

**Miracles that follow the plow :: Regret**

**Regret - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/5/21 8:15**

I have been struggling with this for a while and so I thought I would ask, Is it okay to regret? and How do you deal with regret? My heart aches with regret and I don't find peace until I am actually unconscious generally sleeping but it even chases me in my dreams at times. This is mistakes of my long past before I even knew the Lord but Lo and Behold there they are. Thanks.

God Bless,  
Matthew

**Re: Regret - posted by lylewise, on: 2011/5/21 8:35**

You are not alone. You know as I do there is one who accuses the saints. If he cannot assault you in the present he will go for your past. Christ covers this as well as your future sins. You are indebted to Christ and because of such love desire not to hurt Him in any way. So the devil uses what he can. Even digging back into our past. He is limited but in what he does he is not only an expert but he is author of accusing the saints for in this he wrote the book. Yet Christ put these past sins on the cross and bled upon them with his precious blood and they were, are, and forever will be covered. Stay in prayer and He will correct this for you. This is not the mind of Christ and prayer will correct this divergence.

I would not say that our past sins do not hold for us some things constructive. How then can we give testimony to the change if we cannot say we have been changed from that previous life where we practiced sin. His grace is made so graceful in the new us. You are a priest and conqueror and it is only only and all because of Him!

**Re: Regret - posted by MaryJane, on: 2011/5/21 10:07**

matthew

I to have struggled just as you described with regret. There are times when my heart was so heavy with regret and sorrow that I could barely breathe. My greatest struggle with regret are those of my past sins that have had lasting effects on others around me, such as my children. As a young parent you make decisions that are not always in keeping with the Lord and sadly there are consequences for that sin. As the other poster wrote though Jesus' blood covers all sin and when we come to Him and repent we are forgiven. I am learning not to give room to these thoughts but to take them captive to the Lord and trust that HE is faithful in all His dealing with me. I am learning that while it is true past sins have caused harm there is also hope in sharing with others how JESUS has set me free and helped me to overcome. I am learning to keep my focus on HIM and keep moving forward in HIM that has helped me much to realize that it's just the enemy attempting to get my attention off of JESUS and on to other things when these past sins are dug up and paraded before me. I simply pray and remember that was laid at the CROSS and Jesus has forgiven me.

I will be in prayer for you  
God Bless  
mj

**Re: Regret - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/5/21 10:12**

Quote:

-----This is mistakes of my long past before I even knew the Lord but Lo and Behold there they are. Thanks.  
-----

Brother,

When it overwhelms me, I go to the Lord usually in tears, which praise the Lord, is getting less and less (by that I mean it's not everyday!) and when in the prayer closet the Holy Spirit washes me with hope that "the best is yet to come." (I know that is a slogan but it's true!)

And brother, the regrets that have plagued me are not from before I knew the Lord but the things I have done SINCE knowing

owing the Lord and then I had to it all by backsliding.

It doesn't really matter WHEN whatever happened happened that we regret; it's how we handle it. Matthew, we are no good to our God if we spend our waking hours regretting the past. Let the Lord move you past your past.

God bless you brother!

Lisa

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2011/5/21 10:55**

I have always had this opinion about regrets, "Life is to uncertain to have regrets" as I said just my opinion.

**Re: Regret - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/5/21 12:35**

Hi Matthew,

I had some major problems with regret when I was a young Christian. This was not only from a sinful past but from areas in my life where I was still not overcoming.

We were talking in another post about the conviction of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. This conviction should be received and welcomed and that area that is breaking fellowship with the Lord should be repented of. However, after the cleansing of the precious blood there should be peace because our fellowship with the Lord is restored.

Sins that we have repented of are now under the precious blood, and are not even remembered by the Lord any more. He has cast these sins into the depths of the sea, as far as the east is from the west have these sins been removed from us.

The condemnation of the devil is much different from the conviction of the Holy Spirit and should be refused. The voice of the accuser will paralyze the Christian and fill him with regret for past sins. We overcome the accuser by the blood of the Lamb. We should not continue to look back and allow the enemy to condemn us for past sins that have been repented of. We must keep our eyes on Jesus for He is able to keep us from falling and to present us before the Father without spot or blemish.

Mike

**Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2011/5/21 13:01**

Awesome Post! Brother Mike.

**Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2011/5/24 3:12**

just a little word from my life, i found regret two main ways in my life. the first way was to come bodily to God and repent of past sin and turn away from those old desires in my heart. the other regret did not go away as easy, it was deeper and i needed good holy spirit filled deliverance ministry because i was pestered so badly that i wanted to kill myself. this one didnt go away until someone with authority casted it out. i found that when i was free of these regrets that no longer had a sting over me as a curse but now are transformed into blessings filled with Gods wisdom. Thats just me though dont know if it happens like that to anyone else. :)

**Re: , on: 2011/5/24 8:15**

Quote:

-----it was deeper and i needed good holy spirit filled deliverance ministry because i was pestered so badly that i wanted to kill myself. this one didnt go away until someone with authority casted it out.

I would be careful with giving advice of this sort unless you can also provide a New Testament reference that gives an example of an unclean spirit being CAST OUT of a Spirit-filled believer.

