



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Freedom from Sin

Freedom from Sin, on: 2005/3/17 18:35

Freedom from Sin

By Jesse Morrell

Romans 6:22 "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life."

Deep in the corridors of death row sat a guilty prisoner awaiting execution. On one fateful day the jailer walked into the prisoner's cell causing the prisoner to wonder if this would be the day of his death. After months and years of waiting on death row, he knew this day would inevitably come. Just as the prisoner was dropping his head in shame and despair, the jailer said the words which echoed through his mind, "I am setting you free. Another man has turned himself in and requested that you be released immediately." After fully expecting to die, the prisoner had a look of astonishment on his face. The jailer assured him by telling him that all his criminal records would be erased. He went on to say that he will not be put to death and that he can freely walk out of his cell today. It would be an understatement to say the prisoner was overjoyed. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the prisoner thanked the jailer and walked out of the cell that had him bound for countless years.

Is this not a picture of the wonderful freedom men receive by grace through faith in the blood of Jesus? Jesus Christ has turned himself in so that we can walk freely out of the cell that has had us bound. Not only are we free from the guilt and consequences of our crimes against God, but we are free from the chains of bondage that held us captive. Teaching and preaching that a man can be saved from the guilt and consequences of his sins, but yet not be saved from his sins themselves would like the jailer telling the prisoner "you are free, your record is erased, you will not be put to death, but you must remain bound in this cell for the rest of your days." That would be no freedom at all! If we are to be slaves of God and slaves of righteousness, we must be free from death, hell, and also sin itself.

God calls the Christian to run the race, but the race does not take place on a treadmill. There is no such thing as treadmill Christianity. To say that a man who desires to be holy will never be able to reach it in this life opposes the very teachings of Jesus who said "blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Matt 5:6). God never intended for the Christian to be as a mouse in a cage running anxiously and endlessly on a running wheel yet never getting anywhere. God has always intended to set men free, and "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:36).

Am I proposing here that a man can be holy while remaining here on earth and that a man can obey all the commandments of the Lord? Absolutely I am because this is what reason, logic, and the scriptures force me to believe and accept and I wouldn't want it any other way. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). And also "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Gal 5:16). If you are lead by God will He not lead you into all righteousness? Is it impossible to obey the One who said "follow me"? (Luke 18:22). Was it unreasonable when Christ said "I have given you an example that you should do as I have done"? (John 13:15).

God has not charted a course which is impossible to sail. Nothing shall be impossible for God. So long as God is the Captain and Commander of the ship He can and will sail it wherever He so pleases. Certainly mutiny against the Captain and Commander is possible on our part, but loyalty is also a possibility.

E. M. Bounds stirs us to pursue personal holiness in this quote: "Nothing short of absolute obedience will satisfy God. The keeping of all His commandments is the demonstration of obedience that God requires. But can we keep all of God's commandments? Can a man receive moral ability that helps him to obey every one of them? Certainly he can. By the same token, man can, through prayer, obtain ability to do this very thing...Does God give commandments that men cannot obey? Is he so arbitrary, so severe, so unloving, that He issues commandments that cannot be obeyed? The answer is that, in all of Scripture, not a single instance is recorded of God having commanded any man to do a thing that was beyond his power. Is God so unjust and so inconsiderate to require a man something that he is unable to do? Certainly not! To infer is to slander the character of God."

I fear that the issue is not that man can not obey God, but that many men will not obey God. Many do not walk in holiness because they have yet to forsake their sins and walk in complete repentance. But true repentance is always complete. If a man is driving down a two way road and fails to pay attention and therefore ends up on the wrong side of the road he is in great danger. He is in even greater danger when he notices a massive Mac truck heading straight for him. Panic grips his heart and sweat pours from his brow. What must he do? The answer is simple enough. He must suddenly, not slowly, get back on the right side of the road. If he leaves even a little bit of his vehicle on the wrong side of the road that would be enough to get him killed. Likewise, when you're on the road of life and you end up on the wrong side of the road called sin, you are in grave danger because the Mac truck of death and hell is heading straight for you. What ought you to do? As quickly as you can you must get completely on the right side of the road. If you leave even the least bit of your life on the wrong side of the road is that not enough to get you killed?

And so it is that Christ has set us free, so we must walk free. The pardon has been issued, the records have been erased, and the cell gate has been opened wide. Now it is up to us to walk out of the chains of bondage into the marvelous freedom that is found in Jesus Christ.

Quote: The Complete Works of E. M. Bounds page 155-156.

Re: Freedom from Sin - posted by alanrepent, on: 2005/3/17 19:12

BROTHER!!! I love you! haha this blessed me TREMENDOUSLY. May I copy it all and post it (with your name on it) on my site? (<http://www.xanga.com/alanrepent>) <http://www.xanga.com/alanrepent> This town is mostly held by eternal security doctrines, and holiness and obedience are foreign to the 24 churches here. It would be good for some of them to read something like this if it is OK with you. Thanks brother.

Re:, on: 2005/3/17 22:13

I am very glad to hear that you were blessed by the article. Other two on the same topic that I have written recently are "Dead unto Sin" and also "Naming the Name of Christ" which can be found at:

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=category&cid=304>

Please do with these articles whatever you feel the Lord would have.

YES you can be free!, on: 2005/3/18 5:52

It seems that there is much confusion on man's ability to obey the commands of God and experience true victory over sin. Many people honestly believe that they must live with sin until the day they die. Many actually expect to keep sinning in thought word and deed every day.

Is it possible to have victory over sin? YES!!

Let me make this very clear, NO ONE can ever obey God or overcome sin by his own unaided efforts or power. If man could overcome sin by his own efforts, energy and power, than Christ's death on the cross would have been wasted.

GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS PROMISES AND THEY ARE FULLY AVAILABLE NOW!! The promises when received will fulfill all the requirements of the law.

Now the PROMISE of Christ is designed by God to take a sinner, who is living in sin and rebellion and make him a son of God who truly loves God. This is the ONLY solution that God Himself has provided for mankind. It is NOT POSSIBLE for anyone to ever please God without taking hold of the promise of Jesus Christ. I repeat again, THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!!!

Everything that God offers mankind is in the form of a promise. Salvation itself is based on God's free gift and promise to us. The gift of Christ is now fully available to anyone who will take hold of the promise by faith. Without receiving the promises of God, salvation is totally impossible.

2 Peter 1:3-4 "According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the

knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

The design of the promises is to make a person a partaker of God's divine nature. God forms His character in the believer by the provisions of the gospel. God has made ample provision for all holiness and spiritual growth. The promise when received fulfills all the requirements of the law. What the law requires, God freely makes available to every person as a gift. We must truly believe and then receive this gift. There is nothing lacking in God's provision for us to fulfill the law and His requirements. What the law requires, God freely gives to those who take it.

God has provided man with everything that he could possibly need to live a pure and Holy life. He has made everything freely available in the form of promises. Salvation, Jesus, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are all offered to mankind by the promises. The ONLY way to experience being a partaker of God's Holy nature and escape the corruption in the world is from receiving the results of the promises. Without first receiving the results of a promise, holiness is impossible.

