

## **GAINING VICTORY OVER SELF**

George Tabac Dec. 7, 1997

WE often sing the hymn:

"Oh to be nothing, nothing,  
Painful the humbling may be,

Yet low in the dust I lay me,  
That the world my saviour might see.

Rather by nothing nothing,  
To Him let their voices be raised.

He is the fountain of blessing,  
Yes worthy is He to be praised.

Oh to be nothing nothing,  
Only to lie at His feet.

A broken and emptied vessel,  
For the Master's use made meet."

We all appreciate the sentiments of this hymn I'm sure, and mean it when we sing it.  
While at the same time realizing it is much easier to sing than it is to fulfill.

For our fallen human flesh doesn't want to be thought of as nothing. It wants to be  
thought of as something good, it wants others to recognize our deserving qualities. . It  
likes to call attention to it's accomplishments.

A short time ago I came across a short seven paragraph bit of verse that moved me  
greatly. It had to do with what truly constitutes gaining Victory over self.

As I pondered over it, it made me realize how short I came of achieving the sentiments  
expressed.

We would like to share it with you.

### **VICTORY OVER SELF**

**When You never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own  
good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

**When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice  
disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart  
or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, THAT IS VICTORY  
OVER SELF!**

**When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any  
society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

**When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility...and endure it as Jesus endured it, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

**When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

**When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

**When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

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The sentiments of these verses are something I'm sure all of us are striving to accomplish.

But knowing the qualities of our fallen human nature, we realize they are most difficult to achieve perfectly.

At least I know it has been for me, and perhaps for all of us at one time or another.

They all involve the putting down of the tendency of being overly concerned with thoughts of self, and how our image is perceived by the eyes of others.

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For our study this morning we would like to reflect a bit more in depth on the thoughts presented that could help us to gain VICTORY OVER SELF!

**When You never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

When you first read this stanza your reaction may be similar to mine. It somewhat jars you into looking inward, and begin thinking how each of these phrases apply to yourself.

Is it true of me that "I never care to refer to myself in conversation, or make mention of my good works?"

We may be fairly successful in avoiding outright obvious pridefull comments of ourselves, but on the other hand, we realize our flesh is so clever in it's ability.

If we analyze ourselves carefully, perhaps you will recognize the little non-chalant ways our flesh has found to call attention to its self. Often times it may be done subconsciously without our even being aware of it.

We may be telling of someone's trials or victories in conversation, or in a testimony meeting, and just somewhat in passing our flesh weaves in mention of ourselves as part of the story, often with the intent of leaving a favorable impression of our involvement.

It seems our flesh almost desperately wants to be liked and well thought of by others. It wants to feel we're fulfilling our consecrations extremely well, and it's just kind of natural to want to share this knowledge with others so they would know too.

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Our verse further prompts us to ask ourselves, "Is it true of me that I never "itch after commendation?" That is, I never have a longing for approval or compliments from others.

Could this possibly be true of anyone? Who doesn't like to hear a compliment? I know I do! Probably we all do. Is it wrong?

I think the desire of the author of this writing of VICTORY OVER SELF, was to present thoughts that could help us in several different ways.

1st, in a general way to cause us to think inwardly and reflect on how much we are concerned about our self image.

2nd, to cause us to remember and reflect on the many scriptures where God brings out how he hates pride in any form.

3rd, that in thus considering, we might be helped to minimize the tendency of being overly concerned with thoughts of self, and how our image is perceived by others.

That our chief concern in life should be less and less thought of self and what others think of us, and more and more concern of what God thinks of us. Of how we are fulfilling our consecrations, and bringing praise to our Lord and Father.

To help us minimize the tendency of our flesh calling attention to ourselves, our Father has given us countless scriptures to indelibly fix in our minds how much he hates pride and loves humility.