Personally, the only delivery service I can believe in, is one that can guarantee me my pizza within thirty minutes, or my money back.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/24 9:46**

LOL!!! EverestoSama, i agree, and luv the humor! : )

**Re: Regret, on: 2011/5/24 9:53**

Mguldner,

Regrets, i have many. Both preconversion and post. Does anyone get through life without them? I totally relate to what you are saying and how sleep offers you your only freedom. That is some pretty heavy regret. I don't have any answers for either one of us. Sometimes all the scripture in the world doesn't take the pain away. Question: Have you talked to anyone about it (in detail)?

**Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2011/5/24 11:10**

to everestosama and cyan

Quote:  
-----I would be careful with giving advice of this sort unless you can also provide a New Testament reference that gives an example of an unclean spirit being CAST OUT of a Spirit-filled believer.  
-----

i find it interesting that you use humour on something that was very serious to me. your words are mocking and are neither biblical or edifying. I have seen the posts about the debate about christians not being able to be possessed by evil spirits. the reason i did not give a response on them is the same reason i should not have put a response on hear. do not throw your pearls before swine or else they will trample them. If your response was from the holy spirit then he would have corrected the one who is wrong, but i testify that it was not as there is no meat or peace in your reply. now i say to you if a man asks for bread who is it that gives him a scorpion?

If my perception is wrong then it will fall to nothing as my intent is only to serve the living Christ and christ clothes me in his righteousness. Im saddened that such a response can be posted especially on this site.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/24 11:21**

Brother, you can criticize me all you desire to, and I can give you some fantastic info about me to do so with, however you haven't dealt with what's being said.

People from the Lakeland, Toronto, Pensacola, and any other place you can take your pick from, all lean on their experience and the blessing that they received and reply the EXACT SAME WAY. Your experience will line up with what the Word says, or it will truly not be pearls of any sort.

Like I said, if you desire to take potshots at me, I can tell you all sorts of terrible things about my character that you can use as ammo for "swine" such as myself. However, I'd like you to Scripturally refute what I've said, not how you perceived my delivery.

No offense meant to you personally, but my advice and question still stand. New Testament references please. We can leave the experiential theology to those who don't care beans for what the Bible says. To most here, the, "It happened to me so it MUST be of God," sort of doctrine really won't go far without chapter and verse.

Sound fair?

EDIT; And I wasn't mocking you personally, I'm poking fun at the cons who don't know their Bibles well enough, and try and sell you the idea that you, (presumably a Spirit-filled Christian) needed "deliverance" from an indwelling demon. Don't sell the same snake oil that you've been sold.

**Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/5/24 11:40**

Dear brothers,

It has been a source of contention between Christians concerning the influence of demon spirits upon those that are truly born again. A lot of trouble comes from terminology. It is true that a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon. Possession means ownership, and if you are child of God then you are His, and the Holy Spirit dwells within you, therefore it would be impossible for one that has been delivered from the power of darkness to be possessed by an evil spirit.

However, I have seen and worked with many Christians that were oppressed by demon spirits. When a Christian repeatedly yields to sin in a certain area, he not only has the flesh to contend with but very often a spirit will have to be dealt with. Many Christians have been involved with the occult and this has given ground to evil spirits.

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. The flesh is to be crucified, but demon spirits have to be cast out in the mighty name of Jesus.

We have prayed for Christians that have given ground to evil spirits and the spirits have at times manifested themselves through believers.

The Lord lead my wife and I to the knowledge of the working of demon spirits early in our Christian walk. I was seeking the Lord as to problems that we were having in our marriage, and He led me to a book that dealt with deliverance. The Lord used this information and led us to some believers that ministered deliverance to us and my wife was set free from schizophrenia. There was a remarkable change after this deliverance in her life and also in our marriage.

I realize that there are demon chasing groups that see a demon hiding under every bush, but that does not discount the need for deliverance ministry in the church. I could give you example after example from personal experience of brothers and sisters being set free from demonic influence.

Mike

**Re: Regret - posted by crusader (), on: 2011/5/24 11:58**

Hi mgulder(mathew)

I apologise for my reply response on your thread it has nothing to do with what you are going through and nor do I believe it is the right post for the discussion had. Let me be the liar and misguided but the Lord always be glorified in his truth and righteousness.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/24 12:02**

Quote:

-----the Lord always be glorified in his truth and righteousness.

I'll agree with you on that, bro. Amen.

**Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/5/26 1:27**

Thank you all for your responses they are all appreciated and helpful. I think perhaps a source of regret is doubt, doubt that Christ really has forgiven, doubt that His blood can take away my sin. It's quite proud to think such thoughts in nature, my sins are just as everyone else's, no better or worse. Jesus can handle it, I know He can. Till then I will keep renewing my mind in hopes that my mourning will turn into Joy.

Re: , on: 2011/5/26 2:56

Quote:  
-----Re: to everestosama and cyan Quote: I would be careful with giving advice of this sort unless you can also provide a New Testament reference that gives an example of an unclean spirit being CAST OUT of a Spirit-filled believer. Unquote.