For every command of God there is a promise from God that, if received, will fulfill that command. Or another way to put it is, what the law requires, God's grace freely makes available by faith. Only as a person receives the promise by faith and experiences its fulfillment in himself will he truly obey the commands of God. For example, the following command will never be obeyed without first receiving the results of the promise.

Command

Matt. 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Promise

Deut. 30:6 "And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live."

It is clear that the love that the law demands is made freely available by God.

1. It is impossible to directly choose to love God.
2. Only when we receive the results of the promise, will we really love God correctly.
3. We have to first receive the fulfillment of the promise before we will love Him as the law demands.
4. Without receiving the results of the promise, we will not fulfill the command.
5. Obedience to God is TOTALLY impossible without first receiving the promise of God.
6. Keeping God's commandments is impossible without first receiving the promise.
7. We are required to lay hold by faith the promise before any obedience can take place.
8. True obedience is the result of receiving of the promise.

The language of the promise means just as much as the language of the command. It seems that few people misunderstand the command to fully love God continuously. Now, when it comes to the promise many seem to try to dilute it or make it seem weak. Does not the promise mean just as much as the command? The truth is, the only way this command will ever be fulfilled is by first receiving the results of this promise.

The law demands perfect obedience and threatens with a harsh penalty if the obedience failed. Under the law, it depends only on man's faithfulness to obey. Only IF man obeyed would he be blessed, if he failed he would be cursed. The law will never make any one obedient, in fact the law was never designed to make any person's heart holy. The Law will never supply the love God demanded. All it did was make demands and threats when the demands were not met. Man broke the law time and time again. He proved his unfaithfulness.

God has provided the only solution for man's disobedience and total failure through Jesus Christ. God's provision WHEN RECEIVED will fulfill all the requirements of the law. What the law demands, grace supplies. God has made provision for man's unfaithfulness and has made this solution freely available in the form of a promise.

Another command and promise.

Command

Ezek. 18:30b-31 "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Promise

Ezek: 36:25-29; 36b "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will also save and deliver you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it."

Another command and promise.

Command

Deut. 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in ALL His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul."

Promise

Jer 32:39-41 "And I will give you one heart, and one way, that you may fear me for ever, for your own good, and for your children after you: And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, that I will not turn away from you, to do you good; but I will put my fear in your heart, that you shall not depart from me. Yes, I will rejoice over you to do you good, and I will plant you in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul."

Here is an exact Charles Finney quote from The Promise of The Spirit published by Bethany House 1980. Lecture 11. THE PROMISES--No. 1, page 135.

"We never keep the commandments, only as we take hold of the promises. By this I mean that grace alone enables us from the heart, to obey the commandments of God. It is, therefore, only when we lay hold of the promise, by faith, and receive its fulfillment in ourselves, that we really, in heart, obey the commandments of God. For example we never love the Lord our God, according to the first great commandment, only as we lay hold on, and receive the fulfillment of some such promise as this: "I will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live."

We can take hold of the promises of God and then receive what we need.

Exact quote from Finney's Systematic Theology 1851 Edition Lecture 50

"It is true indeed that God requires of men, especially under the gospel, what they are unable to do directly in their own strength. Or more strictly speaking, he requires them to lay hold on His strength, or to avail themselves of His grace, as the condition of being what he requires them to be. With strict propriety, it cannot be said that in this, or in any case, he requires directly any more than we are able directly to do. The direct requirement in the case under consideration, is to avail ourselves of, or to lay hold upon his strength. This we have power to do. He requires us to lay hold upon his grace and strength, and thereby to rise to a higher knowledge of Himself, and to a consequent higher state of holiness than would be otherwise possible to us. The direct requirement is to believe, or to lay hold upon his strength, or to receive the Holy Spirit, or Christ, who stands at the door, and knocks, and waits for admission. The indirect requirement is to rise to a degree of knowledge of God, and to spiritual attainments that are impossible to us in our own strength. We have ability to obey the direct command directly, and the indirect command indirectly. That is, we are able by virtue of our nature, together with the proffered grace of the Holy Spirit, to comply with all the requirements of God. So that in fact there is no proper inability about it."

The grace of the gospel offers you, with every command, the strength to obey, and work in you the very thing commanded. Every command implies a corresponding promise, that is, if we are required to do anything by Christ, the very requirement

ement is an implied promise or offer of all the aid we need to make it possible for us to perform it. Indeed, the command in itself is an implied gift of all needed help. The command itself implies the ability to obey it. Every command of God implies this in the strongest manner. It should be remembered that God is perfect in both love and wisdom: therefore He can not be so unjust as to demand something from us that is impossible for us to perform. THE GRACE OF GOD TURNS THE REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW INTO A PROMISE OF GOD.

From Christian Perfection by Asa Mahan

" The sinner is not required to "make himself clean," or to "make to himself a new heart," in the exercise of his unaided powers, but by application to the blood of Christ, "which cleanses from all sin." The grace which purifies the heart is provided; the fountain, whose waters cleanse from sin, is set open. To this fountain the sinner is brought, and because he may descend into it, and there "wash his garments and make them white," he can fulfill the command, "Wash you, make you clean," "make to yourself a new heart and a new spirit," and "cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." The sinner is able to make to himself a "new heart and a new spirit," because he can instantly avail himself of offered grace. He does literally "make to himself a new heart and a new spirit," ONLY when he yields himself up to the influence of that grace. The power to cleanse from sin lies in the blood and grace of Christ; and hence, when the sinner "purifies himself by obeying the truth through the spirit," the glory of his salvation belongs, not to him, but to Christ."

Re: YES you can be free! - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/3/18 6:06

I agree with all these points and posts for the most part and they are great. Would any of you brethren care to share personal testimonies on Total Victory over Sin? I would be much encouraged to hear them.

God Bless,

-Robert

Re: YES you can be free! - posted by My_Redeemer, on: 2005/3/18 10:28

I just wanted to say THANK YOU! I needed this clarity.

The Lord had spoken to me a year ago and he gave me these same scriptures...Ezek: 36:25-29; 36b --Jer 32:39-41 -- Deut. 30:6. I love how you just explained it and linked the command/promise's together.

I am so blessed by this site, and I thank God that we are able to be ourselves, to be transparent...with all of our failures and weakness. Every time the Lord has me to come here and read...my spirit rejoices to see how much growth has taken place. It encourages me so, and I know that he is also working in me. Amen, once again Thank You.

Re:, on: 2005/3/19 15:03

This is a wonderful biblical topic which every Christian would know about. I find that not many preach on the freedom of a Christian and therefore our generation has been getting ripped off.