**Prov. 16:5 NAS**

**"Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord."**

**PSA 101:5 NAS**

**"No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure."**

**PSA 25:9**

**"The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way."**

**PRO 15:33**  
**"Before honour is humility."**

**PRO 16:18**  
**Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

**MAT 23:12**  
**"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."**

**JAM 4:6**  
**"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."**

**1CO 13:4 NAS**  
**"Love does not brag and is not arrogant."**

**1CO 10:12**  
**"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."**

**ROM 12:3**  
**For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think."**

**ROM 12:10**  
**Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;**

**ROM 12:16**  
**Be not wise in your own conceits.**

**1CO 1:26**  
**"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that 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."**

**PRO 27:2**

**"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."**

As we consider this scripture we see that it is NOT wrong for us to compliment someone else, or to express our appreciation for their help to us or service for the Lord. No we all need and are blessed by this encouragement, but the point is, - it should come spontaneously from others lips, NOT from our trying to promote it.

Jesus said,

**MAT 6:2**

**"Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men...But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:**

I think we can see from these many scriptures how God hates pride, and wants us to work on ridding from ourselves every vestige of it. For of ourselves we are truly nothing. What have we that we have not received?

**When You never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

Perhaps the most outstanding example of fulfilling this verse was the Apostle John. If any one was justified to commend themselves John would certainly be one, for he was one of the outstanding Apostles.

But what do we find? When he writes his Gospel he never even once makes mention of himself by name, or uses the word "I". How well for us to follow his example, and strive as much as possible to minimize the natural tendency of calling attention to ourselves.

I think we can see that when we use the word "I" too frequently, it may indicate a bit of subconscious pride coming to the forefront. Somewhat wanting others to know about something good that we did to help others, or some service for the Lord.

It could very easily be a way of itching, as it were, for a compliment.

May we ever strive to do that which would be pleasing to the Lord, even **though no one else was ever aware of it**. Our Lord and Father know, and they will bless accordingly.

Let us endeavor to truly "love to be unknown."

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This next aspect of gaining VICTORY OVER SELF has to do with controlling anger. It prompts us to look inward to consider how we react in various negative situations of life.

**When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where deep down inside you know you did something that was a loving sacrificial service for the Lord, and then someone misunderstood, or what ever, and spoke evil about it, or ridiculed your efforts?

How difficult it is! We want to defend ourselves. Our flesh may want to react with anger. It may want to in turn speak evil of them? But oh how we have to fight this inclination.

May we in times like these strive to remember Jesus reaction in:

**ISA 53:7**

**He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.**

What an example for us to follow. They accused Jesus of performing miracles by the power of Satan, of blaspheming God, yet he opened not his mouth, and allowed himself to be crucified.

We too at times, may unjustly have our good, spoken evil of. Like Jesus may we not retaliate. May we give the benefit of the doubt and try to reason that they may have misunderstood because of incorrect statements of others.

We realize that in all our lives we experience countless events that could in measure somewhat justify righteous indignation, and it would be in order.

But I think a lesson in general that we want to strive towards, is to minimize anger to the greatest extent possible.

Our Father has again provided us with many scriptures to remind us of His desire for us to minimize anger. For He realizes the only one hurt by our anger, is we ourselves.

**PRO 16:32**

**He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.**

**Prov. 19:11 NAS**

**A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.**

**Prov. 15:1,2 NAS**

**A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.**

**Prov. 15:17,18 NIV**

**Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.**

**Ps 37:8 NAS**

**Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret, it leads only to evildoing.**

**EPH 4:31**

**Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice, And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

The Apostle Paul is a good example for us to follow. Not only what he taught us in his writings but in his actions as well.

**1 Cor 4:12-13 NIV**

**12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;**

**13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.**

Rather than expressing anger when we are falsely accused, or are misunderstood, or have negative set backs in life, may we gain VICTORY OVER SELF by viewing every experience as being permitted by our Heavenly Father for some good purpose.

As again we are reminded in many scriptures.