I find it interesting that you use humour on something that was very serious to me. Your words are mocking and are neither biblical or edifying. I have seen the posts about the debate about Christians not being able to be possessed by evil spirits.

Dear Crusader,

It was probably MY response (to Everestosama) that caused you to think we were mocking, not his response to you. Please be assured that I in no way meant to mock you or to hurt your feelings. I just thought his quip about pizza was cute, in addition to agreeing with his theology. I did not mean to "diss" YOU with my reply. It is difficult to convey tone, etc in email, forums, or in other print media. I apologize for not having prefaced my comments with a "no offense intended" lead-in. As a matter of fact, I later worried about the post and wondered if it might be misunderstood. I guess I was right. Again, please accept my sincere apology (for both myself and on his behalf).

Re: , on: 2011/5/26 3:41

Dear Brother Mike, you are very correct in saying that the debate on demonology comes from "terminology" - in many cases, but not all.

Though we can agree that a truly born-again Christian cannot be demon possessed, which also means that they have a demon "in" them - it is equally unBiblical to use the term "cast out" with Christians. Having a demon "in" a person is the only time we would need to "cast out" that demon and in a truly regenerated Christian - those words are not the appropriate terminology. If we type in "cast out" into an e-sword or similar program as a 'phrase' and search the N.T., we'll see how that phrase is used - always with those who have a demon 'in' them. "Deliverance" is another word that one should do a Biblical Search on.

I wrote on another thread how that before I was saved, I was studying psychiatry - and then when I heard the full Gospel, I gave that part of my life to GOD and the one and only "extreme" I got caught up in after full-salvation was 'demonology', due to my own fears of counterfeits because of the supernatural gifts. To make a very long story as short as possible - within months of The LORD showing me through His Word alone that the demonology that I was being taught, and was believing, was unScriptural, the very next set of books the LORD gave me were Watchman Nee's. All of this happened within my first year in The Church, almost like a crash course.

So, combining my extensive research on demonology, my knowledge of psychiatry and now having Watchman Nee to learn from - I was able to go "Scripture Only" and find that when GOD comes into a life, He cleans house completely and if there's any problems there-after, it's due to the "self-life" and non-Biblical beliefs that stem from 'self'.

The self is just pride, to lesser or greater degrees. All "mental illnesses" as the secularists call them, are from us being "self-focused" in one way or another. Even if we believe a "heresy", which is defined as "the belief chosen" - it is because of "self". To be "self-focused" can be out of even so-called honorable causes - as in a hyper-conscience that fears displeasing GOD and not just the "self-focus" of a selfish person. "Self-consciousness" can be selfish or just from fear of displeasing GOD or men - but in the long run - it's from not knowing Him and His Word well enough.

Nee even teaches that too much "introspection", in a desire to please GOD, is wrong. You've read a lot of Nee as well, so I believe you are following my thoughts.

"Self" whether it be from pride or fear, will cause what the secularists call "neurosis", "disorders" or "psychosis".

What we're dealing with - all of us - is self - to one degree or another.

We know from Job that GOD can use a devil to work His work at exposing what's really inside of us - that 'self' life. These "mental illnesses" are the extremes of a self-life and the enemy of our souls will take advantage of anyone in the state of being self-oriented and GOD allows that, at times.

The person is truly in need of dying to self, no matter what their problem is, than the enemy has no grounds to stay. I'm adding here, the enemy has no ground but what The LORD allows to get our minds where they belong. Adding also the terms - "self-pity", "self-glory", "self-centered", "self-conscious", and so forth.

Many people have been actually 'physically healed' at these heretics meetings because the heart of the person seeking the healing was in fact "looking to GOD" for the healing.

In the same way - some have been delivered from mind-problems through submitting themselves to the prayers of those who may think it's just demons - because the person is finally fed-up with acting irrationally.

Yes, some may be externally-oppressed but the root cause is "self" and GOD will use this external-oppression to make the person tired enough with what they're doing or behaving like or experiencing to finally seek help from fellow Christian's prayers.

There are people who are "self-consumed" and those are the ones who will eventually develop one of the three classifications that the world terms as mental illnesses.

GOD is GOOD and when a person is genuinely saved - GOD cleans house completely. To teach otherwise is to rob Him of His Goodness, Faithfulness and Abilities.

All blame goes to one manifestation of the self-life or another. It's all self. He only uses the enemy to keep self at bay - as He did with the Apostle Paul, even Before Paul became proud, but so that he wouldn't become proud, He sent him a "messenger from Satan".

Not too many people can claim to have been through the remarkable spiritual experiences that Paul went through - and if they say that they have - they're proud already :) - but Paul's exceptional experiences is why GOD gave him that thorn. Paul never sought "deliverance" or for anything to be "cast out". Paul only asked The LORD three times that it would "depart From him". It was an outward, not inward "messenger of Satan to buffet him".

There are no cases in the New Testament where a Christian needed deliverance of a "casting out" type.

It is so essential that we understand the workings of our "self-life".

It can also be compared to Peter walking on water. As soon as he took his eyes off of The LORD, he sunk. That's us.

I've known many who have hated Nee only because they hate the dying to self message.