Dr. Michael L. Brown is one of my favorite writers and preachers. He was mentored by Leonard Ravenhill, speaks at The Call, and started Fire School of Ministry and also The Call School of Ministry. Well, he wrote a book I highly recommend called "Go And Sin No More: A Call to Holiness". The forward is by Bill Bright, Founder and President Campus Crusade for Christ International. You can find this wonderful book on amazon.com

Re: - posted by AsliEren, on: 2005/5/13 9:04

Hey,

This is a great topic and should be talked about more. The gospel is both God's grace and mercy not just his mercy. When we stop talking as much about God's grace and start only talking about God's mercy we are believing in a Jesus who does not exist. He is Lord and Savior and not just one or the other. He has to be both at all times and can never be just one or the other. To believe He is anything different and to preach in the context of man's constant failure is to bring God down to work within the failure of man. This can't be right since it takes man to completely deny himself to even be able to participate in receiving by faith God's grace and mercy for this life.

Re:, on: 2005/5/13 12:15

It is the will of God that we move from being "just a sinner saved by grace" to a Saint that is empowered by grace! That is His will, that you go from being conquered by sin to being a more than a conqueror of sin. If the Law is the strength of sin (1Co 15:56), then grace should be the strength of righteousness.

Re: YES you can be free! - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/13 13:11

I agree with both of your exhortations Jesse and freedd.

Freedd wrote:

Quote:
-----" The sinner is not required to "make himself clean," or to "make to himself a new heart," in the exercise of his unaided powers, but by application to the blood of Christ, "which cleanses from all sin." The grace which purifies the heart is provided; the fountain, whose waters cleanse from sin, is set open.

What is the nature of this grace that enables us to obey? From where does it come from? When God speaks His promise to you, in what way has the content of the grace you received changed you or caused you to repent?

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/13 15:56

Br Robert wrote:

Quote:
-----Would any of you brethren care to share personal testimonies of Total Victory over Sin?

I posted this from the thread, Live\walking in the Spirit.

" I would like to give you one example of how the Lord disciplined me about three years ago.

Six years ago I was present for the opening of a church plant in our area. It soon qualified as a Calvary Chapel affiliate. During this time the Lord had begun to stir in me the calling into ministry. My pastor, then 29 years old, plugged me into various ministries. I soon was given the responsibility of leading a men's fellowship group in our small congregation. I also began to seek out ministry training at a branch campus of Calvary Chapel Bible college.

I met many people during this time. I began to strive for position in the church. I also recognized that others that I met a long the way in the various churches, strived also for position in the church. It was a good thing to land a paying job in an established ministry. Looking back now, I can see the ugliness of my sin. But the Lord is faithful to work out the clay as He saw fit.

You might remember recently that I posted a thread a "fireman and Christ." My brother Bob was a man who had walked with the Lord for a long time. He was much closer to the Lord because his nature was more like Christ. Well, back about 3 years ago, Brother Bob walked into our church and soon rose in the congregation because of what the Lord had worked in him. One day my pastor came to me and told me that Brother Bob was going to take over the men's fellowship ministry. That news hurt my flesh really bad. I was consumed by this event for days, but I submitted without much outward signs. Remember what Jesus said to the Pharisees, "you are like white washed tombs on the outside, but you are full of dead men's bones on the inside." This Scripture speaks well of what was going on inside of me.

About two or three months passed, and the Holy Spirit convicted me one day before a prayer meeting. The Holy Spirit brought a thought to my mind that I had thought soon after I was relieved of the men's fellowship ministry. This is the thought that was brought to my mind that day. "It's okay, Brother Bob can have the men's fellowship for now, he will die of

Lou Gerihs disease someday, and then I will again head the men's ministry." Then the Holy Spirit impressed upon me that I was required to confess this thought during the prayer meeting that night. I began to rationalize that no one needs to know, what is past is past. Yet the Holy Spirit did not let up. I experienced a huge amount of guilt that evening. Well, during the prayer meeting I submitted to the conviction and direction that I received earlier. It was a time of sobbing and a time of washing that I will not forget. It was a time of breaking and humbling that has continued to teach me lessons even unto today.

This is one testimony of what my Lord has worked in me. I have learned alot about what it means to strive for position in His church and the ugliness of that sin as He sees it."

Two things I know. First, I have experienced the goodness of how in God's wisdom He worked this particular root of sin out into the open. He brought my sin out of the darkness into the light. I have experienced the washing and refreshing that comes through obedience to His command. I could not have done this in my own strength. All glory be to His name.

Secondly, because of what God has worked in me pretaining to this particular sin in my life, when I recognized the attributes of that sin wanting to rear up again, I recognize it for what it is. And because I have tasted the goodness of God that leads to repentance, it is much easier now to let that old sin die before it takes root again.

I no longer desire to strive for position in the church. I just go day to day looking forward to what God has me do. I know that He has called me into ministry, when and where only He knows.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: Jeff, on: 2005/5/16 7:52

Oh dear brother, if it involves coveteousness in ministry, I've been there. Oh thank God, I have been delivered. But I still have to guard my vessel, and not entertain these temptations. I have to be content with those things such as I have.

I would ask that you do yourself a huge favor and read the following prayerfully:

<http://www.awildernessvoice.com/posturing.html>

You will not find a better article on this subject.

Striving for "position" is not the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. We simply follow the Holy Spirit second by second, and give thanks for the places He opens doors for us to be.

There is not a person on this planet who would like to be in "full time ministry" more than I. Yet I am in full time ministry because of the place God has put me. It's not a place of my choosing, but His. Therefore, I dare not miss what I'm doing now, or the hope of what may follow will perish. It's all in His timing and His provision, not our own.

Tozer said that God will "crucify without pity, those whom He wishes to raise without measure". I find comfort in that, even in my difficulties. I trust you will too.

Finally, I simply cannot believe that anyone reaches a place of sinless perfection. Not even Paul did that. God said that His grace is sufficient. It is sufficient for Paul, and it's sufficient for you and I. Does this give us liberty to act carnally and after the flesh? God forbid. But we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus Himself pleads our case on our behalf, and His closing arguments are always that the price has been paid in full for our sins. Glory be to God, He ought to know. So let us all join together in one accord and give Him the glory, honor and praise. Alleluia.

Re:, on: 2005/5/16 9:41

I love what Duncan Campbell said "You'll never be in the position where it is impossible for you to sin. But praises be to God that you are in a position where it's possible for you not to."

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/16 10:41

Br Lahry wrote:

Quote:

-----Finally, I simply cannot believe that anyone reaches a place of sinless perfection. Not even Paul did that.

I agree with your position 100%. The sin that God showed me is just one of a million that are part of my old man. I am waiting to share about another sin soon. What I have learned is that follow Christ means that He will convict me of the sins that He is currently working on in my life. This is why it can only be through Christ that we learn of His righteousness. If we live without Christ, then we are subject to following the curse of the law. In our own mind we come up with what we believe is our duty to try not to sin. Yet I have found that it is only by following Christ that He can and will deliver us, and bring refreshing and washing of our hearts.

Paul said something to the effect, that he battles daily to keep his body in subjection to Christ.

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2005/5/16 21:31

Paul gives the problem:

Romans 7:19 "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice"

And then the problem again:

Romans 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

AND THEN HE GIVES THE WONDERFUL ANSWER!

Romans 7:25 "I thank God--through Jesus Christ" our Lord!

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/17 11:18

Again responding to Br. Robert's question:

Quote:

-----Would any of you brethren care to share personal testimonies on Total Victory over Sin?

