General Topics :: SELF CONTROL: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE

SELF CONTROL: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE - posted by MaryJane, on: 2009/11/6 1:01

Just thought this was worth sharing, so I am passing it along

God bless
maryjane
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So WHY did Paul, given the chance to speak to a king about Jesus, decide in the Spirit to speak to Felix of Â“righteousness, SELF CONTROL, and the Judgment to comeÂ”? (Acts 24:25)

What does Â“SELF CONTROLÂ” have to do with anythingÂ—other than losing weight or other forms of difficult restraint? Surely we Â“buffet our bodies dailyÂ” and we Â“make our bodies our slavesÂ” to the praise of His Glory. But, what is SO significant about SELF CONTROL that Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, would use such a limited and rare opportunity before the nations and its kings to speak of SELF CONTROL?

Self Control is far from some isolated Â“good character attributeÂ” of athletes and Pharisees.

The truth is, SELF CONTROL, in its essence, is really all about FAITH, and HOPE, and LOVE. And nothing could be more profound and practical than that. SELF CONTROL is a statement before God that YOU CAN by His Spirit and Life, AND WILL for His Glory, RESTRAIN AND REFUSE Â“instant gratificationÂ” of your flesh. You will Â“CONTROL SELFÂ” and Â“deny your very selfÂ” as Rabboni taught usÂ—by FAITH, for the HOPE of what is to come, and for the LOVE of the One who is Coming.

OF COURSE GodÂ’s Heart regarding Â“self controlÂ” is that it is always Â“forÂ” and Â“inÂ” ChristÂ—not a prideful or man-pleasing exhibition of self-life or vanity.

SELF CONTROLÂ—we willingly and Vertically restrain and deprive sensual indulgence of the eyes and flesh. We withhold immediate satiation of our own appetites, desires, and preferences of fleshÂ—for the sake of Jesus and FUTURE Reward. Self Control involves what we are called to DO (yet do not desire), as well as the Â“desirableÂ” things we are called to withhold from ourselves. THIS is Biblical Â“self control.Â”

Self Control is clearly an outward expression of an INNER Â“FAITH, and HOPE, and LOVE.Â” We choose to do what pleases HIM and so Â“for the joy set before us, endure the cross.Â” Self Control is an upward-looking choice, day by day, situation by situation, connected to the Head, and abiding in the Vine. We choose to act upon, to do or not do, what our flesh or desires or ambitions would not normally desire to choose. And we do it for His sake, for the greater Call beyond Â“immediate pleasureÂ” or Â“immediate satisfactionÂ” or Â“personal desires.Â” Delayed gratification, intentionally, for JesusÂ—that is SELF CONTROL. As Father therefore described it, self control is a Â“fruit of the SpiritÂ”.

Â“From Him and through Him and to Him are all things!Â”

Â“Righteousness, SELF CONTROL, and the Judgment to Come.Â” Good News and Life that is Truly Life.

Self Control is but an outward expression and reality joined to HimÂ… of FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. Self Control, delayed gratification in Faith, for Him and others, and for the sake of the Blessed Hope.

For the Lamb of God who was slain, who rose from the dead triumphantly, and who is Coming again to claim those who are His

Re: SELF CONTROL: FAITH, HOPE and LOVE - posted by JoanM, on: 2009/11/6 14:30

So WHY did Paul, given the chance to speak to a king about Jesus, decide in the Spirit to speak to Felix of Â“rig hteousness, SELF CONTROL, and the Judgment to comeÂ”? (Acts 24:25)

Reading your question, I immediately thought of John 16: 8-11: And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, a nd of righteousness, and of judgment: Considering Paul's surrender and fullness in the Holy Spirit, his focus makes gre at sense.

Thoughts on self control:

Kings: The Prince, by Machiavelli is an interesting secular book. Some say one of the Â“great books of western Civilizat ionÂ”. It explores the fact that a king, who can control everything, is Â“master of allÂ”, is really a slave to his passion, the greatest slave of all in that (among other things) nothing restrains him. Jesus also touched on this in John 19:11a, expos ing the illusion of control that kings have. (Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power against me, except it were giv en thee from above:).

Control of the whole body (flesh): James 3: 2 says, For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the s ame a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Many appreciate this truth regarding gossip and the spread of o ffenses. But notice that if we have a problem with the flesh (any problem), James offers a unique way of freedom. Glory t o God side-effects. Go to the root of the problem.

Man can not tame Â“offending in wordÂ” (But the tongue can no man tame; an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:8). That is a work of God (and thus by faith from man's perspective). I also notice that Paul echoes James' Â“offend no t in wordÂ” a bit in Acts 24: 16 (And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward Go d, and men.).

Desires change with new birth as we grow in Christ. Old man behavior, that the old man struggled and failed to control, l ooses its grip, the strength of its grip, chaff that blows away. Spirit of God control becomes reality. 100 years ago psycho logy learned that when self-effort at change (control) was Â“successfulÂ”, (and it was) the expression just changed its fo rm. Like pick your poison rage, food, drugs, etc. or make anger your ally by channeling it into corporate takeovers, murd er novels, etc.

I have noticed that it is the Love of God that constrains and strengthens me, both His Love in me going out to others and my love for Him. How can we sin against Him who loved us so. This is everywhere in the Bible (ex. 1 John 5:2-3)

As I post this, it occurs to me this was maybe not your question but something someone else wrote. It is a good thing to t hink on nonetheless.