I've known schizophrenics to come to their right mind once they realized the power of their self-life. That being self-focused can make anyone 'sick' and selfish and mean and right to the extremes of hearing voices. Now that is truly "self-focus ed" at it's max. Paranoia is the same - "SELF" focus to the hilt.

All sin is self and the bottomline truly is - all self is pride.

GOD will do whatever He can to get the pride out of one's life.

To look to or at oneself instead of to Him is pride.

Even if we think our "intentions are good", because we "want to please Him" - what we're truly doing is not 'Trusting Him' to do what He's promised in His Word to do.

We all need to continually, daily, moment by moment, die to self - until the day that we See Him Face to face. Our 'self' is our greatest enemy and like Nee said, there's nothing to fear except our own 'self-life/flesh' getting in GOD's way. We need to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and be renewed in our minds by His Word. His Word needs to replace our own thoughts - and that's the way to Life More Abundant... when we forget about self.

Many fall by focusing on the devil when 'self' has been the culprit all along and GOD may only use outward 'attacks' to get our mind where it belongs - off of ourselves and onto The Word of GOD. Bless The LORD of Glory! Our deliverance was at the cross and upon Salvation. We need 'His' Word alone.

**Re: - posted by RevCrabtree, on: 2011/5/26 3:53**

Interesting reading...

Just curious, what do you mean by "saved-saved" and "full salvation"?

**Re: , on: 2011/5/26 4:07**

That part was in my testimony on another thread.

I never heard the Gospel nor the Bible until I was 23 but the LORD made Himself real to me in early childhood, when I would talk to Him, believing that He was real and He made Himself very real, but I didn't know about "forgiveness" until I heard it for the first time from a TV preacher at 23. Before then, I had prayed and asked Him to change me, etc and He did, but I had never heard anything of the Bible nor the Gospel - so I call the day that I first heard the Gospel and asked for forgiveness, the day I got saved-saved. Oh happy day it was!

**Re: - posted by RevCrabtree, on: 2011/5/26 4:11**

Excellent.

Thanks.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/26 9:29**

Great post JIG.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/26 15:01**

I should have been clearer about what happened the day I heard the Gospel for the first time and about "forgiveness".

I said "Oh Happy day, that was" but although, Yes, it was a very happy day to know that one could be completely "saved", I spent that day being shown everything that I was being forgiven "for" and grieving to the point that it was almost physical pain to see where I had sinned against Him for all those years and just about cried myself dehydrated, as He showed me all the sins, from the time that He told me as a kid that I was "Going the wrong way" and I acknowledged to Him that "I knew."

I remember the full 24 hours or so of being shown quick mental images of all that I had done against Him, so I felt to just leave it as a picture of just a 'happy day' wasn't a complete explanation. Only He could show those times to me at that speed and without me trying to remember, myself. It leaves you with an acute awareness of the fact that He is Omniscient and doesn't forget until it's under His Blood.

They say that Job is the first book of the Bible, chronologically and for the reason that we'll understand how Satan is under GOD's complete authority.

Satan cannot move against us without GOD's permitting it.

That Biblical fact is so important for Christians to understand - I can think of only the doctrine of Salvation to top that knowledge.

Yes, if we're a threat to the enemy's kingdom, he will attack as well - but even then Romans 8:28 & 29 is always the case. "ALL things" work together to conform us into His Image - even the attacks for doing the Right thing.

For more of Him and less of 'self'. To know that "without Him, we can Do Nothing."

Satan is not "out of control".

One funny thing - I just now looked in an old Webster's under "self" - oh my - all those words under 'self'.

I could find only two that were good ones. "Self-sacrifice" and "self-denial" or "self-control" - which is the Greek word 'sophronismos' from 2Ti 1:7, translated as "sound mind" in the KJV.

GOD Bless!



Re: , on: 2011/5/26 15:31

Quote:  
-----Satan cannot move against us without GOD's permitting it.  
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However, we can permit Satan to move against us as the scriptures teach.

We get out of God's will then and His hedge of protection will come down when we sin and don't repent.

Eph 4:27 NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL. (Paul, is saying that it is possible for us to give place to the devil).

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (If you welcome him, he won't flee. You have to resist him and not submit to him)

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR: (He is seeking you and I through the avenue of the works of the flesh - SIN).

1Pe 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (stedfast resistance is enjoined, and all the brethren in the world fight the same fight).

A777

Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2011/5/27 23:54

These posts have been helpfull but i will post what God took me through on another post called "new wine"

Re: , on: 2011/5/29 0:15

"I TALK BACK TO THE DEVIL" by A. W. TOZER

The devil makes it his business to keep Christians in bondage, bound and gagged, actually imprisoned in their own grave clothes!"

Why doesn't the old devil, Satan, give up and bow out of the picture when a person becomes a believing Christian? Although he is a dark and sinister foe dedicated to the damnation of humans, I think he knows that it is no use trying to damn a forgiven and justified child of God who is in the Lord's hands.

So, it becomes the devils business to keep the Christian's spirit imprisoned. He knows that the believing and justified Christian has been raised up out of the grave of his sins and trespasses. From that point on, Satan works that much harder to keep us bound and gagged, actually imprisoned in our own grave clothes.