What I am about to share is embarrassing, but all sin should be embarrassing once you have come into a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Again another humbling experience brought about by my Savior as a testimony of His grace extended to me.

Masturbation was something that I had practiced since I was a teenager. It was something that I did to satisfy my flesh. Then at the age of 40 I committed by life to Christ. About 5 years into my walk the Holy Spirit would begin to convict me during this practice. I remember asking the Lord is it a sin? Again the conviction came down upon me. Yet, I continued. Everytime I was seeking to satisfy my flesh, the Spirit was there. I would justify my actions as a harmless activity. I would say, just a little sin, it isn't hurting anyone else. Surely, Lord, I can keep this can't I?

I tried being hard of hearing. I tried tuning Him out. Well this continued for a time until I went for an annual medical check

kup. Everything was normal except that my PSA test came back with a value of 8. A PSA test is used as an indicator for prostate cancer. A value of 8 is considered high. When the doctor told me of these results, the Holy Spirit brought to my attention the nature of my rebellion. The Spirit linked my sin with this event. I meditated on this significant event for the next week. And this is what I learned.

God is holy and I am called to be holy as He teaches me. God will not allow you to keep doing a sin that He has commanded you to stop. He expects me to obey, period!

I made an oath to Him that week that I would stop. I learned a little about the fear of the Lord that week.

This verse comes to mind:

Heb. 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Well I went back for another test and this time my PSA count was less than 2. Shortly thereafter, again the Spirit called me to testify of this event in my life. Again I was humbled because of what the Spirit commanded. I shared with the men's group of our church. This also became a time of renewing and refreshing. When the men heard my testimony, they all began to be more transparent with their own struggles, their own sins. Humility began to take root amongst the fellowship. Sin is an ugly thing. It reveals our nakedness before the Lord. He wants to clothe us with the robe of righteousness. How can we be filled with His Holy Spirit if we continue in sin?

Finally, I have not committed that sin again. There are times when I am tempted but I call on the name of my Lord to deliver me from that temptation. He is faithful.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/5/17 12:21

Thanks for the testimony Jeff, I am sure that must have been uncomfortable to post.

Victory in that area came for me about three years after I began to walk with the Lord. I knew this practice was an unholy contradiction to my claims of being born again. In severe conviction I one day stood on Romans six, and declared that when God said I was dead to this sin, that He was correct, and that I was a slave to Christ and could no longer give myself to this practice (not to mention pornography)- I reckoned myself dead to these things - and was delivered from them.

Likewise, I used to play role playing games (Dungeons and Dragons, etc.) for at least 20 hours or so every week of my adult life (I started as a young teenager, yet nearly twenty years later I was just as addicted as ever). After I found the Lord I began to come under conviction that the way I spent my time was not honoring to God - I was supposed to love the Lord with all my mind, soul, and strength - but I was spending all my efforts on my own leisure - and dark pastimes seemed to be my preference. It was sin, and I one day repented of it all - tossed out thousands of dollars of paraphernalia and was completely set free from the bondage to them.

Likewise with stolen software, likewise with bitterness, and I could go on the list is long.

Now, it is because I immersed myself daily in the word of God and prayer that I found strength to do these things.

In a word, I made the -outside- of my cup clean.

Granted, this sort of "victory" is common enough amongst those who are serious about God, holiness, and sin.

But this isn't the kind of "Total Victory" Brother Roberts is fishing for.

The victory that I have described from my own testimony is the victory that was easily found in any of the Pharisees. Christ described my "victory" over sin as a cleansing of the outside of the cup. I stopped committing the act of sin - even though my heart was still wicked. All I had done was put a big, self righteous cork on sin, and thanked God as though God had done it.

Deep down in my heart though, I knew the truth - I wasn't free from the sin, I had just developed a better way of dealing with it. I wasn't giving into sin - but I wasn't free from it either.

Perhaps an example might help to illustrate what I am getting at. A homicidal pedophile is captured and sent to prison for twenty five years for his crimes. After twenty five years he is still a pedophile even though he hasn't committed an offense all the while that he was in prison. His lack of opportunity has suppressed his criminal behavior - but it hasn't cured it.

Likewise, a man can develop a way to suppress the outward act of sin and even believe it to be "victory" but it isn't the sort of victory that Brother Roberts is talking about.

I can tell you that I have had a lot of the former kind of "victory" - the "giant cork" variety - where I train myself to resist sin at all costs - and eventually develop the godly habit of making no provision for my flesh to fulfill its lusts.

I believe this sort of "victory" over sin is no victory at all, but the penultimate expression that the Pharisees had already achieved.

And the Lord speaks to this sort of victory with the same message he gave to the pharisees - the outside of the sepulchre is clean (that is, you are not outwardly committing gross sin), but the inside it is full of dead men's bones.

The first time I was called upon to preach, I kept myself under such guard, that the whole week prior to the sermon I was moment by moment in prayer and fasting. That week I managed to keep myself from sinning any known sin. Guess what? I still wanted to sin - nothing changed. All I had done was give a supreme effort, and in the strength of that effort I managed to keep the outside clean for a week - but inside I hadn't changed a bit.

The "victory" that I am seeking is not from outward sins - I have walked as a Pharisee long enough - no, the victory that interests me is the one where Christ cleans the inside of me so that I have no more desire to sin. I want to hear testimony from people who no longer have any desire whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form.

When a man speaks of freedom from sin, I want to hear that he is really free from sin, and not just free from one of countless sinful habits.

I don't say this to belittle your victory in any way Jeff - Lord knows your testimony is a good one. Rather I say this because I do not see that your testimony, encouraging as it is, has answered the challenge given by brother Roberts.

In training,

Dan
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Re: Freedom from Sin - posted by TonyS (), on: 2005/5/17 13:07

Dan wrote:

Quote:
-----When a man speaks of freedom from sin, I want to hear that he is really free from sin, and not just free from one of countless sinful habits.

This is a great word, in the last year I have heard countless Christians talk about walking in Victory. Some stating that they now walk in greater victory than they have ever known.

But upon further investigation so many times what is really being said is just what you have questioned. Victory for many is simply they are not looking at pornography on the computer. Or they are not smoking cigarettes, or they are not swearing as much etc....

Let me add, how thankful we are to God as he delivers saints from these bondages spoken of. For so many, they desper

ately now need to go on with Christ. The house is swept and clean, now fill it with all the Glory that Christ offers.

Jesse wrote:

Quote:
-----God has not charted a course which is impossible to sail. Nothing shall be impossible for God. So long as God is the Captain and Commander of the ship He can and will sail it wherever He so pleases. Certainly mutiny against the Captain and Commander is possible on our part, but loyalty is also a possibility.

I have thought much on this statement since reading it, and I see John 15:16 in this statement:

Â*“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit.”*Â

A life of Victory for me is this: Am I running the race that has been set before me with PATIENCE?!?!? Not, have I arrived at some elusive undetermined place of no sin, but again am I in the race? Am I being conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ?!?!?

