

Victory Through Surrender

Ponder: If I surrender, how can I possibly win?

Scripture: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7, NKJV).

It’s another paradox. Victory through surrender sounds like I’m talking out of both sides of my mouth! Doesn’t victory mean you overcome your opponent and force him to surrender? In most cases, yes. But not when your opponent is God!

When we sin, we declare war against God. It goes without saying that we will not overcome God, and He will not surrender to us. The only sensible alternative is that we surrender to Him. We submit to Him. We do so by first obeying the gospel (being “born again) and then by “practicing righteousness” (1 John 2:29) rather than continuing to rebel against Him.

Now, how does that make us victorious? Simply put, we share in the victory of Jesus. “I have overcome the world,” our Lord said in John 16:33. Happily, we share in His victory: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Jesus won the victory over sin. He “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). We share in His victory as His blood washes us from our sins.

Jesus won the victory over Satan. Through His death He destroyed “him who had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). By doing so, He released us from the bondage of the fear of death (v. 15); so we share His victory.

What a glorious paradox! We have the greatest victory in the world when we surrender to the Lord!

But let’s be certain we understand this: Our surrender to Him must be unconditional. Sometimes armies agree to surrender on certain conditions. However, that won’t work with God. I’ve known people who said, “I’ll serve God if . . .” (and then named some condition they wanted the Lord to meet). But no sinner has any bargaining power with God. Honestly, we don’t need any, because He is offering complete victory if we will simply surrender!

Victory through surrender – it doesn’t get any better than this!

Song: “All to Jesus I Surrender”

Prayer: Merciful Father, help us to see what a blessing it is to have victory in Jesus by surrendering unconditionally to You. Without this wonderful victory we would be doomed to eternal defeat. We praise and thank You for Your grace and love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.