**ROM 8:28**

**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

**1PE 2:19**

**For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.**

**MAT 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.**

**When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart**

**or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, that is  
VICTORY OVER SELF!**

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Our next verse of gaining victory over self has to do with contentment.

**When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any  
society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

This makes each of us reflect on our degree of contentment.  
How content are we? Do we find ourselves in a state of mind of rather frequently wanting something more, something different, something better?

Better food, better clothes, better climate, better car, better house, better experiences, or what have you!

I've so much appreciated the reports of our brethren on the day to day life of our brethren in Moldova, the Ukraine and Romania.

Many have no running water or indoor plumbing. Electricity is available only 3 hours a day in the winter. Water is pumped by hand and then has to be brought inside heated in buckets on a wooden fire to bathe or wash clothes. Their homes are heated in winter to only 50 degrees by burning wood.

Children go to school 6 days a week in the winter with class rooms having no heat at all. Many have not paid by the government for 6 months to a year. Their food supply is what they can produce from their gardens.

If we find ourselves somewhat overly inclined to continually want something better, it would be well to read and reread some of these reports, or even better to visit these brethren to experience first hand their living conditions.

I'm sure it would tend to minimize our fallen flesh's tendency of continually wanting something better.

Again our Heavenly Father has given us many scriptures to help us along this line.

**Prov. 37:16-18 NIV**

**"Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked,...The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever."**

**PRO 15:15**

**"He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast. Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith."**

**1 Tim 6:6-11 NIV**

**6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.**

**7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.**



**8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.**  
**9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.**  
**10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**  
**11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.**

**Heb. 13:5,6 TLB**

**"Stay away from the love of money, be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never, never fail you nor forsake you.' That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, The Lord is my helper, and I am not afraid of anything that mere man can do to me."**

**PHI 4:11**

**"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**

**When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

Are we content with any food? Or do we sometimes murmur under our breath about it's variety, taste, quantity, or what have you.

Are we content with any raiment? Or do we feel we must have the latest styles and continually upgrade our wardrobe to keep up.

Are we content with any climate? Or do we have a subconscious desire to bask in the sun and not have to contend with snow or heat or smog or rain.

Our verse concludes with asking if we are content with any interruption. We thus ask ourselves, how annoyed do I get when the things I planned for the day are interrupted, not allowing us to do all the things we wanted to accomplish that day?

Florence and I frequently remind one another on those days we seemed to accomplish so little of what we desired to do, with the thoughts of a verse we have on the wall always before us.

**"When the day is done,  
and you have done your best,  
wait the results in peace!"**

Yes all the Lord expects from us, is to do the best we can each day, and then peacefully leave the results with him.

As we reflect on these points, may we be determined to do better in the days to come, for we truly will not have complete victory over self until we can be content with whatever providence the Lord has permitted, especially that which is beyond our control to change.

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Our next verse has to do with **patience!**

**When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility...and endure it as Jesus endured it, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

This verse refers to enduring patiently, those countless small trifles of life, that are just a little negative in nature.

We realize that often times we may allow our selves to get overly upset over that which in reality is absolutely insignificant in the light of eternity.

The event itself may be next to nothing, insignificant, but the consequence of how we react to these little things could very well determine our eternal destiny.

We recall the scripture, "Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines."

Yes, it's the little things of life and how we react to them, that will determine whether we will be found faithful or not.

Again we have many scriptural admonitions to help us realize the importance that our heavenly Father places on our developing patient endurance.

**1 Cor. 13:4,7**  
**"(Agape) love is patient ...Beareth all things ...endureth all things."**

**1TH 5:14**  
**"Now we exhort you, brethren,...be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."**  
**HEB 10:36**  
**"Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."**

**JAM 1:3**  
**"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."**

**LUK 21:19**  
**"In your patience possess ye your souls."**

**ROM 2:7**

**"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life."**

**ROM 5:3**

**"We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience."**

**Col. 3:12,13 NAS**

**"As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."**

**EPH 4:1**

**"I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."**

**When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility...and endure it as Jesus endured it,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

This verse prompts us to recall our patience or the lack thereof the last time:

A car cut us off,  
when we didn't receive a delivery on time,  
when someone's habitually late to meetings,  
when our brethren fail to fulfill their duty,  
when our plane flight was canceled or delayed,

How do react, or endure, in these little annoying disturbances of life?