Blessing,
Tony

Also, To Jeff: It's high time we just simply get straight with people as you have done here. I heard a Minister say the following Sunday Morning as it regards living right:

- 1) Admit it
- 2) Repent it
- 3) Quit it

And it is possible as we strive to walk in the Holy Ghost.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/17 13:25

Quote:
-----I want to hear testimony from people who no longer have any desire whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form.

Is this different then saying, "I want to hear testimony from people who no longer feel temptation whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form?"

If it is different, then how so?

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/17 13:26

Brother Dan wrote:

Quote:
-----I don't say this to belittle your victory in any way Jeff - Lord knows your testimony is a good one. Rather I say this because I do not see that your testimony, encouraging as it is, has answered the challenge given by brother Roberts.

I agree with your whole statement, every letter Brother. Paul teaches:

1Cor. 15:29 Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? 30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

We also are called to die daily, which means that we must call upon the name of our Lord daily for His provision.

Total Victory only comes as Paul teaches:

1Cor. 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

1Cor. 15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

So therefore we have not been perfected, but we look onward and upward to the call of Christ in our life. When Paul states:

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Paul points to the only solution to our old man who continues to strive with His Holy Spirit. It is only by following His voice do we begin to experience the freedom that comes with living for Christ.

As you have said we will not experience total victory in this life, we do experience His work, and His work gives us a taste, a hope that is groaning within us in expectation of that day when we will then see Him as He is.

Amen Brother Dann

Re:, on: 2005/5/17 14:44

Spurgeon said something along the lines of "You can't stop the birds from flying over head. But you can stop them from making a nest in your hair!"

You can't stop the temptations from coming. Christ Himself was tempted, yet without sin. But you can stop being conquered by sin, and can start being more than a conqueror of sin.

Is he really holy who is never tempted to do evil? Is he really holy who is never tempted to be anything else? You will only have victory over sin if you are tempted to sin and overcome! A holy man is someone who is tempted to do wrong, and yet chooses to do what is right.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/17 14:48

Brother Mike wrote:

Quote:
-----Is this different then saying,"I want to hear testimony from people who no longer feel temptation whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form?"

There is a great difference. Temptation is always waiting. What does Jesus say when asked how should we pray?

Matt. 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matt. 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.Â”

It is God who can deliver us from the temptations that we are confronted with. God is able to overcome, it is we who must ask. That is the real question. Do we desire to ask or do we desire to continue in our sins.

What does James warn us of?

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Sin entered the world when Satan met Adam and Eve one day in the garden. For a time Satan continues in this world. So as long as Satan remains, temptation remains.

But we are called upon to resist, this is what Brother Dan is referring to I believe. We continue to live in this world under the dominion of corruption, yet God through the work of the Holy Spirit giving us the Life of His Son overcomes this world.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by dann (), on: 2005/5/17 16:58

Quote:

Compton wrote:

Is this different than saying, "I want to hear testimony from people who no longer feel temptation whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form?"

If it is different, then how so?

It is different in that you can be tempted by your own desires (ala James 1:13~) or you can be tempted externally (ala Matthew 4).

Therefore when I say "I want to hear testimony from people who no longer have any desire whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form." I am saying, I want to hear testimony from someone whose temptation is coming only from "without" - that is, they no longer have an internal desire to sin.

I hope that helps

Dan
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Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/17 17:59

Br Dann wrote:

Quote:
----- I want to hear testimony from someone whose temptation is coming only from "without" - that is, they no longer have an internal desire to sin.

I have not searched the Scriptures in this regard, but those that you mentioned both came from the same external source. I believe that when the Scriptures said that "sin entered the world," that event pointed to God allowing Satan to corrupt the world. Scripture teaches that our war is not with flesh and blood but with powers and principalities. I believe and am still searching for more understanding in this area, that man is influenced by Satan and God.

What does it mean when God says: Gen. 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.

What does it mean to now know good and evil? I believe the flesh became evil because the flesh learns from the spiritual leading in this world. God regenerates with His Spirit to teach us, to separate us from what we have learned in the past when we were dead.

So where does temptation find its source, that is the question that at this point I lean to 100% external.

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/17 18:10

Another thought,

Sin is not all inclusive or encompassed in the precept of temptation. Sin also concerns, not knowing what is good.

Not knowing the truth that exists in God, one can only live for the things that are seen. As God reveals His truth to you or I we learn about sin, that our carnal mind did not comprehend, prior to His revealing it to us.

To have Total Victory in this one must wait to see Him as He is.

Sorry, just trying to put words to something I don't grasp yet.

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2005/5/17 19:11

If we are not saved from our sin, then what are we saved from?

Is God's grace truly mere sun-tan lotion that keeps us from getting burned when we play under the hot rays of sin? Is that all God's grace is?? I like to think of God's grace as being more than that. I like to think of it as being a full grown tree providing shade for those who want to escape the scorching rays of sin.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/17 19:29

One of my favorite writers, Watchman Nee, once captured the tension between certainty of ideal and ambiguity of reality regarding sinlessness. "Nothing must make the Lord sadder than when we say we must sin." His case for holy perfection, while void of supporting testimony from his own life, is convincingly stated.

I can relate.

Dann wrote,

Quote:
-----Therefore when I say "I want to hear testimony from people who no longer have any desire whatsoever to sin in any way shape or form." I am saying, I want to hear testimony from someone whose temptation is coming only from "without" - that is, they no longer have an internal desire to sin.

Rookie wrote,

Quote:
-----It is God who can deliver us from the temptations that we are confronted with. God is able to overcome, it is we who must ask. That is the real question. Do we desire to ask or do we desire to continue in our sins.

Thanks Guys. I think I understand what you are pointing out. According to James we know that a man is "tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed."

James certainly shows us where the source of temptation lies, but does he imply that the source within us can be extinguished? Did James himself live completely free of the desire to sin? Was Paul, when writing the 7th chapter of Romans, referring to his former self or his present self?

I'm not asking these things with close-minded rhetorical contrariety. While I'm skeptical regarding a literal sinless perfection, I am by no means opposed to it. I will admit, regarding this subject, I am chafed by all of the irreproachable and conclusive cases made for unlivable truth. There are many who believe in perfection in their hearts. Does anyone know perfection in their hearts?

I am wanting to know what you know.

"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. I will obey your decrees;"

Thanks for the honesty and fellowship guys!

MC

Re: Speaking the Truth in Love - posted by eagleswings (), on: 2005/5/18 2:08

MC wrote:

Â"I am chafed by all of the irreproachable and conclusive cases made for unlivable truth. There are many who believe in perfection in their hearts. Does anyone know perfection in their hearts?Â"

The Paralysis of a Divided Heart

Now, beloved, the trouble with a good many of us has been this divided heart. We are not sure, not absolutely sure about the Lord, about our own position, about the testimony that we are perhaps standing for and talking about; we are not sure about it, we have secret questionings. It does not matter what we say in public and to others about it, God knows the secret of our hearts, whether we are absolutely true in secret with Him over this matter ; and there is no way of victory, no way to ascendancy, no way through to the realisation of the Divine end - a people to fulfil a priestly ministry in the universal sovereignty and kingdom of our God and His Christ - until we are on the ground of an absolute undividedness of heart for God in the matter of His testimony.