He knows that if we continue in this kind of bondage, we will never be able to claim our rightful spiritual heritage. He knows also that while we continue bound in this kind of enslavement we are not much better off than when we were spiritually dead. This is one reason why the Christians in today's churches are behaving like a flock of frightened sheep - so intimidated by the devil that we cant even say "Amen"!

I admit that occasionally you find a few who are just childishly happy about everything, but that is not what I mean. Often these are just like children playing in the market places, having never been seriously engaged in the conflict on the spiritual battlefield. Show me an individual or a congregation committed to spiritual progress with the Lord, interested in what the Bible teaches about spiritual perfection and victory, and I will show you where there is strong and immediate defiance by the devil!

Satan loves to intimidate

Satan has been in this business of intimidating and silencing and oppressing the people of God for a long, long time. Th



The armies of Israel experienced this kind of fright in the valley of Elah when Goliath and the Philistines were camped on the opposite mountain. King Saul was leading Israel, but he was sour, fearful, intimidated because of Goliath, that giant of a man who daily shouted his taunts, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel!" (1 Samuel 17:10). So the army cowered in fear.

But a little fellow by the name of David came along, and he was in right fellowship with the Lord. We are told that the spirit of the Lord came upon David, who said to the Israelites, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight with him!" (1 Samuel 17:32). This was the first word of encouragement to come to these ranks of soldiers who had been able only to gaze in fascinated fear at that great giant who taunted them daily. David was confident and serene because he knew and trusted the Source of all strength. The recorded result was one of the great, miraculous "turn-arounds" of history, David and his sling disposing of Goliath in a way that brought glory to the God of Israel as well as victory to the armies of Israel.

I am sure that it is not glorifying to our God that Christians should be so intimidated and silenced in our day. It was Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, who came down and took our human body for Himself. He was a man, born of a woman, a man wearing our own nature - but He was also God! He went to the cross and they sacrificed Him there. The Father, God Almighty, accepted His sacrifice as the one, last, final fulfillment and consummation of all the sacrifices ever made on Jewish altars. After He had been dead three days, He came forth - raised from the dead and out of the grave. After a few days He ascended as Victor over all the forces of death and hell and sat down amid the acclamations of the heavenly hosts!

There He sits at God's right hand - a living man, our representative and advocate and great, high priest. Believing this, we ought to be the most fearless, the most relaxed, the happiest and most God-assured people in the whole world! But Satan is an old dragon who defies us to this hour. He is saying to Christians, "I defy you - what can you do about it?"

We must get free!

I think we had better get free! We must face up to the issues and attitudes and doubts which constitute our fears, that keep us from being happy and victorious Christians with the true liberty of the children of God. We seem to quake about many things. In the first place, are you still afraid of your past sins? God knows that sin is a terrible thing? and the devil knows it, too. So he follows us around and as long as we will permit it, he will taunt us about our past sins.

As for myself, I have learned to talk back to him on this score. I say, "Yes, Devil, sin is terrible-but I remind you that I got it from you! And I remind you, Devil, that everything good - forgiveness and cleansing and blessing? everything that is good I have freely received from Jesus Christ!" Everything that is bad and that is against me I got from the devil - so why should he have the effrontery and the brass to argue with me about it? Yet he will do it because he is the devil, and he is committed to keeping God's children shut up in a little cage, their wings clipped so that they can never fly!

In our churches we often sing, "Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears." But nothing happens and we keep our fears. Why do we claim on one hand that our sins are gone and on the other act just as though they are not gone? Brethren, we have been declared "Not Guilty!" by the highest court in all the universe. Still there are honest Christians, earnestly seeking the face of God, who cannot seem to break loose and find real freedom. The grave clothes trip them up every time they try to move on a little faster. Satan uses their past sins to terrify them.

Now, on the basis of grace as taught in the Word of God, when God forgives a man, He trusts him as though he had never sinned. God did not have mental reservations about any of us when we became His children by faith. When God forgives a man, He doesn't think, I will have to watch this fellow because he has a bad record " No, He starts with him again as though he had just been created and as if there had been no past at all! That is the basis of our Christian assurance - and God wants us to be happy in it.

Satan magnifies memories

Next, are you allowing Satan to magnify the memories of your spiritual failures? He will always keep them before you unless you take your stand and move up in faith. The devil will whisper, "You didn't get - very far along toward the deeper life, did you?"

He will say, "You made a big 'to-do' about wanting to be filled with the Spirit and you really flopped, didn't you?" He will taunt you with the fact that you may have stumbled in the faith - and perhaps more than once! The devil wants you to live in a state of discouraged chagrin and remorse. Remember, the Bible does not teach that if a man falls down, he can never

er rise again. The fact that he falls is not the most important thing-but rather that he is forgiven and allows God to lift him up!

Perhaps you have read of the saintly Fletcher, whose holy life became so recognized that he was called "the seraphic Fletcher." His testimony reveals that he stumbled and miserably failed God seven times. But after the seventh failure he went to a room and did not come out until he was able to rest his case completely in the strength of God's hands. He came out of the room saying, "Dear Lord, I believe that I am delivered from the bondage of my sin. If you will keep me and help me I will never cease telling the world what you can do for a man!" For the rest of his life Fletcher exhibited to the world God's power to bless and to keep His transformed children on earth.