We are reminded in this verse that complete VICTORY OVER SELF will not be achieved until we can lovingly and patiently endure that which is beyond our control. Accepting it as permitted by the Lord for our crystallization of character.

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Our next verse has to do with our ability to receive reproof or correction with no resentment.

**When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no**

**rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

This verse prompts us to again look inward to evaluate how readily and gracefully we can accept reproof or correction.

It's not easy! Basically for the most part we all have difficulty seeing our own weaknesses. It's 10 times easier to see the many shortcomings of others.

For our flesh is quite tactful in it's ability to rationalize, or fool ourselves into thinking we're doing great at all times. That our shortcomings are very few and minor at worst.

Thus when someone out of love, or frustration or maybe even anger, calls to our attention an area that would be good to correct, it may at first hurt us!

Our flesh may have a tendency to react. To feel it's entirely unjustified. It wants to go on the defensive. It may look for faults in the one reproofing us. It may suggest, who are they to be telling me!

Our heavenly Father knows this tendency of the fallen flesh to react defensively when we're reproofed.

Thus again he provides scriptural encouragement for us to realize how important it is for us to accept correction. That since He cannot audibly speak to us to bring it to our attention, he often needs to use a fellow human being to be His instrument of communicating to us an area he would like us to improve.

**PRO 15:31 NAS**

**"He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding."**

**Psa. 141:5 NKJ**

**"Let the righteous strike me, it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me, it shall be as excellent oil, let my head not refuse it."**

**Prov. 10:17 NAS**

**"He is on the path of life who heeds instructions, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray."**

**PRO 25:12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.**

**HEB 12:6,7**

**"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he**

**receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"**

Our verse again:

**When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

Thus if we find ourselves corrected or reproofed at school, or work, or by our parents, friends or brethren, may we not immediately go on the defensive, but rather fall on our knees and pray for God's help.

To first of all help us to see if it is true. Is this the way I am father? And if we find there is a valid true need for correction in our lives, to pray for God s help to accomplish it.

May we thus strive to accept true reproof and correction as a loving message from our Father as part of His chastening experiences intended for our ultimate good.

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Our nest verse has to do with not feeling any envy from others successes or possessions.

**When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances, THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

There may be times in our lives when we will be in a fairly desperate state financially. We may be laid off from work, our car needs repairs, the rent is due, and the funds are almost depleted. It's at times like these that we need to be especially on guard that we don't allow a bit of envy to come into our mind.

However we realize that envy could come into our hearts at any time, even when we are doing quite well financially. It's so easy if we are not careful, for the flesh to envy the popularity of others, or their talents, or their position in the ecclesia, or their privileges of service or their seeming lack of trials, or what have you.

Our Father has again given us many scriptures to encourage us along the line of ridding ourselves of this tendency.

**1 Cor. 13:4 NIV  
Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.**

**Prov. 14:30 NIV  
A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.**

**Rom. 13:13-14 NAS**

**Let us behave properly as in the day, ...not in strife and jealousy.,**

**1 Cor 3:3 NIV**

**3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?**

**James 3:14-18 TLB**

**14 And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie.**

**15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, inspired by the devil.**

**16 For wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil.**

**17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere.**

**18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.**

**Gal 5:25-26 TLB**

**25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

**26 Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.**

When ever our flesh feels a touch of envy, we realize that in measure, a bit of pride may be entering the picture. Making us feel that we deserve better. If others can have it, (whatever it might be, material things or position,) I should have it to.

Again we have scriptures to help us if we would reflect on them.