From the section, "The Paralysis of a Divided Heart", in a T. Auston-Sparks thread, Because of the Blood of the Lamb posted on 5/15 1:25 (third section from bottom of the first of the three posts in the thread).

Funny how this thing keeps coming up, Is it possible Somebody wants to get our attention? (Mine included.)

Roger

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/18 4:56

Eagleswings,

I see the connection you make to the T. Austin Sparks article. However, your earnest response to my questions seems to be another oblique admittance that we haven't actually experienced the thing we are certain of.

I'm tempted to be oblique myself...to avoid controversy. Although I am speaking to the group through simple text, I wish I could let you hear the sincerity of my heart on this matter. It is my belief that the current strain of sinless perfection that is popping up now and then around here is not the same doctrine of holiness that Jonathan Edwards and Charles Spurgeon preached, but something else.

This conversation always seems to wind up being a circuitous loop with no termination. That the debate can not be ended is itself a refutation of the theological claim that a man can be, and therefore must be, perfectly sinless. A single success story would end the tortuous roundabout.

Yes, we must do better. We must run faster and jump higher, and aim better. I'm not disputing the heart-aching desire for perfection anymore than a serious archer would willingly aim for any other part of the target except the bullseye. My difficulty is with the doctrine that says an archer will be supernaturally enabled to hit bullseyes everytime without fail and that anything less is to "call God a liar."

Because I have yet to hear of one successful Robin Hood who has achieved this remarkable feat, I can only conclude that God remains in a continuous state of offense with all of us. While such a doctrinal position may make for thunderous homilies it can't really be taken to heart in full doses. Even its staunchest proponents equivocate under the feathery weight of common modesty.

Some of us, especially the men, talk about our preaching heroes like they were spiritual supermen that defied gravity. They weren't, and it only hurts us to see these men as taller than the rest of us. If we could walk close to them, we would see their sin nature just like the precious saints we know personally today. Edwards, Wesley, Carmichael, Carey, and Graham were not the towering marble sculptures we polish in our imagination. The experience of seeing these men and women up close might be disheartening at first...but ultimately emboldening.

Before their Father they were just like us... children that occasionally came running with messy noses and dirty clothes needing to know there is a Father who loves them and claims them unashamedly as His own. (Hey, there are verses describing this side of God in the bible...)

Lazarus, (and others here), I do see how your heart on this is full of faith and hope that God wants us to be free from sin. I welcome your admonition. I want you to know that I see your love for the body...I know you are not condemning but encouraging. I also want everyone to know that I appreciate the repentance message...I need it in fact.

Somehow there must be a biblical yardstick that does not lower God's Holiness to something too low, or raise God's love

to something too high. Do I believe that man can be perfect? I might be more willing to consider the length of your argument if God's love wasn't dangled at the end of it.

Please be patient with me. I could hide behind a recitation of doctrine but I'm too weary with trying to be correct all the time. Can you walk awhile with me on this matter? I've tried to saddle my brothers and sisters with perfection theology...I can't in good conscience do so anymore. (Please don't demonstrate the sin-nature by unfairly shaping my words into a straw-man of cheap grace...:-())

Bless you all. I pray our fellowship of trust will continue to be strengthened.

MC

Re:, on: 2005/5/18 11:45

This is the way I see it. If we can't help but to sin, then we have an excuse to sin. If sin is to be expected, then sin is to be accepted. And this certainly is not the will of God.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/18 13:03

Br Mike wrote:

Quote:
-----Somehow there must be a biblical yardstick that does not lower God's Holiness to something too low, or raise God's love to something too high. Do I believe that man can be perfect? I might be more willing to consider the length of your argument if God's love wasn't dangled at the end of it.

This is God's yardstick described by Paul;

Gal. 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Walking in the Spirit, I think that is the main question before us. Here is a promise of God. It is conditional isn't it? If you walk in the Spirit, **then** you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

I think Enoch walked with God. This verse is special to me:

Isaiah 35:

8 A highway shall be there, and a road,
And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean shall not pass over it,
But it shall be for others.
Whoever walks the road, although a fool,
Shall not go astray.

The real question is shouldn't we always seek to walk on the Highway of Holiness? Scripture says that the unclean shall not pass over it. What is God trying to tell us?

Whoever walks the road, although a fool, **shall not go astray**. I see this as meaning that if we decide daily to walk along the path with our Lord, He will sanctify us. We will become more like Him. Our lives are not focused on what we think but only listening for what He tells us to do.

A life lived with Him will bring not condemnation but rejoicing and praise. Listen to His promise.

Psa. 1:3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Only living for Living Water will keep us from withering.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by AsliEren, on: 2005/5/18 14:03

Quote:

-----I could hide behind a recitation of doctrine but I'm too weary with trying to be correct all the time.

Hey MC,

I really enjoy doctrine. I think it is very usefull but I understand your point of liking the faith and hope in some of these gu
ys posts.

Like Ravenhill says in that revival hymn, "Christianity doesn't need a new definition of Christianity we need a new demon
stration of Christianity." I believe that is how he states it.

I go to bible studies two and sometimes 3 times a week. One thing that always makes my heart ache is when there is no
element of faith and hope like you mention. It's as if all power that be in the gospel has ben extracted out and a dry expl
anation of things is expressed from a completely rational head. For a sinner to preach so dry and dead after having deni
ed himself taken up His cross to follow Jesus and have the grace of God shed abroad in His heart for that day you would
think more teaching would come from a discontent heart uncomfortable with sin but with a heart alive in the Spirit in faith
. The Holiness of God and that same holiness in the Christian should be plainly evident. If this high ideal isn't seen in e
ach one of us the blood of Christ still cover's our sins because righteousness isn't attained by a work. This faith assumpt
ion of the holiness being by grace and the blood of Christ covering us being by grace should constantly be tied together
otherwise we will come to God with our own righteousness. If we don't trust Christ to work in us His holiness then we wil
l by default try to manufacture our own righteousness and it will be weak and faithless and have secret sins hidden throu
ghout it. By this religious mockery of supposed true grace at work in our lives we will some how still say we believe the b
lood covers our sins while yet rejecting the very power of God to conform us into His image. This subtle mockery in the
church today is so hard to define because the very teachers and preachers in the pulpit spew this luke warmness into th
eir hearers and they eat it up. He will shout in all faith the blood covers your sins and he will whisper in a "pastoraly" wa
y His grace will conform you into His image. We need more people to not apologize when they speak of the power of G
od in their lives which includes the cross and the blood.

Re: sanctification and elephants - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/18 14:12

Quote:

-----The real question is shouldn't we always seek to walk on the Highway of Holiness? Scripture says that the unclean shall not pass o
ver it. What is God trying to tell us?

Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. I see this as meaning that if we decide daily to walk along the path with our Lord, He will
sanctify us. We will become more like Him. Our lives are not focused on what we think but only listening for what He tells us to do.

Isaiah 35 is precious to me.

