

Meade MacGuire
The Victorious Life
and How To Obtain It

1 *"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing,' unless they obtain the*
2 *victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the*
3 *world, and over every wrong word and action."*—*Early Writings, p*
4 *71.*

5
6 *"The conditions of eternal life, under grace, are just what they were*
7 *in Eden,— perfect righteousness, harmony with God, perfect*
8 *conformity to the principles of His law. The standard of character*
9 *presented in the Old Testament is the same that is presented in the*
10 *New Testament. This standard is not one to which we cannot attain.*
11 *In every command or injunction that God gives, there is a promise,*
12 *the most positive, underlying the command. God has made*
13 *provision that we may become like unto Him, and He will*
14 *accomplish this for all who do not interpose a perverse will, and*
15 *thus frustrate His grace."*—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p.*
16 *116, edition of 1900.*

17
18 What Is Victory?

19
20 Much confusion results from a variety of notions as to what the
21 victorious life is. Victory over sin does not mean freedom from
22 temptation. While we are in this world we shall always be tempted,
23 but God has made ample provision that we shall always be
24 victorious.

25
26 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to
27 man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted
28 above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a
29 way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13.

30
31 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in
32 Christ." 2 Cor. 2: 14.

33

34 Victory over sin is not achieved by resolutions, or by struggles, or
35 by any human effort. It cannot be attained by a gradual growth. The
36 "victorious life" is only another expression for "righteousness by
37 faith." When we speak of a man's having righteousness by faith, we
38 do not think of him as having attained sinless perfection. We do not
39 think of the man at all. We think of the Saviour whose
40 righteousness the man has received. We do not recognize the man's
41 resolutions or struggles or obedience to law as the ground of his
42 righteousness. It came to him through grace as a gift, wholly in
43 response to the exercise of faith. The law says, "Do, and live;" but
44 grace says, "Believe, and live." Those who are seeking
45 righteousness, or victory over sin, by doing, are under the law, and
46 what they attain will be their own righteousness, or filthy rags. "For
47 if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Gal.
48 2:21.

49

50 Victory by faith does not mean a life of ease and inactivity. The
51 consciousness of Christ within, bringing freedom and peace,
52 arouses and intensifies the highest energies of mind and body, and
53 inspires to the most earnest and self-sacrificing service for God.

54

55 To have the victorious life does not mean that we can never fall
56 into sin again. Victory is in Christ. There can be no victory apart
57 from the Victor. Christ dwells in the heart by faith. So long as the
58 presence of Christ within is a reality, there is victory. But he who
59 looks away from Christ looks away from victory, and invites
60 defeat.

61

62 Many fail because they depend for salvation, upon what they
63 believe—the facts of faith—rather than upon Jesus, the Saviour
64 from sin. The victorious life is inseparably associated with the only
65 One who ever has or ever can overcome sin in human flesh. Only
66 when a child of God loses the sense of Christ's presence can he
67 voluntarily yield to sin.

68

69 "The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it
70 means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces
71 of the Holy Spirit. It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It
72 means a heart emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding
73 presence of Christ. When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity,
74 freedom from sin."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 419, 420.

75

76 There is a parable about an ugly brier that grew in the ditch. One
77 day the gardener came and dug it up. The brier said, "What can the

78 gardener possibly want of me? Surely he does not know that I am
79 only a worthless brier." The gardener took the brier and set it
80 among the beautiful roses in his garden. Then the brier said, "What
81 a great mistake he has made. It can only end in disappointment."
82 But the gardener came and grafted some buds into the brier, and in
83 a few months it was bearing as beautiful roses as any in the garden.
84 Then the gardener said, "It was not something you had in yourself
85 which produced these lovely flowers, but what I put into you."

86

87 When a man, with full realization that he is utterly sinful, utterly
88 helpless and lost, turns his back upon all his own efforts to get right
89 with God, and accepts Christ's righteousness as his own, he has
90 taken the first step in the victorious life. He maintains that life by
91 resolutely turning from all efforts of his own to be good, and
92 accepts Christ moment by moment as his indwelling goodness.

93

94 Victory Is Possible

95

96 The Scriptures and Testimonies emphatically teach that a life of
97 victory over sin is the privilege and duty of every child of God.
98 God has provided, not only for future salvation from the penalty of
99 sin, but for present salvation from the power and dominion of sin.

100

101 His people are saved now: "Thou shall call His name Jesus: for He
102 shall save His people from their sins." Matt. 1:21.

