

**Articles and Sermons :: Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer****Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer, on: 2011/12/17 9:26**

Tozer writes..... In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross, he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among gospel believers today. We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility. (Tozer)

The simple fact is that spiritual dying is brutal. Crucifixion was the most brutal death that the Romans, with all their ingenuity and brilliance, could come up with. It often took several days to die and every single breath was an agony. Are you dying? Is there a cross on your back? I often think of the agonizing walk that took the Lord from a place of torment and scourging, to the agonizing death of the cross. Can you honestly say that you have even submitted to the process? Have you had your Gethsemane moment? There will be no death for the Christian, no dethroning of the flesh, until we have our own Gethsemane. The will, my will, your will, has to come into the shadow of the cross. It has to look at the cross and all that would entail and it then has to shrink back in horror, struggle, agonize, then submit. All of us know in our hearts what holds us back from this. What part of your life keeps you on the throne of your heart?

The special forces in America are volunteers drawn from the ranks of servicemen. Their training is brutal. They are "broken down and rebuilt." Their brutal training ends in what is known as "hell week." They have a failure rate that averages about 80%. Those who fail, return to their units. They are still soldiers. The special forces soldier will be involved in combat in the most dangerous of situations, typically behind enemy lines. They will never be publicly recognized. There will be no parade ground and applause. No medal pinning ceremonies.

What kind of Christian life do you want to lead? Are you living in "shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility?" as Tozer so eloquently wrote. Are you waiting for the Lord to wave a magic wand over your life so that you can become a spiritual giant? There is no such wand and all waiting of that ilk is futile. In order to serve the Lord with your whole heart you must be dead to this world but your heart must be open to this world. It will not be good enough to forgive your enemies. There will be no virtue in this, you will be called to love your enemies. You may complain "I am simply being sanctified." I believe in the sanctification process, but not as an excuse for sin. The truth is, one is fully sanctified the moment one is genuinely saved. The process is reckoning that to be so. The process is reaching out and taking a hold of God's promises for our lives. He has called us, He has equipped us. We have everything that we need to live a Godly and Holy life. Now it's not a simple thing. Is there anything worth having that is simple and easy? Was it simple and easy in the garden of Gethsemane for our Lord? If it was difficult for Jesus, then do you suppose it will be easy for you? When you survey your life, when in the deepest parts of you, you know what has to die, will you bend the knee knowing that when you bend the knee that this will lead to the brutal death of the cross? Victory comes in bending the knee, the decision is made, but then the death will come.

The genuine Christian life is no mere cliché. How many times in Christendom do we hear the phrase "oh, you have to pick up your cross." "Lord, bend me." These are mere words. If the words are uttered with a genuine heart there is a brutal reality that lies behind them. Your life will be totally dismantled, piece by piece. Everything that you hold dear, everything, will pass through the fires, everything brothers and sister. It is a terrifying prospect. Reject any notion that the Christian life is a play-ground, it's not a play ground, it's a battle-field. Yet, it is a choice. You can choose the play-ground so to speak. That's not to say that you will not suffer hard times in the play-ground, for all men suffer hard times if they live long enough. This is not the cross, this is the shadows and the weakness and the sterility of the regular life. If you choose the battle-field, if you ask to be broken, to die, to go deeper, then you will have what you ask for. Jesus knew what lay ahead when he sweated great drops of blood. Paul knew what lay ahead as he started out in his ministry. Knowing that every part of you, every part that you hold dear will be dismantled and passed through the fire, will you still cry out to the Lord "Here I am Lord, send me?" "Break me Lord." I pray that you will. If you do, then you will dethrone your flesh. The shadow that you will stand in will be the shadow of the cross. The weakness that you have will be for God's glory and you will not be sterile but you will give birth to hope and joy, living waters will be poured through you and everywhere the waters go, there will be healing.....brother Frank

**Re: Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer, on: 2012/1/26 10:51**

Felt led to bump this one up, I dont typically do that, but felt someone may benefit.....bro Frank

**Re: - posted by DieingtoLive, on: 2012/1/26 11:48**

Adding to my favorites for a go to, when.....

Thanks bro. Frank

I Love you Jesus, I want to love you more.

**Re: , on: 2012/1/26 12:24**

Praise the Lord DieintoLive, this post goes right along with your online name :) .....bro Frank

**Re: , on: 2012/1/26 12:29**

If you don't mind 'me' saying so - this is very good.

Right on target!

**Re: , on: 2012/1/26 12:35**

Thank you sister, I appreciate your kind words.....bro Frank

**Re: Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2012/1/26 12:58**

Very blessed by this.

Thank you brother Frank. I especially appreciated the honesty of this statement: "We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying."

Every reference to "putting to death" or "putting off" the old man in the entire New Testament is specifically stated in the AORIST MIDDLE Imperative. The grammar chosen by the writers clearly lays the responsibility for this action upon "us". We must deny ourselves. We must put off and put to death. The Spirit will help us, and without His help we would have no success, but it will not be done for us, only through us and with us.

makrothumia

**Re: Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer, on: 2012/1/26 13:06**

I'm going through this kind of battle right now. I've lost this fight over and over. I know these living waters are as near as my humble cry. would you pray for me?