I sometimes think we are like blind men describing the same elephant...only we argue which describes the elephant bett
er; the trunk, tail, or legs? 8-)

We agree on the need to be sanctified, but sometimes I think we skip over the need for sanctification. This is the part of t
he elephant I want to call your attention to.

Quote:

-----If we can't help but to sin, then we have an excuse to sin. If sin is to be expected, then sin is to be accepted.

We do not have an excuse to sin. We can not accept wickedness even as secret dross hidden in our hearts.

Clearly today, there is a psuedo-christian profession that gladly accepts the blood of Christ while ignoring His words. Some say the solution is a fear of God. Yet His enemies can be afraid of Him. "Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You."

With all of this carousing in broad daylight under the banner of the cross, we might conclude that the only hope for the church is to napalm her with a steady bombardment of repentance preaching.

Yet, repentance is not our salvation. We need the blood of Christ to be accepted by God and His Spirit to walk in holiness. When you say that all imperfect Christians must necessarily be out of the will of God...well an honest man might conclude that the entire church is out of the will of God. Is there no room for process in God's will?

An obedient Christian, growing in maturity and having Christ transformed in them, moves forward with each day walking with the Lord. Fellowship with the Spirit of Jesus, His words, and His people, has the power to create in us a new likeness. Is there another way?

Amy Carmichael tells of a goldsmith in a village near her orphanage. She noticed the man stirring a black kettle of gold over an open flame to burn out the dross. As he stirred he stared into the molten liquid.

"How do you know when it's ready?" she asked the craftsman.

"When I can see my face in it."

That God is not satisfied to let us remain as we are is certain. That he loves us and will complete His good work in us is equally certain. I, like you, agree whole heartedly that sin is not in the will of God and those who make excuses for their rebellion are not acting as sons but enemies. Yet, if we eagerly remain in the refinement, remaining faithful to the Word of God, then we are in His will.

"Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;"How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You. All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You;...Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men. He turned the sea into dry land; They passed through the river on foot;... For You have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined.You brought us into the net; You laid an oppressive burden upon our loins. You made men ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water, Yet You brought us out into a place of abundance...

Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me."

MC

Re:, on: 2005/5/18 14:54

2 Corinthians 7:1 - "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from **all** filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God."

1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness."

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/18 15:50

Br. Mike wrote:

Quote:

-----We agree on the need to be sanctified, but sometimes I think we skip over the need for sanctification.

"I think we skip over the need for sanctification." This statement aligns with what Isaiah 35 is warning of. "The unclean shall not pass over it..." This is a very clear warning that unless you start walking on the Highway of Holiness you will not be able to pass over it.. but it is for those who continue on... although a fool, "by the world's standards" he shall not go astray.

To understand the need for sanctification, is to understand the good news. Only those who walk with Him will continue to be saved by Him. God cannot love a sinner.

Psalm 1:

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2005/5/23 2:19

So I think the sum of it all is that we should all stop sinning and learn to obey God completely. That sounds like a good plan to me. :-)

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/23 3:24

Quote:

Lazarus1719 wrote:

So I think the sum of it all is that we should all stop sinning and learn to obey God completely. That sounds like a good plan to me. :-)

Well said Lazarus. Let us walk that Isaiah 35 road together brother!

MC

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/23 3:52

Quote:

-----Amy Carmichael tells of a goldsmith in a village near her orphanage. She noticed the man stirring a black kettle of gold over an open flame to burn out the dross. As he stirred he stared into the molten liquid.

"How do you know when it's ready?" she asked the craftsman.

"When I can see my face in it."

Is this process or crisis? The refining of the silver is a familiar picture of preaching and chorus, but it may be supporting a view which needs to be challenged. Is sanctification the work of a moment or of a lifetime? Usually when people refer to Amy Carmichael's illustration or Malachi's promise to 'refined Levites' the assumption is that it is a long process.

The fact of both illustrations, however, is that it is the work of an intense hour in the crucible of God's consuming fires.

Re:, on: 2005/5/23 4:28

"The bible teaches that every *unregenerated* human being will continue to wrestle with the problems of his own natural ego and selfishness. His human nature dates back to Adam. But the Bible also teaches with joy and blessing that every individual may be born again, thus becoming a "new man" in Christ."

A. W. Tozer

The Radical Cross page 19

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/23 8:51

Campbell Morgan: "This was his faith:" Letters p223 dated 1917 I most certainly do not believe that man ever has two natures at once. I believe that there is no reason, save such as to be found in false presentation of truth, why, from the moment of conversion, the sole delight of the soul may not be in the will of God.

Campbell Morgan: "This was his faith:" Letters p227 dated 1920

One thing perfectly certain is that sanctification will never mean in this life that we are brought to such a state in which it is no longer possible for us to sin; and it is equally certain that grace is available, in the power of which it is possible not to sin.

holiness ia a Gift!!, on: 2005/5/23 12:23

The holiness we seek does not consist of human perfection or strength of will. It is a GIFT of God, a share of His own nature... a union with Him that only He can produce. It is as far above and beyond our best efforts to obey and live righteously as the heavens are above the earth. Nothing that we can do and no effort that we can make is sufficient to produce true holiness. Only God can do that.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/5/23 13:16

Quote:

-----I most certainly do not believe that man ever has two natures at once. I believe that there is no reason, save such as to be found in false presentation of truth, why, from the moment of conversion, the sole delight of the soul may not be in the will of God.

I truly thank Bro. Ron for bearing with me in times past to help me refine my understanding of this issue. I no longer dogmatically believe that a believer has "two natures."

Re: holiness is a Gift!! - posted by DezCall (), on: 2005/5/23 13:30

Quote:

-----The holiness we seek does not consist of human perfection or strength of will. It is a GIFT of God, a share of His own nature

Amen.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26)

"A new spirit **will** I put within you: and **I will** take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give an heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 11:19)

"Having become slaves of God, you have as **fruit** your holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:22 - translated from my Dutch Bible)

"Consecrate yourselves therefore, and **be holy**, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: **I am the LORD who sanctifies you.**" (Leviticus 20:7-8)

- "I cannot make this change," says one. Who said you could? The Scripture which we have quoted speaks not of what man will do, but of what God will do. It is God's promise, and it is for Him to fulfill His own engagements. Trust in Him to fulfill His Word to you, and it will be done.

"But how is it to be done?" What business is that of yours? Must the Lord explain His methods before you will believe him? The Lord's working in this matter is a great mystery: the Holy Ghost performs it. He who made the promise has the responsibility of keeping the promise, and He is equal to the occasion. God, who promises this marvellous change, will assuredly carry it out in all who receive Jesus, for to all such He gives power to become the Sons of God. Oh that you would believe it! Oh that you would do the gracious Lord the justice to believe that He can and will do this for you, great miracle though it will be! Oh that you would believe that God cannot lie! Oh that you would trust Him for a new heart, and a right spirit, for He can give them to you! May the Lord give you faith in His promise, faith in His Son, faith in the Holy Spirit, and faith in Him, and to Him shall be praise and honor and glory forever and ever! Amen. - Charles Spurgeon

Holiness is not an achievement, it's a work of God in us. It's not a "one-time"-event, it's a process. Hebrews 10:14 sums it up quite well:

"For by one offering He **has perfected** forever those who **are being** sanctified"

Thank You Lord, for Your grace! Thank You Lord, for Your patience with me. Thank You Lord that it's not your main purpose to make a holy man out of me, you want Christ to be seen through me.

