

One of the growing Christian's greatest problems is constant and increasing awareness of his sinful failure.

We often feel so guilty, so wrong, so hurt, so sinful. We wonder why we're not making more spiritual progress, why we succumb to the same old temptations, why we can't live in uninterrupted victory.

For some of us this leads to discouragement and despondency. For others it leads to acceptance of failure as all we can ever hope for.

But, if we must fall to wondering, let us wonder why we've ever expected anything better of ourselves than sin and failure. What gave us the idea we could ever be good anyway? Certainly not the Bible!

***As it is written,
there is none righteous, no, not one.
-Romans 3:10***

***If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
-1 John 1:8***

***The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately wicked:
who can know it?
-Jeremiah 17:9***

Yes, there is goodness for us. There is righteousness for us. There is spiritual victory for us. It just plainly isn't in us. It's in Christ alone.

This once set the great missionary leader, Hudson Taylor, to asking how we get the victory that's in Christ out of Him!

We don't.

We take advantage of the magnificent reality that Christ Himself is in us –not just His power, His goodness, or even His life, but Christ Himself is in us.

***The riches of the glory
of this mystery. . .
Christ in you,
the hope of glory:
-Colossians 1:27***

And we take advantage of the matching magnificent reality that we are in Christ.

***God... hath raised us up together,
and made us sit together in heavenly
places in Christ Jesus, for we are
his workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus unto good works.
-Ephesians 2:6,10***

***I am the vine, ye are the branches:
He that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same bringeth forth much fruit:
for without me ye can do nothing.
-John 15:5***

The life of the branch is in the vine. It is vine life that works in the branch causing it to bring forth fruit. The branch has absolutely no independent life of its own. No more do we.

***Christ... is our life.
-Colossians 3:4***

If it's goodness, or righteousness, or holiness, or victory over sin that we need, we have it, not in ourselves, but in Christ, in God who lives in us, and in whom we live.

***Why callest thou me good?
there is none good but one,
that is, God:
-Matthew 19:17***

I'm no good! You're no good!
God is good.

We're in Him. He's in us. And he has all we need, whether it's sanctification (holiness), or wisdom, or anything else we need.

But to allow His life to flow freely in us freely supplying all we need, there is a prerequisite.

***Not many wise men after the flesh,
not many mighty,
not many noble, are called;
But God hath chosen the foolish
things of the world
to confound the wise;
and God hath chosen the weak
things of the world
to confound the things which are
mighty; and base things of the world,
and things which are despised,
hath God chosen,
yea, and things which are not,
to bring to nought things that are
that no flesh should glory
in his presence.
But of him are ye in Christ Jesus,
who of God is made unto us wisdom,
and righteousness, and sanctification,
and redemption;
that, according as it is written,
he that glorieth, let him glory
in the Lord.
-1 Corinthians 1:26-31***

God hath said He will not give His glory to another. If we would have His life flowing freely in ours, bringing spiritual success in place of failure, we must be willing to let it be His life, His success, and His glory!

It is ours to humble ourselves to be nothing to let Him be Glorious Everything.

***Christ is all, and in all.
-Colossians 3:11***

***For of him, and through him,
and to him are all things:
to whom be glory forever.***

Amen.

-Romans 11:36

When we try to live the Christian life by our own abilities and efforts, if we could succeed, we would deserve the credit! But all we can achieve is failure. And for that we deserve the credit, too.

All we're good for is to die.

***I am crucified with Christ:
nevertheless I live; yet not I,
but Christ liveth in me; and the life
which I now live in the flesh I live
by the faith of the Son of God, who
loved me and gave Himself for me.***

-Galatians 2:20

When we received the Lord as our Savior, we died with Christ to our old sin-dominated life. So we're no longer obligated to live under sin's power.

Now He lives in us with His own omnipotent, perfectly holy life. And it's ours to give Him our heart's attention and love. It's ours to delightedly die to our wishes and our glory –to all but Him. It's ours to happily accept suffering and death as His way of releasing His life in us.

***What things were gain to me,
those I counted loss for Christ...
that I may know him, and the power
of his resurrection, and the fellowship
of his sufferings, being made
conformable unto his death.***

-Philippians 3:7,10

We cannot give ourselves, our heart, our time, our interests, our affection to the things of this world and live freely in

Christ, He in us with His life freely flowing in us in spiritual power.

We need to make Him our goal, our hope, our life. We need to spend time with Him, wait on Him, meditate on Him, abide in Him, set our affection on Him. We need to trust Him, rely on Him, depend on Him. We need to receive from Him all we need.

We need to give ourselves constantly and with each new temptation/opportunity to seek Him and His all-sufficiency so His life is released into that new situation.

We seek Him so for two reasons. One: We want to please Him and glorify His name. Because we're spending the time and effort to get to know Him in all His beauty and wonder, we want not to displease Him. Two: We need Him, and we know we need Him. Only He can please Him. We'll never be able to please Him. So we turn to Him to do the pleasing in each new circumstance.

But the basis for it all is not any effort of ours at all. None. It is the quiet assurance that He in us is all we can ever need, completely capable of handling absolutely every circumstance that may come our way. All we need to do is turn our attention from ourselves and our circumstances, failures, and fears to rest ourselves quietly in Him and His all-encompassing capabilities.

To do anything else is to continue in our perpetual failure, fear, and frustration.

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Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr

ChristLife

PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Ph: (716) 622-7320

E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net

Visit us at www.Christ-like.net

*Living
In
Victory*

Christ Jesus

***...
is able
even
to subdue
all things
unto Himself.***
- Philippians 3:14,21

By Pastor Ron Marr