

Victory Over Sin Series
Lesson 4 - Unconditional Surrender
Sermon Bible Notes by O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Do we have to overcome sin?

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 21:7, 8

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

“Overcome” in Greek:

νικάω nikaō [nik-ah'-o]

From [G3529](#); to *subdue* (literally or figuratively): - conquer, overcome, prevail, **get the victory**.

“Let us consider what the Bible teaches further concerning the ungodly and unrepentant, whom the Universalist places in heaven as holy, happy angels. ‘I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.’ Revelation 21:6. **This promise is only to those that thirst.** None but those who feel their need of the water of life, and seek it at the **loss of all things** else, will be supplied. ‘He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.’ Verse 7. **Here, also, conditions are specified. In order to inherit all things, we must resist and overcome sin.**” {Ellen White, Great Controversy p. 540.1}

You MUST overcome sin and not be overcome by sin. The Bible is very clear, all sin MUST be deleted from our lives in order to make it the Heavenly kingdom. It is NOT a balancing act of sin and righteousness. The judgment does not look to see if you have more good acts than sinful acts. Some believe that if they do more good acts than evil acts that they will make it to the kingdom of God. They believe that it is impossible to overcome ALL sin and they will be sinning until Jesus comes. This is a humanistic lie that is promoted by many churches. You cannot claim victory over sin when you are still in sin and partaking in the devices and habits of the world. **This like claiming you took a shower, but you just washed your hands, your body is still dirty. Christ blood cleanses you from all sin that you used to love, but you now hate.**

In order to overcome sin and have victory over sin you first **MUST** have victory over yielding to the temptations to sin. Satan cannot make you sin but he can tempt, deceive, and make an environment of rebellion that if not resisted a person will yield to sin.

Unconditional Surrender

Anyone who holds on to even one cherished sin or worldly habit will still be dirty in the eyes of Christ. **In order to overcome sin and have total victory we MUST have unconditional SURRENDER.**

“There is great danger of the love of the world excluding the love of Jesus. These poor, tempted souls will never find rest and peace until they make a **full and unconditional surrender**. The requirements of God's word are positive. ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength, and thy neighbor as thyself.’ This is the only condition laid down in the word of God upon which we can claim eternal life. The promises of God are ample.” {Review & Herald, December 11, 1883}

Unconditional surrender is coming to God in humility and faith surrendering all your sins and life to God with no ultimatums such as: “Lord I will give my life to you except I still like to watch my daytime dramas”; “Lord I am keeping my season NBA tickets and channel, but I will go to church and celebrate”; “Lord I give myself to you but I am going to keep my jewelry in my box just in case”; “Lord I give myself to you but I am going to keep my hip hop music collection”; “Lord I give myself to you **BUT**....” There are no “buts” or exceptions in unconditional surrender.

Unconditional surrender teaches that you allow God to have full control of every habit, ambition, motives, thoughts, and feelings. Allow Him to recreate within you a new creation in Christ in which all old sinful habits have been transformed into righteous habits. Give Him full control of what you watch, listen to, eat, or drink.

“Let it be your aim to glorify God and attain His moral likeness. Invite the Spirit of God to mold your characters. Now is your golden opportunity to wash your robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. I regard this as the turning point in the destiny of each of you. Which will you choose, says Christ, Me or the world? God calls for an **unconditional surrender of the heart and affections to Him**. {Ellen White, Testimonies Vol. 3 p. 45.1}

“There is strength for you all in God. But you will never feel your need of that strength which alone is able to save you, unless you feel your weakness and sinfulness. Jesus, your precious Saviour, now calls you to take your position firmly upon the platform of eternal truth. If you suffer with Him, He will crown you with glory in His everlasting kingdom. If you are willing to sacrifice all for Him, then He will be your Saviour.” {Ibid p. 45.2}

James 4:7-10

- 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.
- 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness.
- 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

“He (Jesus) promised the young ruler that if he sold all that he had and gave it to the poor, and lifted his cross and followed him, he should have treasure in Heaven. **All we have should be consecrated to God.** The Majesty of Heaven came to the world to die a sacrifice for the sins of man. How cold and selfish is the human heart that can turn away from that incomparable love, and set itself upon the vain things of this world!” {Review & Herald, January 9, 1883 par. 16}

Why do the rebellious depend on their own filthy rags?

Romans 10:3

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have **not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

Those who rebel and are not obedient to God's explicit will as revealed in the Bible do not wholly submit their will to God. Pride still reigns in their life. They believe that going through the motions of religious things will atone for their lingering sinful and worldly habits.

What is the fate of those who do not overcome sin compared to those who have overcome sin?

Isaiah 3:10-11

10 Say ye to the righteous, that *it shall be well with him*: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.
11 Woe unto the wicked! *it shall be ill with him*: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.
12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:
13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his days*, *which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

Psalms 11:5-6

5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be* the portion of their cup.

Isaiah 57:20-21

20 But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.
21 *There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

Is the Bible clear here? Absolutely. Which side do you want to be on? When you unconditionally surrender ALL your sinful habits and your life to God, He will cleanse you from ALL sin and give you His gifts of His grace and righteousness. He will give you the victory. All your habits, works, and character reflect the glory of God.

We are judged by our works not our profession. Our works are a reflection of our characters. The reward for the righteous or wicked is based works. Do our works reflect the glory of God or sinful flesh?

Psalms 62:12

12 Also unto thee, O Lord, *belongeth* mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Revelation 22:12

12 **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

1 Peter 1:17

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

Colossians 3:25

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Romans 2:6

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Matthew 16:27

27 **For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**

What are the practical ways that I can have total victory over sin? To be continued...

Appeal "I Surrender ALL" ALL means ALL... Is there a sinful or worldly habit that you are still holding on to? Today, let it go and allow God to work in you for a total transformation....