

The Individual Conflict: Victory Over Sin

GYC 2013 | Kameron DeVasher
Session 5: Learning Others' Lessons

Ancient Israel

- Exodus 19:3-8
- Numbers 2; Revelation 4 (encampment of Israel was even arranged like the courts of heaven)
- Deuteronomy 4:5-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Go and Sin No More

- Genesis 4:7
- Zechariah 3:1-7
- John 8:10, 11

Promises Of Victory

- Ephesians 6:10-12
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- James 4:7
- Romans 8:31-39
 - *Christ's death and resurrection have opened before every soul an unlimited source of power from which to draw. This power will enable you to overcome the most objectionable traits in your character. God's supply of grace is awaiting the demand of every sin-sick soul. It will heal every spiritual disease. By its hearts may be cleansed from all defilement. It is the gospel remedy for the curse of sin. - Review & Herald, November 5, 1901*
 - *You may feel that you cannot meet the approval of heaven. You may say, "I was born with a natural tendency toward this evil, and I cannot overcome." But every provision has been made by our heavenly Father whereby you may be able to overcome every unholy tendency. You are to overcome even as Christ overcame in your behalf. He says, "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 3:21). - You Shall Receive Power, p. 350*
 - *Those who put their trust in Christ are not to be enslaved by any hereditary or cultivated habit or tendency. Instead of being held in bondage to the lower nature, they are to rule every appetite and passion. God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart. - Counsels on Health, p. 440*

Transformation, Not Mere Transaction

- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- 1 John 3:2, 3
- Mark 4:26-29
 - *The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. - Christ's Object Lessons, 66*
 - *But character is not inherited. It cannot be bought. Moral excellence and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. The most precious gifts are of no value unless they are*

improved. The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime, and must be the result of diligent and persevering effort. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them. - PP 223

One of Israel's Great Shortcomings: Endurance

- Hebrews 11 (most of those listed as examples of faith had to push through seemingly insurmountable obstacles or endure long spans of time)
- Hebrews 12:1-4
 - *Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. - The Faith I Live By, p. 116*
 - *So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in the right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory. - In Heavenly Places, p. 231*
 - *The formation of a right character is the work of a lifetime, and is the outgrowth of prayerful meditation united with a grand purpose. The excellence of character that you possess must be the result of your own effort. Friends may encourage you, but they cannot do the work for you. Wishing, sighing, dreaming, will never make you great or good. You must climb. - My Life Today, p. 267*

Refuting The "Holy Flesh" Movement

The teaching given in regard to what is termed "holy flesh" is an error. All may now obtain holy hearts, but it is not correct to claim in this life to have holy flesh. The apostle Paul declares, "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing" (Romans 7:18). To those who have tried so hard to obtain by faith so-called holy flesh, I would say, You cannot obtain it. Not a soul of you has holy flesh now. No human being on the earth has holy flesh. It is an impossibility... The Scriptures teach us to seek for the sanctification to God of body, soul, and spirit. In this work we are to be laborers together with God... And while we cannot claim perfection of the flesh, we may have Christian perfection of the soul. Through the sacrifice made in our behalf, sins may be perfectly forgiven. Our dependence is not in what man can do; it is in what God can do for man through Christ. When we surrender ourselves wholly to God, and fully believe, the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. The conscience can be freed from condemnation. Through faith in His blood, all may be made perfect in Christ Jesus. Thank God that we are not dealing with impossibilities. - Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 33

Keep Getting Up

1 John 2:1
Proverbs 24:16
James 1:12
Matthew 24:13
1 Chronicles 16:34
Jude 24, 25