103

104 They are cleansed now: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
105 just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all
106 unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

107

108 They are made free from sin now: "Whosoever committeth sin is
109 the servant of sin." "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye
110 shall be free indeed." "Sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye
111 are not under the law, but under grace." "Being then made free
112 from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." John 8: 34,36;
113 Rom. 6:14,18.

114

115 They are kept from sin now: "Now unto Him that is able to keep
116 you from falling." "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body
117 be preserved blameless." Jude 24:1 Thess. 5:23.

118

119 These inspired statements concerning the deliverance and
120 preservation of God's people from the dominion of sin are so
121 positive that they admit of no other interpretation.

122

123 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed
124 remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1
125 John 3:9.

126

127 "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath
128 not seen Him; neither known Him." 1 John 3:6.

129

130 "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is
131 begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him
132 not." 1 John 5:18.

133

134 This matter of our relation to sin may be stated in another way. We
135 are sinful by nature, and it is impossible for the sinful nature to
136 successfully resist and overcome sin. But if we are willing, God
137 proposes to work a miracle within us whereby we become partakers
138 of the divine nature, and it is impossible for the divine nature to be
139 overcome by sin. This experience comes in response to our faith;
140 that is, we meet the condition and then believe it is done, and God
141 makes it so.

142

143 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but
144 alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11.

145

146 Sin is not dead, but we are dead to sin so long as we are alive unto
147 God through Jesus Christ. We must remember that victory has
148 already been won for us, and it only remains for us to let Christ win
149 the victory in us.

150

151 "By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human
152 being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to
153 Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His
154 will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are
155 brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it
156 means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness."—
157 *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp 312.

158

159 "When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of
160 Christ." —*Ibid.*, page 314

161

162 How to Obtain Victory

163

164 All true Christians know what it is to accept God's offer of pardon
165 and cleansing from all sin when confession is made. They simply

166 believe that God has kept His word, and that their sins are forgiven.
167 The instant they believe it, God makes it so. They are justified by
168 faith. They are freed from the condemnation and penalty of sin.

169

170 In exactly the same manner may they obtain freedom from the
171 power and dominion of sin. As surely as Christ has paid the penalty
172 for our sins and made pardon possible, so surely has He overcome
173 sin and made freedom possible.

174

175 Were you ever conscious of your sinful and lost condition? Did you
176 go to God and confess your sins, praying for pardon through the
177 merits and in the name of Christ? Did you then believe that God
178 had forgiven you, and did you rejoice in the sense of His pardoning
179 love? In the same manner and on the same terms you may obtain
180 immediate and complete freedom from the bondage of all your sins.
181 Every gift of God comes to us, not through Christ, but "in Christ."
182 It is of vast importance to remember this great truth.

183

184 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath
185 blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things *in Christ.*"
186 Eph. 1:3, margin.

187

188 Through sin we lost life, purity, peace, power, fellowship with God,
189 everything that is of value for eternity. In Christ all is restored to us
190 again. A wonderful key passage is found in 1 John 5:11,12:

191

192 "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this
193 life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath
194 not the Son of God hath not life."

195

196 God has eternal life for every man, but we are the slaves of sin, and
197 should God give us eternal life we would transgress and become
198 immortal sinners. So God has placed eternal life for us in the
199 person of Christ. When we let Christ come and abide in our hearts,
200 He keeps us from sin, and then it is safe for us to have eternal life.
201 The life does not pass into us and become ours, but it remains in
202 Christ, and is ours only when Christ is in us. Neither life nor
203 victory can come to us apart from Christ. We know that we do not
204 possess eternal life by nature, and that no effort or struggle of ours
205 can produce eternal life in us. It is absolutely all in Christ.

206

207 What we do not seem to see so clearly is that we do not possess any
208 other attribute of God, nor any power to attain it. We do not have
209 peace, nor joy, nor faith, nor wisdom, nor victory, any more than

210 we have life. Nor can we produce or obtain them in any other way
211 than we obtain life. All come as gifts, and all are embraced in the
212 one great gift of Christ. It is possible, however, to accept Christ for
213 pardon, and not realize in our experience His wisdom or His peace
214 or faith. God has put all these in Christ for us, but we realize only
215 what we see and claim by faith.

