

**“THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VICTORIOUS
CHRISTIAN LIFE”
GALATIANS 5:18-25**

INTRO: For the last couple of weeks, we have been studying **CERTAINTIES FOR VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING**. This is of **EXTREME IMPORTANCE** because many Christians struggle with living the **VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CONSEQUENTLY MANY CHRISTIANS LIVE SPIRITUALLY DEFEATED**. As we have studied, **THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE IN WHICH A BORN-AGAIN CHILD OF GOD IS LIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD BY MEANS OF THE POWER SUPPLIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD TO DO THE WILL OF GOD. FOR THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN, SIN IS VERY MUCH THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE IN DAILY LIVING!** *At the end of our last study, we introduced THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE* from Galatians 5:18-25 that we should go back and study in a more complete fashion. So, let's do so in today's study so that all of us who know the Lord can apply the necessary biblical principles to live the **VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE AS GOD DESIRES**.

OBSERVATION: TO LIVE THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE ONE MUST FIRST OF ALL, KNOW CHRIST THROUGH BEING BORN AGAIN. **ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

I. THE PRESCRIPTION FOR VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VS. 16

“WALKING IN THE SPIRIT AND NOT FULFILLING THE LUST OF THE FLESH”

- A. The Reality of Walking in the Spirit
 - 1. The Greek Word for “WALKING” is “PARI-PAT-EITE” which means “KEEP ON WALKING.”
 - 2. To “KEEP ON WALKING IN THE SPIRIT” means to **DEPEND** upon the **INDWELLING SPIRIT** to guide and empower us by consistently saying **NO** to **SIN AND SELF** and **YES** to the **SPIRIT'S TEACHING AND LEADING**.
- B. The Result of Walking in the Spirit
 - We will **NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH**.

II. THE PROBLEM FACING VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VS. 17

THE BATTLE WITH THE FLESH

- A. The Recognition of the Flesh – **The Old Sin nature of the believer**.
- B. The Reality of the Flesh – **Very active all of the time and never eradicated**.
 - 1. It fights with us individually – Through bringing up the desires of the flesh.
 - 2. It fights with the Holy Spirit within us – Through suppressing His power.

NOTE: Romans 7:15-24

III. THE POWER FOR VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VS. 18

BEING LED OF THE SPIRIT

- A. Spiritual Victory **IS NOT** accomplished by keeping rules of the Law through human effort. That is by a list of “**DOs AND DON'Ts**.”
- B. Spiritual Victory **IS** accomplished by **SURRENDERING TO THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** through the **OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD**.

IV. THE PORTRAIT OF NON-VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VSS. 19-21

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

NOTE: A **NON-VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONE IN WHICH A BORN-AGAIN CHILD OF GOD IS EITHER ACTIVELY OR PASSIVELY LIVING IN DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD, BY MEANS OF DENYING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DIRECT AND ENABLE HIM/HER TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AND THUS IS FULFILLING THE LUST OF THE FLESH IN PERSONAL LIVING**

**(18 SPECIFIC FLESHLY WORKS ARE MENTIONED UNDER FOUR CATEGORIES)
(ALL CAN BE EVIDENCED BY A CHRISTIAN NOT WALKING IN THE SPIRIT)**

- A. The Evidence of Sexual Sins – Vss. 19 (Four of them)
 - Adultery, Fornication, Uncleaness, Lasciviousness.
- B. The Evidence of Religious Sins – Vs 20a (Two of them)
 - Idolatry, Witchcraft (Gk. “PHAR – MA -KEIA”)

NOTE: In ancient times the worship of evil powers was accompanied by the use of drugs to create trances. This vice will also be prominent in the Great Tribulation Period (Revelation 9:21; 18:23).

- C. The Evidence of Interpersonal Sins – Vss. 20b, 21a (Nine of them)
 - Hatred, Variance, Emulations, Wrath, Strife, Seditions, Heresies, Envy's, Murders.
- D. The Evidence of Alcoholic Sins – Vs. 21b (Two of them)
 - Drunkenness, Revellings (Drunken Carousings)

NOTE: These actions are the **“WORKS OF THE FLESH”** that are consistently evident in the life of the UNBELIEVER but will also be seen in the life of the IMMATURE NOT-VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN.

V. THE PRODUCT OF VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VSS. 22,23

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

(NINE SPECIFIC FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS MENTIONED UNDER THREE SEPARATE CATEGORIES)

(ALL ARE EVIDENCED BY A CHRISTIAN WALKING IN THE SPIRIT)

NOTE: The word “FRUIT” is SINGULAR meaning that **THE RESULT OF THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES WILL PRODUCE ALL NINE QUALITIES LISTED...NONE WILL BE MISSING IN THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN.**

- A. In Relation to God – Vs. 22 (Three of them)
 - Love (Agape), Joy (Inward Rejoicing), Peace (Inward Repose)
- B. In Relation to Self – Vs. 22a (Three of them)
 - Longsuffering (Patient), Gentleness (Kind), Goodness (Upright)
- C. In Relation to Others – Vss.22b, 23 (Three of them)
 - Faith (Trustworthiness, Reliable), Meekness (Gentle), Temperance (Self-control)

NOTE: There is **NO LAW (LEGALLY OR MORALLY)** against these qualities.

VI. THE PROVISION FOR VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VS. 24

THE BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST

- A. True Believers in Christ experience the power to have victory over the flesh through the effect of Christ's Crucifixion.
- B. True Believers need not yield to the works of the flesh because of the power of Christ's Resurrection.

NOTE: Galatians 2:20

VII. THE POSITION FOR VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING – VS. 25

LIVING IN THE SPIRIT

- A. The True Christian's Position is that of “LIVING IN THE SPIRIT.”
 - Cp. Romans 8:8,9
- B. The True Christian's Practice is that of “WALKING IN THE SPIRIT”
 - Cp. Vs. 16

LESSON/APPLICATION

- 1) God's desire is for EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN to live the VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE.
- 2) God realizes that we cannot live the VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE in and of ourselves.
- 3) Thus, God has given us the position, the instructions, the source, and the formula for living the VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE.

- As true Christians our position is that we are IN CHRIST.
- As true Christians our instruction is to OBEY THE WORD OF GOD
- As Christians our source for VICTORIOUS LIVING is BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- As Christians the formula for VICTORIOUS LIVING IS SIMPLY:

SAYING NO TO SIN AND SELF, OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD AND SAYING YES TO THE TEACHING AND THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT