

Instructions for Victory

Text: 1 Cor. 15: 57

Introduction: Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe has a saying that I have found helpful for many years. It goes something like this: “We aren’t fighting **for** victory; we’re fighting **from** victory.” Sad but true is the fact that many saints are living in spiritual defeat on a regular basis. But as the Apostle Paul pointed out in our texts, spiritual victory is the positional possession of every Christian.

While numerous other Biblical factors could perhaps be expounded and elaborated upon, with reference to this topic, I want to focus on three principles that, if practiced, will pave the way for spiritual victory in the life of the saints of God.

If we are to be victorious in the Christian life, we must learn to...

I. Flee (2 Corinthians 2:14 is a great vs. for this)

A. We Must Flee Wrong Doctrine

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Obviously, in the verses above, Paul was not criticizing legitimate teachers of the Scriptures, but those who taught false doctrines contrary to the clear teachings of God’s Word, and quibbled over scripture for their personal gain.

Watch out for false doctrine. Just because Dr. Knothead, on the History Channel, claims there was no miracle involved in the parting of the Red Sea, allowing the children of Israel to walk through, doesn’t mean he’s telling the truth. Tozer had this to say about such things:

B. Flee Worldly Discontent

1 Timothy 6:6-11a

The word “contentment” of verse six carries the following idea: ...an inward self-sufficiency, as opposed to the lack or the desire of outward things. It was a favorite Stoic word, expressing the doctrine of that sect that a man should be sufficient unto himself for all things... Paul was saying that true godliness produces self-sufficiency.

C. Flee Wicked Desires

2 Timothy 2:22a “Flee also youthful lusts...”

Christians are not to be ruled and controlled by their desires or passions. Whether it is lustful passions, anger, bitterness, or jealousy, God has promised us that, “...sin shall not have dominion over you...” (Rom.6: 14a).

II. Follow 1 Timothy 6:11b

The word “follow” means, “to seek eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire.” Paul then lists some things that Timothy was to eagerly seek:

Righteousness- This refers to, “personal integrity.” This has to do with one’s personal character, including moral values and basic uprightness of life. This does away with situational ethics.

Godliness- This refers to, “practical piety.” The Christian ought to conduct himself in such a way so as to conform to the character of God (Rom.12: 2; Eph.4: 11-13).

Faith- The word translated “faith” actually means, “faithfulness” This idea is mentioned in 1 Cor.4: 2, where we are told that stewards are required to be faithful.

Love- This is the Greek word AGAPE, which refers to the type of love that God is, which is a self-sacrificial kind of love.

Patience- This word basically means, “‘endurance,’ sticking to it when the going is tough.” Meekness- This word refers to, “power under control...Perhaps ‘gentleness’ expresses the meaning best.”

III. Fight 1 Timothy 6:12

The fight to which Paul refers is a boxing match that was a part of the Greek games. “The gloves of the Greek boxer were fur lined on the inside, but made on the outside of ox hide with lead and iron sewed into it.”

But this was not just any boxing match. The fate of the losing boxer often was to have his eyes gouged out.

This fight is said to be, “...the good fight of faith” (v. 12a). The word “faith” refers to, “...the faith, that body of truth deposited with the church (see 6:20).”¹⁴ The basic idea here is that we should fight the good fight of the Christian life, by practicing the truths found in God’s Word.

- A. Fight Trusting God’s Omnipotence** Eph. 6:10; Phil. 4:13”
- B. Fight Clothed In God’s Outfit** Ephesians 6:11, 13-17
- C. Fight God’s Opponent** Ephesians 6:12