

Flipping the Power Switch

In Romans chapter seven, the apostle Paul paints an interesting picture which many find is an accurate description of their personal Christian experience:

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Romans 7:19

Some people believe this is describing the life in Christ – it’s just the way things are for the Christian – after all, this was the apostle Paul – right? Here’s the problem, this is the same apostle Paul who also said –

“Even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4) And “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Romans 6:12); “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13)

This doesn’t sound like the same person as the man who wrote Romans 7! What’s going on here? Why this contradiction? Actually, it’s not a contradiction at all. We’re looking at two different experiences of Paul – one without the power, and one with the power. Romans 7 is describing the experience of the person who recognizes what’s right – even wants it, but is not connected with Divine power to conquer. So, how do we turn on the power? That’s the question.

Four Power Switches:

1. Prayer

Prayer was the secret of the power of Jesus’ life:

“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” Luke 6:12

“Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power.” From Gospel Workers, 254

2. Study of God’s Word

“Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks.”--The Great Controversy, p. 519

“Sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth.” John 17:17

3. Aggressive Service

“Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.” Luke 8:39

“...Strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service....” Acts of the Apostles, 105

4. The Right Action

“He said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”

*“The afflicted man might have said, ‘Lord, I have not used it for years; heal it first, and then I will stretch it forth.’ But instead of this, when Jesus commanded him to stretch it forth, he exercised the power of his will, and moved it just as if it were well. The very exercise of the will power was evidence to Jesus that the man believed; and his hand was healed in the act of stretching it forth.”
Signs of the Times, October 6, 1887*

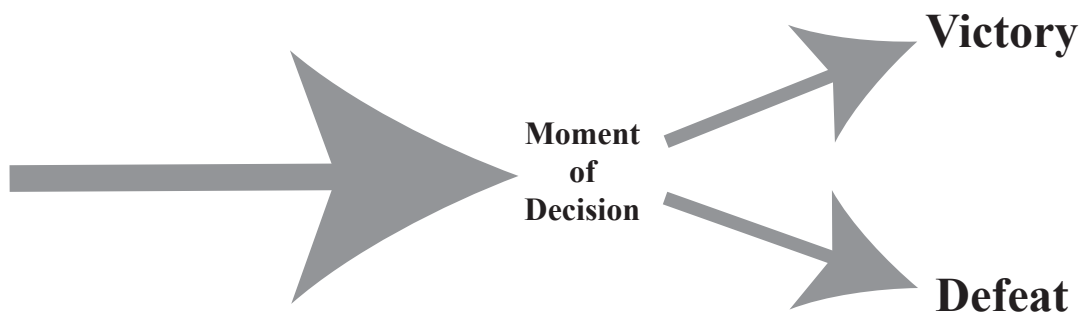
Other Bible examples:

The Ten Lepers
Crossing the Jordan
The Red Sea

“Everything depends on the right action of the will.” Steps to Christ, on page 47,

We’re not talking here about earning our own salvation. Nothing we can do will merit that. We’re saved by grace through faith. We’re talking about connecting with Christ’s power to overcome temptation, and in that context, our action is a deciding factor – determining whether or not we flip the power switch.

Many find it a mystery as to why sometimes they fail and other times they experience victory. The key is learning to recognize the moment of decision. It passes quickly. Whether or not you see it, it’s there. When temptation comes, we choose who we will follow. Our choice determines the outcome.



Watch Video at - <http://backtoenoch.org/total-preparedness/power-switch.html>