**Prov. 25:27 TLB**

**27 Just as it is harmful to eat too much honey, so also it is bad for men to think about all the honors they deserve!**

**Phil 2:3 TLB**

**3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.**

**1 Jn 2:16**

**16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.**

**2 Cor 12:7-10 RSV**

**7 And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated.**

**8 Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me;**

**9 but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

**10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.**

What a beautiful attitude and example of Paul for us. Rather than feeling envy of others, he was content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for he realized that when he was weak, then he was the strongest of all spiritually.

Our verse again:

**When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances,  
THAT IS VICTORY OVER SELF!**

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The next stanza tries to encourage us when we go thru periods where we feel somewhat neglected or forgotten.

**When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, That is VICTORY OVER SELF!**

All of us I'm sure have had, or will have, times where we feel alone, or left out, or that no one seems to notice us or care.

Though it may be so for a time from a human standpoint, God has given us many scriptures to assure us we're never alone, that He knows, and He cares. He wants us to feel as if he is at our side to help at a moments notice.

God assures us every suffering for Christ, is for a loving purpose, and that he realizes that feeling alone or forgotten can be one of the greatest trials. But to help us he's given us many promises to help us through these periods of time.

**Isa 49:13-16 NAS**

**13 The LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion on His afflicted.**

**14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, and the Lord has forgotten me."**

**15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you.**

**16 "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.**

What an endearing promise! God saying I will **NOT** forget you. Behold I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. How more lovingly could God possibly express His desire for us to know His knowledge of us, and concern for our well being, than by saying he has engraved us in the palms of his hands.

**Luke 12:6-7 NAS**

**6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And {yet} not one of them is forgotten before God.**

**7 "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

**Heb 13:5 NIV**

**5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."**

**1 Pet 4:13**

**13 Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

**Rom 8:28**

**28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

**Rom 8:16-18**

**16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

**17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

**18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

**When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ, That is VICTORY OVER SELF!**

Thus we are reminded that when these things happen to us, or any extremely difficult trying experience, may we not become discouraged, but rather as our verse brings out, strive to gain strength from the realization that God now considers us strong enough to bear such a difficult trial, - to count us worthy to suffer for Christ in this very trying way.

For:

**1 Cor. 10:13 Diag.**



**God is faithful who will not permit you to be tried beyond your ability.**

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Brethren we trust that reflecting on these seven verses of VICTORY OVER SELF could help us in the coming days as we strive to achieve the goal of gaining complete victory of being overly concerned with our self image.

**When we can putt down every hint of pride that our flesh may want to raise.  
Of never wanting to refer to ourselves in conversation.  
Of not wanting to call attention to our good works.  
Of never itching after commendation.**

**Of refusing to allow anger rise in our hearts or even defend ourselves.  
When our good is evil spoken of.  
When our wishes are crossed.  
When our advise has been disregarded.  
When our opinions are ridiculed.  
And we take it all in patient loving silence.**

**When we can be content with any food.  
With any raiment.  
With any climate.  
With any solitude.  
With any interruption.**

**When we can lovingly and patiently bear:  
Any disorder.  
Any irregularity.  
Any impunctuality.  
Any annoyance.  
And endure it, as Jesus endured it.**

**When we can receive correction and reproof,  
And can humbly submit inwardly, and outwardly,  
Without any resentment rising in our hearts.**

**When you can see our brethren prosper, having their needs met,  
And can honestly rejoice with them in spirit and feel no envy,  
Even when our own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances.**

**When we are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught,**

**And we don't sting or hurt with the insult or oversight,  
And our heart is happy,  
Being Counted worthy to suffer with Christ,**

**THEN WE HAVE GOTTEN VICTORY OVER SELF!**

We will never do it perfectly I'm sure, but we pray God will help each of us to strive more earnestly to come closer to achieving this wondrous ideal.

To help remind ourselves of this goal, we have a handout of these beautiful thoughts of the writing VICTORY OVER SELF, that you may want to frame and have on your wall as a continual reminder.

12-5-97