If our failures are going to hinder us forever, we might just as well never have taken the first step. But God knew all about us and He still loved us and desired His eternal best for us.

God knows humans

The Bible tells us often that God knows humans better than they know themselves - He doesn't have to wait for the information to come from the accuser, the devil. God has said,

Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth. For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off. See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. (Isaiah 48:8b-11a)

God does have a stake in each of us -and it is for His own sake that He will lift us up. He is not going to bless us for our own sake? He is going to bless us for Jesus' sake and for the sake of His own name! If you think that there is anyone in the world so good that God could do something for that person's sake, you don't know sin; and if you think there is anything that God will not do for you for His sake and for His name, you don't know God!

If you have failed, remember that you are not responsible to men in this regard. You stand responsible before your heavenly Father and Jesus Christ at the right hand of God. Let us be encouraged by this good news! In the third place, some are fearful that they will lose their reputation as sober and conservative and traditional Christians. In other words, they have never been willing to be a fool for Jesus' sake!

It is amazing that genuine Christians are not willing to stand up wherever they are and give a good word for the Lord. There are great political ideologies sweeping the world now whose members will make double-eyed, long-eared donkeys of themselves for the sake of the party and the cause. There are religious sects whose witnesses are willing to go to jail, to be pushed around, to be lampooned for the sake of a miserable, twisted doctrine! But in our Christian ranks, we prefer to be respectable and smooth, and we have a reputation for being very solemn Christian believers.

I can only conclude from my experience that many solemn, professing Christians will never make any spiritual progress and will never really be happy in the Lord until God finds some way to shake them out of their deadly respectability! Charles G. Finney, the great American evangelist, knew this experience of becoming God's man and God's mouthpiece in such a way and with such unusual blessing and results that many just stood as critics and tried to frown him down.

Have to lose reputations

So it has been with all of God's saints who have pleased Him and praised Him through the centuries. At some time in their witness and expression of the living Christ they have had to lose their reputations among those who have been traditionally pious and somber, dogmatic and cautious. This is still happening in our day, and with glorious results.

A young man who is director of one of our American Bible conferences has given me his testimony of great and radical things which the Lord has done for him in recent months.

I realize now that in my service for God I was one of the most self-assured, conceited and horrid young fellows you could ever meet" he told me frankly. "I could raise money, I could put on a great program, and I figured I was a great success in the Lord's work. But recently on a trip to Wales, I had the opportunity of talking to some older folks who remembered Evan Roberts and the great Welsh revival. They told me about the true working of the Holy Spirit in Christian renewal and revival - and I didn't really know what they were talking about. Somehow, and they did not realize it, it was just as though they were burying me under a great load of crushing bricks, and God spoke to me about my own great spiritual lack.

He told me that he made his way to the little cottage where he was staying and got down on his knees and began to sweat it out before God. Do you know what this was? It was the act of dying! It was the end of self. That man died to reputation, ability, presumption, success, conceit, personality - all of that stuff!

He said to me, "Mr. Tozer, I was filled with the Holy Spirit and my whole life has been transformed. Now I only want this cheated and betrayed generation to see the glory of God once more!" I said to him then, "Brother, do you realize that if you carry through with this message and this blessing that you will lose some of your best fundamentalist friends? You will be described as having gone off your rocker."

"I am not worried any more about my reputation" he replied. "I am perfectly willing because I am going to let the Lord have His way in the whole operation." The interesting thing is that he hasn't had to switch or change his doctrines around at all-he just found out that he needed the fire of God on his doctrine, and he got it!

#### Fear of fanaticism

Also related to reputation is the fear of many Christians that they will be considered fanatical or extreme for their Christian faith. I think it is ironic that the devil gives the world all of its extremists in every realm -entertainment, politics, society, education, anarchy, intrigue-you name it! Yet it is the same devil that frightens believers about the great danger of becoming "extreme"

I passed an auditorium recently where one of the young crowd of singing stars was appearing. Police were having great trouble with the crowds and in the erotic fury of that concert, girls began to tear off their clothes; many were weeping and screaming. Those who had fainted were being carried out. It is the same devil, but he uses different tactics in dealing with Christians. Should a Christian get blessed and say, 'Amen,' the devil quickly intervenes and whispers, "Don't be a fanatic-you ought to stay quiet and stable in the faith!"

Oh, what a devil the devil is! He frightens us first and then sells us a bill of goods about caution, caution, caution in the church. Some Christians also are greatly awed by the fear of ostracism. The devil says to them, "Be careful about religion - you will be lonely. You will have to go it alone!"

I have heard one of our preachers tell about the experience he had years ago in coming to a decision concerning the claims of Christ on his life. It was at the close of a service, and he was standing with the rest of the congregation while an invitation was being given to come forward in submission to the will of God. There was a struggle going on in his own soul, and he knew that the Spirit of God was pressing him to make the decision to sell out completely and to become a real Christian in commitment to the Lord.

But the devil knows how to join in these arguments, and he whispered, "Charlie, you must be careful at this point. You know how easy it would be to break up your marriage and break up your home. You know how staid and strait-laced and conservative your wife is about religion. Don't do anything that would break up your home, Charlie!"

