

Marks of a Spiritual Christian

stances. God says He can cause us *always* to triumph in Christ. I can almost hear some person in this audience say, "It is all right for you to stand there and preach that such victory is possible, but you do not know what a cantankerous person I have in my family with whom I have to live all the time." No, I do not know the circumstances of your life, but God does and He put the word "*always*" in that verse. Dare you accept it and believe that God can cause you to "*always triumph in Christ*"?

The words "*habitual victory*" were carefully chosen. By "*habitual*" I mean that victory is *the habit* of the Christian's life. This does not mean that the possessor of such victory is *not able to sin* but he is *able not to sin*. Continuous sinning will not be the practice of his life.

What is the real, inward meaning of "*victory*"? Well, it does not mean mere outward control over the expression of sin, but a definite dealing with the inner disposition to sin. Real victory makes a change in the innermost recesses of the spirit that transforms the inner disposition and attitude as well as our outward deed and act. "Real victory never obliges you to conceal what is inside." Many of us do not call sin sin. Of course, we are obliged to call some glaring offense against God or man, that becomes more or less public, sin. But what about that black, defiling thing hidden away