Thanks for your posts

**Re: , on: 2012/1/26 15:00**

Hey brother Noah, I will absolutely pray for you, right now even.....dear Father in Heaven above, we come before your throne in the mighty name of Jesus. We rejoice in the fact that your children have access to this place, thank you Jesus for making a way into the holy of holies. Now Father, we humbly bring our brother Noah before your throne. We ask that you would help him in the battle. Open up His eyes oh Lord and give Him sight to see what the Spirit sees. He has humbled himself before his brothers and sisters. Give him the strength to never stop fighting until he has achieved his breakthrough. Give him eyes to see the shortness of this life and how, like a vapor, we will be here today and gone tomorrow. We stand today on this earth but in a mere moment we will stand before you oh Lord. Give us all eyes to see what is truly important in this life. To see life as you see it, to see people as you see them, to see circumstances as you see them, to see adversity as a way to you, to know that even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death that there is a rod and a staff, there is our Lord Jesus and there is the Holy Spirit. There is a light in the darkness and hope for the hopeless. Give us eyes to see all that and more and let us oh Lord be like that old hymn, let the things of the world grow strangely dim as we stand before the light of the world. A light that dispels the darkness, a light that uncovers the hidden things of the heart and a Spirit that convicts us, leads us, guides us into a deeper relationship with you. Lord let us truly see

e that the battle indeed lies with the will, let whatever hinders us be seen for what it truly is, nothing more than an obstacle that stands as a mountain between us and you. Let us by faith and an act of our will say to that obstacle in the mighty name of Jesus we cast you into the sea of forgetfulness, never to rise up again but simply to be lost in the depth of your great love. Give my brother the heart of a warrior that would rather die today on the battle-field of life than live another 40 years of compromise in the play-ground of the world. Simplify his mind until it comes down to this, or that and then give him the courage to choose you alone above all things. We thank you for all of that dear Father, in the mighty name of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, Jesus our Christ.....bro Frank

**Re: - posted by rnieman, on: 2012/1/26 17:08**

Excellent word Frank!!! Very convicting!

1 Corinthians 15:31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

May this be my testimony

Thanks again, russ

**Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2012/1/26 17:16**

I'm not sure, but the quotes from Tozer sound like they are from his book *The Crucified Life*:

<http://www.amazon.com/Crucified-Life-Deeper-Christian-Experience/dp/0830759220/>

This book has just been published (Sept. 2011) even though Tozer died in 1965. I don't know if this was material just sitting on a shelf waiting to be published or if it was sermon notes or a lecture he gave or just what. All I know is that this book is SPIRITUAL DYNAMITE!

**Re: , on: 2012/1/26 22:04**

Hi TrueWitness, that is exactly where the quote came from. It did just come out, the material is previously unpublished and it is very powerful, I would definitely recommend it.....bro Frank

**Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/1/27 2:32**

Brother Frank, I would appreciate your prayers to this end in my life as well...it is such a struggle.

**Re: Shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility-Tozer - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2012/1/27 3:24**

Thank you brother Frank. Like my other brother and sisters, I also need prayer. I am weary, but I do believe Jesus will carry the cross with me, if I just drop this pride and ask Him. I pray the word of brother Tozer and brother Frank continue to bless those who read them.

Travis

**Re: , on: 2012/1/27 10:40**

Myveryheart and alreadymind, I go to prayer right now for you precious saints of Christ Jesus. Just remember that, that is what you are. Yes we struggle and desire deeply to be more like Him and praise God that our hearts desire is to be like our Jesus, yet in the battle, do not forget that you are a child of God and that He loves you with an everlasting love. He died for you. His thoughts towards you are more numerous than the sands of the sea. The enemy would have us think otherwise but he is a liar. The Father is not ready to come down on us like a ton of bricks every time we mess up, quite the opposite. It's the heart of a man and a woman that He looks upon. He is looking, not for perfection (we should always strive to be more like Jesus) He is looking for a broken and a contrite heart. This He loves above all things. Take heart brothers and sisters, the mere fact that your heart deeply desires to walk in the narrow path of our Lord is a precious thing in His sight. Lift up your eyes toward Jesus and focus on Him. The more that you do this, the more that the things that make us stumble will begin to vanish away in His glory. I love you guys humility, there is much power in this. "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will raise you up." .....brother Frank

**Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2012/1/27 12:36**

Thank you brother. I think the Lord already answered your prayer. This morning I went to worship with about a hundred other believers who were fasting for a week (I however wasn't) and the thing God impressed upon me the most during the worship was his loving-kindness. There was a song we all kept repeating the chorus of, "Oh how He loves us." It was awesome listening to all those voices, like little children, perfecting praise in the acknowledgement of the Father's love. It was rather moving.

**Re: , on: 2012/1/27 15:28**

Praise the Lord brother, praise the Lord for answered prayers. I love that hymn too..... bro Frank

**Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2012/1/28 1:53**

Brother Frank,

God has been speaking to me about humility today. The truth of who Jesus is, and who I am, humbles me. In reality, like a beggar I bring nothing to his table, he provides the bread and wine. Like areadymind, I see God answering your prayers already. Be encouraged, for we do not labor in vain. God bless you brother.