truly gone through this mental process. You have not truly mentally yielded to the Spirit but are still trying to mentally rely on yourself.

**(Reality #3)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of being led by the Spirit. **Rom. 8:14;**  
**Gal. 5:18**

Since the Spirit of God lives in you, you have the potential to be directly led by Him.

## SPIRITUAL VICTORY (22)

There is no command recorded in the New Testament which directs the believer to be led of the Spirit. However, the clear inference from texts such as **Rom. 8:14** and **Gal. 5:18** is that one who is spiritual will be one who allows the Spirit of God to lead him or her. It is also inferred here that not every believer will be led by the Spirit. It is my belief that the reason why there is no specific command on this point is because this is something we cannot do. This is something God must do, or more specifically something God's Spirit must do. Certainly we would admit that to have spiritual victory one must be led by the Spirit. But we would also admit that this victory may be only wrought by Him, and not us. **Now the specific place where the process of being led by the Spirit starts is at the beginning place of a willingness to be led.**

It is right at this starting point where many miss spiritual victory. They simply are not willing to acknowledge they need to be led by God's Spirit and think they can figure life out on their own. Now we must realize that most religious people who are not actually led by the Spirit are sincere and zealous. To be religious without the Spirit of God's actual leading is to end up a fanatic, or emotional or superstitious. You cannot follow a series of rules that men have made that equal Spirit leading. In fact, the whole idea of Spirit leading implies a very intimate and personal experience specifically connected to the individual. As Dr. Chafer said, "To those who by constant attention and prayer are made familiar with the Spirit's ways of guiding them, the leading becomes one of the richest experiences known to the believer's heart" (Vol. 6, p. 226).

The potential of being led of the Spirit is an exciting potential because in all reality you substitute your finite guessing for God's infinite wisdom and direction. Dr. Chafer said, "It is worse than useless for the believer to depend on his own wisdom and ever more useless and dangerous for him to seek the wisdom and counsel of others, even if believers. In matters of which men can know nothing they are rightfully termed blind. On this point Christ asked: "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?" (*Ibid.*, p. 226).

In any situation of true Spirit leading, there are three time relationships that may be considered:

- 1) There is the time prior to the actual experience;
- 2) There is the time of the actual experience;
- 3) There is the time after the actual experience.

As one reflects on any situation that was truly led by the Spirit, the Divine leading will become more and more evident in the aftermath of the actual moment.

**(Reality #4) - The victorious spiritual manifestation of being filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18**

When the Holy Spirit is actually filling us, God, His Word, program, will and work will dominate the way we think, the way we act and the way we feel. When it comes to this subject of Spirit filling, this is not something you must ask for or pray for. The Spirit is not waiting inside the believer for him to pray about filling, He is waiting for the believer to acknowledge the truth about himself (in him lies no good thing) and acknowledge the fact that we are totally dependent on Him for victory. This is exactly why very few believers are actually "Spirit filled."

## SPIRITUAL VICTORY (23)

No believer needs to wait one more second to be filled with the Spirit. In fact, when the Spirit took up residency in the believer that is exactly what He wanted to do. The problem is most believers are filled with themselves and not Him.

G. Campbell Morgan said the filling of the Spirit actually puts one into a new consciousness of Jesus Christ and of us. We will see ourselves differently. There is a new consciousness of our own weaknesses and foolishness. There is a new mourning over our past failures, and a new astonishment at the vastness of the program of God (*The Westminster Pulpit*, Vol. 8, p. 182.) Lewis Sperry Chafer said that to be filled with the Spirit requires: 1) Confession of every known sin; 2) Yielding to the Word and will of God; 3) Walking in a dependency on God (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 6, p. 251).

**(Reality #5)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of not quenching the Spirit. **I Thess. 5:19**

This is truly one of those solemn points the spiritually-minded believer will carefully consider because these words “quench the Spirit” become very serious. To live life yielded to the Spirit that does not quench Him is to live life on a path that opens doors of one blessing after another.

Now the Spirit of God is quenched when the believer resists or rejects the Word of God which reveals the will of God. To not quench the Spirit means you depend on the Spirit’s will, not the human will or else God does not get the glory. Dr. B. B. Warfield said that the key to a spiritual life does not depend on human will because all that amounts to is “subjecting all gracious workings of God to human determining” (*Princeton Review*, April, 1919, p. 322).

A critical key to not quenching the Spirit is not elevating our will, but relying on the Spirit to take us to spiritual victory. For example, when we choose to sin, all God requires of us is that we confess it (**I John 1:9**). Just acknowledge what is true. In this way the Spirit is not quenched.

**The freedom that we have with our will is to choose to acknowledge the truth about us and about God.** The choice, as I view it, is between allowing my will to dominate or God’s will and Spirit to dominate. **True spiritual victory quenches our own will, not the Spirit’s will.**

**(Reality #6)** - The victorious spiritual manifestation of not grieving the Spirit. **Eph. 4:30**

The thing that grieves the Holy Spirit the most is the presence of sin in the believer’s life. Until sin is confessed, the Spirit is grieved. When the presence of sin is permitted to continually exist in the life of the believer, the Spirit’s ministry is dramatically changed from one that works through the believer to one that pleads with the believer. The pleading or the conviction is for the believer to confess the sin.

Apparently, from **Romans 9:1**, the Holy Spirit works through the conscience of the believer as to whether or not that believer is grieving the Holy Spirit. Once the Spirit has been grieved by sin and convicts the believer’s conscience, it is vital to confess it. Otherwise, the entire potential for spiritual victory is hindered.