But the Spirit of God persisted, and Charlie found himself answering the call. He went forward and knelt at the altar for heart-searching and prayer. Suddenly he thought he heard someone weeping at his side. Then he was sure that it sounded like his wife. Turning, he found that it was his wife, for she had been just a few feet behind him when he made his way to the altar. Together they made their commitment to Christ and to His service.

For a long time, you see, Satan had been telling Charlie that his wife would never be willing to yield to joyful Christian dedication. But the devil is a liar and the father of lies! He never tells the truth unless he can use it to whip you and embarrass you ? unless he can use it in his attempts to ruin you and you!

#### Fear of holy enthusiasm

There also seems to be a chilling fear of holy enthusiasm among the people of God. We try to keep happy we are-but we remain so well-controlled that there are very few waves of glory experienced in our midst.

Some of you go to the ball game and you come whispering because you are hoarse from singing and cheering. But no one in our day ever comes home from church with a voice hoarse from shouts brought about by a manifestation of the glory of God among us. Actually our apathy about praise in worship is like an inward chill in our beings. We are under a shadow and we

we are still wearing the grave clothes. You can sense this in much of our singing in the contemporary church. Perhaps you will agree that in most cases it is a kind of plodding along, without the inward life of blessing and victory and resurrection on joy and overcoming in Jesus' name.

Why is this? It is largely because we are looking at what we are, rather than responding to who Jesus Christ is! We have often failed and have not been overcomers because our trying and striving have been in our own strength. That leaves us very little to sing about!

Dr. A.B. Simpson wrote:

Fainting soldier of the Lord, Hear His sweet, inspiring word;

I have conquered all thy foes, I have suffered all thy woes.

Struggling soldier, trust in Me, I have Overcome for thee!"

This has to be the secret of our praise and enthusiasm-Jesus Christ is our Overcomer! In our own strength we cannot overcome anyone or anything.

Fear not though thy foes be strong, Fear not though the strife be long;

Trust thy glorious Captain's power, Watch with Him one little hour.

Hear Him calling, "Follow Me, I have overcome for thee!"

Brethren, human activity and human sweat and tears work not the victory of Christ! It took the sweat and tears and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It took the painful dying and the victorious resurrection and ascension to bring us the victory!

We must trust

It is for us to trust, to trust wholly in the Lord Jesus. This is the only way in which we can conquer fear and live in blessed victory.

I have had times in my life and ministry when the burdens and the pressures seemed to be too much. Sometimes physical weariness adds to our problems and our temptation to give in to discouragement and doubt. At these times it seems that even in prayer it is impossible to rise above the load. More than once, by faith that seemed to have been imparted directly from heaven, the Word has enabled me to claim all that I needed for body, soul and spirit. On my knees I have been given freedom and strength to pray, "Now, Lord, I have had enough of this - I refuse to take any more of this heaviness and oppression! This does not come from God?this comes from my enemy, the devil! Lord, in Jesus' name, I will not take it any longer - through Jesus Christ I am victor!" At these times, great burdens have just melted and rolled away all at once!

Brethren, God never meant for us to be kicked around like a football. He wants us to be humble and let Him do the chastening when necessary. But when the devil starts tampering with you, dare to resist him! I stand for believing in God and defying the devil - and our God loves that kind of courage among His people.

If you are still wrapped in grave clothes and great fears lie upon you, it is time for you to dare to rise and in sweet faith in the risen Jesus Christ declare: "I will not take this any longer. I am a child of God ?why should I go mourning all the day?"

Will God answer?

"All right, My child He will answer as the burden rolls away, "I have waited long to hear you say that. Jesus is Victor and in Him you overcome!"

**Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2011/5/29 7:05**

Thank you sister! Excellent article by Tozer.

A couple of years ago a brother was struggling with what appeared to be demonic oppression. This is the post that I wrote to him that includes a prayer of deliverance. I thought that it would be appropriate to repost this prayer.

Dear Brother,

Deliverance is available for you brother. The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. Through the cross of Christ, the enemy has been defeated. There is no quick fix for this brother, but God is faithful to deliver you as you yield your whole being to Him, repent, and actively resist the demonic through the blood and the name of Jesus.

What part of the country do you live in?

I have used a deliverance prayer by Victor Matthews for years that is based on scripture and covers a lot of ground.

Remember that the devil is a liar. He is telling you that the situation is hopeless, but Jesus Christ has won the victory, and you must stand in the Lord's victory. "Whom the Son sets free is free indeed." Jesus said: "If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

In His Love,

Mike

Warfare Prayer -- Victor Matthews

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection during this time of prayer. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to Yourself. I do take a stand against all the workings of Satan that would hinder me in this time of prayer, and I address myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of Satan in my prayer.

Satan, I command you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to leave my presence with all your demons, and I bring the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ between us.