216

217 This is especially true of victory over sin. Jesus says, You cannot
218 overcome sin, and since it is utterly impossible, it is only foolish
219 and discouraging for you to try and struggle to overcome it. I come
220 to do what is impossible for you. I have been tempted in all points
221 like as you are, and have obtained complete and everlasting victory
222 for you. Accept Me, surrender to Me, abide in Me, and victory is
223 yours as truly and completely as life and pardon are yours.
224 "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." Victory is in Christ. We
225 can never have victory without Christ, nor can we ever have defeat
226 with Christ.

227

228 "It is fellowship with Christ, personal contact with a living Saviour,
229 that enables the mind and heart and soul to triumph over the lower
230 nature."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 388.

231

232 "That for which Jacob had vainly wrestled in his own strength, was
233 won through self-surrender and steadfast faith. 'This is the victory
234 that overcometh the world, even our faith.'"—*Thoughts from the*
235 *Mount of Blessing*, p. 207, edition of 1900.

236

237 How to Maintain Victory

238

239 "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath
240 not seen Him, neither known Him." 1 John 3:6.

241

242 To the beloved disciple it was inconceivable that one should really
243 know Jesus and go on sinning. He wrote: "My little children, these
244 things write I unto you, that ye sin not." 1 John 2:1. Evidently he
245 wrote this epistle, explaining the secrets of fellowship with the
246 Father and His Son Jesus Christ, for the very purpose of making
247 plain how Christians can live without sinning. He adds: "And if any
248 man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the
249 righteous."

250

251 "If any man sin' shows that even a saint may sin. But if the saint
252 should sin —mark that—'we have an advocate with the Father.'
253 There is a perfect propitiation provided. There is no allowance for

254 sin, but a perfect provision in case we do sin,—no need to sin, no
255 right to sin, no compromise with sin, no license, but a provision in
256 case we do. On board ship the provision of life belts is not
257 associated with any intention to have a shipwreck, but they are
258 there in case of need."— "*Must Christians Sin?*"

259

260 Having sought and claimed victory by faith, it is to be maintained
261 in the same way that it is received. The words used by the Holy
262 Spirit to describe the relation of the believer to Christ, are submit,
263 commit, yield, abide. "I am the vine, ye are the branches." "Abide
264 in Me, and I in you." The branch did not connect itself to the vine,
265 nor does it struggle to keep connected.

266

267 "Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. Talk
268 and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt;
269 dismiss your fears. Say with the Apostle Paul, 'I live; yet not I, but
270 Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live
271 by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for
272 me.' Rest in God. He is able to keep that which you have
273 committed to Him. If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will
274 bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved
275 you."

276

277 "When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to
278 Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken by any power
279 save the choice of man himself. Satan will constantly present
280 allurements to induce us to break this tie, —to choose to separate
281 ourselves from Christ. Here is where we need to watch, to strive, to
282 pray, that nothing may entice us to choose another master; for we
283 are always free to do this. But let us keep our eyes fixed upon
284 Christ, and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus, we are safe.
285 Nothing can pluck us out of His hand."—*Steps to Christ*, pp 76, 77.

286

287 Finally, let us remember that surrender, though ever so full and
288 complete, is only half the secret of victory. Many have surrendered
289 all and yet have not been victorious. It is as essential to claim
290 victory in Christ, as it is to confess defeat without Him.

291

292 "By *faith* you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in
293 Him,—by giving *and* taking. You are to *give all*,— your heart, your
294 will, your service,—give yourself to Him to obey all His
295 requirements; and you must *take all*,—Christ, the fullness of all
296 blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your

297 righteousness, your everlasting helper,—to give you power to
298 obey."—Ibid., p 74.

299

300 We would do well to meditate upon those wonderful words—"give
301 all," and "take all." Surely here is abundant provision for the
302 victorious life, with no intimation of long years of agonizing
303 struggle and painful uncertainty.

304

305 What God has provided with divine fullness and generosity, let us
306 accept with the simplicity of the child who was asked what
307 difference it had made since she had become a Christian. She
308 replied, "Since I let Jesus come into my heart to live, when Satan
309 knocks at the door, I say, 'Jesus, you answer that knock, please,'
310 and when He goes to the door, Satan says, 'O, I beg your pardon, I
311 have come to the wrong house.'"

312

313 There is abundance of power to run the streetcar so long as there is
314 contact with the current through the trolley. So there is no lack of
315 power for the victorious life so long as contact is maintained by
316 unceasing prayer and daily feeding on the Word of God, coupled
317 with continual surrender and faith.

318

319 "Thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord
320 Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57

321

322 Meade MacGuire, *Australasian Record*, August 8, 1921.

323

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