Heavenly Father, I worship You and I give You praise. I recognize that You are worthy to receive all glory and honour and praise. I renew my allegiance to You and pray that the blessed Holy Spirit would enable me during this time of prayer. I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that You have loved me from past eternity, that You sent the Lord Jesus Christ into this world to die as my substitute that I would be redeemed. I am thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ came as my representative, and that through Him You have completely forgiven me; You have given me eternal life; You have given me the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ so I am now justified. I am thankful that in Him You have made me complete, and that You have offered Yourself to me to be my strength.

Heavenly Father, come and open my eyes so that I might see how great You are and how complete Your provision is for this new day. I do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, take my place with Christ in the heavenlies with all principalities and powers (powers of darkness and wicked spirits) under my feet. I am thankful that the victory the Lord Jesus Christ won for me on the cross and in His resurrection has been given to me and that I am seated with the Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, I declare that all principalities and powers and all wicked spirits are subject to me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the armour You have provided, and I put on the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of peace and the helmet of salvation. I lift up the shield of faith against all the fiery darts of the enemy, and take in my hand the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and use Your Word against all the forces of evil in my life; and I put on this armour and live and pray in complete dependence upon You, blessed Holy Spirit.

I am grateful, Heavenly Father, that the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled all principalities and powers and made a show of them

openly and triumphed over them in Himself. I claim all that victory for my life today. I reject out of my life all the insinuations, the accusations, and the temptations of Satan. I affirm that the Word of God is true, and I choose to live today in the light of God's Work. I choose, heavenly Father, to live in obedience to You and in fellowship with Yourself. Open my eyes and show me the areas of my life that would not please You. Work in my life that there be no ground to give Satan a foothold against me. Show me any areas of weakness. Show me any area of my life that I must deal with so that I would please You. I do in every way today stand for You and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life.

By faith and in dependence upon You, I put off the old self and stand in all the victory of the crucifixion where the Lord Jesus Christ provided cleansing from the old nature. I put on the new self and stand in all the victory of the resurrection and the provision He has made for me to live above sin. Therefore, in this day, I put off the old nature with its selfishness, and I put on the new nature with its love. I put off the old nature with its fear and I put on the new nature with its courage. I put off the old nature with its weakness and I put on the new nature with its strength. I put off today the old nature with all its deceitful lusts and I put on the new nature with all its righteousness and purity.

I do in every way today stand into the victory of the ascension and the glorification of the Son of God where all principalities and powers were made subject to Him, and I claim my place in Christ victorious with Him over all the enemies of my soul. Blessed Holy Spirit, I pray that You would fill me. Come into my life, break down every idol and cast out every foe.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, for the expression of Your will for my daily life as You have shown me in Your Word. I therefore claim all the will of God for today. I am thankful that You have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I am thankful that You have begotten me unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I am thankful that You have made a provision so that today I can live filled with the Spirit of God with love and joy and self-control in my life. And I recognize that this is Your will for me, and I therefore reject and resist all the endeavors of Satan and of his demons to rob me of the will of God. I hold up the shield of faith against all the accusations and against all the insinuations that Satan would put in my mind.

I do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, completely surrender myself to You, Heavenly Father, as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed to this world. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I pray that You would show me Your will and enable me to walk in all the fullness of the will of God today.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses, for destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore in my own life today I tear down the strongholds of Satan, and I smash the plans of Satan that have been formed against me. I tear down the strongholds of Satan against my mind and I choose to think my thoughts after You, blessed Holy Spirit. I affirm, heavenly Father, that You have not given me the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I break and smash the stronghold of Satan formed against my emotions today, and I give my emotions to You. I smash the stronghold of Satan formed against my body today, and I give my body to You, recognizing that I am Your temple; and I rejoice in Your mercy and Your goodness.

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would renew me with your life; show me the way that Satan is hindering and tempting and lying and counterfeiting and distorting the truth in my life. Enable me to be the kind of person that would please You. Enable me to be aggressive in prayer. Enable me to be aggressive mentally and to think Your thoughts after You, and to give You Your rightful place in my life.

Again, I now cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and pray that You, blessed Holy Spirit, would bring all the work of the crucifixion, all the work of the resurrection, all the work of the glorification and all the work of Pentecost into my life today. I yield my life to You. I refuse to be discouraged. You are the God of all hope. You have proven Your power by resurrecting Jesus Christ from the dead and I claim in every way Your victory over all satanic forces active in my life and I reject these forces; and I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, with thanksgiving. Amen.

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"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet it is not I that lives, but Christ lives in me: and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20

**Re: - posted by crusader (), on: 2011/5/29 18:50**

Hi jesus-is-god

Your post is very timely, a co-worker that just gave her life to christ the other day has a very similar experience in her life . she testifies to have prayed and trusting jesus since a little girl. When i was speaking to her the other day about new wine this is when the lord opened her eyes to see her spiritual condition. Not knowing the bible at all she was unable to understand why her life had ended up the way it did and in the past just said whats meant to be is meant to be. The tears of conviction rolled down her face when she realised that her unconfessed sin was a stench before God. But i must say as soon as she heard this she was quick to give her sins to the lord and ask him for forgiveness. This showed me that the Lord had been preparing her heart for him for along time.

**Re: , on: 2011/5/29 23:01**

Matthew you have a beautiful soul. You have no idea how much God loves you and how He enjoys your presence. Just be yourself and love Him.