The people of this world and the Church don't ask the question: "Sir, we would like to see a holy man". They say: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus" (John 12:22). The man or woman who desires to reflect Jesus and Him alone, cannot but be holy. The man or woman whose main desire is to be holy, reflects "self" and has not yet understood what these simple words of John mean: "He must increase, but I must decrease".

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/23 13:45

In the central part of Romans Paul centres on the consequence of Adam and his disobedience. "'the sin' entered" says Rom 5:12. 'the sin' with the definite article then becomes the biblical phrase for what theologians have since called 'original/constitutional/hereditary/congenital sin'. I point it out at this point in the light of the Roman references to 'freedom from sin'. As Young's translation shows these references are to 'the sin', as labelled above.

Rom. 6:18 and having been freed from the sin, ye became servants to the righteousness.

Rom. 6:22 And now, having been freed from the sin, and having become servants to God, ye have your fruit — to sanctification, and the end life age-during;

Rom. 8:2 for the law of the Spirit of the life in Christ Jesus did set me free from the law of the sin and of the death; And each one is expressed in the Aorist. Modern linguistics prefer to see the Aorist as a simple past tense. These verses are declaring 'freedom from the power of indwelling sin' not an absence of individual transgressions. The freedom spoken of here is not happening, it has happened.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/23 13:47

Quote:

-----Holiness is not an achievement, it's a work of God in us. It's not a "one-time"-event, it's a process. Hebrews 10:14 sums it up quite well:

Holiness is not a one-time event. Holy is a one-time event.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/23 17:01

Quote:
-----Is this process or crisis? The refining of the silver is a familiar picture of preaching and chorus, but it may be supporting a view which needs to be challenged. Is sanctification the work of a moment or of a lifetime?

I don't see why process and crisis need to be mutually exclusive. As a matter of fact, I don't see why many of the things we are discussing need to be contrary to each other. Maybe I'm missing the zeitgeist of this place...I know it's nothing personal. Perhaps textual counterpoint and critique is how fellowship expresses itself when limited to text-chat. I know our fellowship would be more well-rounded in person.

I discovered Amy Carmichael's little goldsmith story during a period of crisis in my own life. Yet, even as the crisis has passed, the story still reminds me, that even though I make my plans, the Lord directs my steps. So crisis is part of the process. Abiding in Christ is also part of the process.

Speaking of crisis, too many around here act like calamity is the worst thing God can bring to the church. It isn't...letting us continue in our ignorance and letting our hunger for Him die is the worst judgement God can inflict on us.

My own personal testimony is that God's chastisement may be His strongest grace. A father's indifference is worse than His anger. Thankfully, God is not indifferent to us and to our eternity. Perhaps that's why I find it a little grievous to engage in these light sabre duels over shades of meaning in words like holiness...they cheapen the very deep work that God is faithfully doing in us. Brothers, I may not have your terminology, but I have your Jesus. Where I am ignorant of Jesus' theology, He'll not let me continue in ignorance.

Yes there is the crucible that strips away our resources and arguments. I have had a portion of it and have discovered that it is not a point of fear...but of deep reassuring joy. Sometimes the best thing for your heart is to lose everything you think is important...even if it's your hidden possessions like reputation and ministry. That's when you discover something that's hidden even from the prophets: God loves us too much to let our imperfect theology get in the way of His perfect salvation. He will break every idol in our hearts.

Yet, keep in mind that not all the idols of Israel were loving dieties, wooing the affections of the people away from God. Rather they were bloody unmerciful monsters who ruled by fear. Today fear is still one of the most powerful idols.

Prophets and preachers, muse on this...you cannot leverage the fear of dire circumstances against someone whose fear is reserved for God alone. Only those whose hearts still secretly tremble before Baal and Astaroth fret that their health and wealth might be taken.

That is why prophecies predicting nuclear war, financial collapse, and disease are over rated. The most dreaded wrath that one could prophecy is that God will no longer suffer with us...that He will abandon us to our sin, leaving us forever outside His love.

Yet praise God, that is not our fate! I am hidden in Christ...I have seen His refusal to let me sin. More importantly, I have seen His desire for me to be satisfied in Him alone... I have known the pain of chastisement and drawn comfort from the faithfulness of a sovereign God making sure my election. (I have also tasted the goodness of the Lord...His restoration and His blessings, both earthly and spiritual.)

Through fire and water I have seen that I am His son. It is beyond comprehension that I can even make a statement like that. Yet, a son I am, belonging to the Father. He will not allow me to live in disobedience. I may not exhibit a forensic mastery of holiness doctrine, but I am sitting under a living rabbi that will not let me remain ignorant forever.

Thanks guys,

MC

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/23 17:48

MC

I am not striving for an either/or just wanting to tease out important strands of the topic which can easily become lost in the pattern. For example if 'sanctification' is only progressive it must mean that most people spend most of their Christian experience 'unsanctified'. You will know that sanctified and holy are just the Latin and German forms of the same idea. So can we have something which is 10% holy? or 90%? even 99% would have to be judged 'unholy' or 'unsanctified'. We cannot have a percentage of wholly belonging to God; any percentage denies the meaning of the word which is to be 'wholly God's'.

I grew up in my teenage years with the story of Amy Carmichael's gold refiner, but I discovered God had planned a 'perfect' work now and not over a life-time. This is not to say that no more improvement is possible. I was once a perfect 6 month baby, but I have improved (a little) and, by God's grace, may now be a perfect 63 year old! (had a birthday last week)

I don't claim a forensic mastery of holiness doctrine either, but I have discovered a Perfect Saviour and know that I only have to 'continue' in what He has accomplished.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/23 18:19

Quote:

-----I don't claim a forensic mastery of holiness doctrine either, but I have discovered a Perfect Saviour and know that I only have to 'continue' in what He has accomplished.

Forgive me Ron if I seemed put off. My comments weren't a reaction just to you...it was more of a frustration with the aggregate. I am glad that you continue in what He has accomplished. I believe that includes sharing with us younger pups the knowledge and experience you have. Thank you for further clarifying your view on "refinement."

This topic certainly does have many strands...most of them are tangled in my head. Is sanctified the same as sinless? Objects in the temple were sanctified...were they sinless objects? Equally confusing is the way NT scripture talks about holiness as a completed act and as a future act. I could quote sanctification theology ranging from Charles Finney to Lewis Sperry Chafer and perhaps look less confused... and drive everyone crazy with the contradictions....

Another mountain of discussion for another day I suppose.

I want to make sure that I left no small offense with you. Sometimes I wish I could find more common ground with people here at SI...especially brothers like you and Lazarus who I respect greatly.

Oh well, the bottom line is that I appreciate the gift that is so evident in you. As a matter of fact, I appreciate many of the different gifts I sense here at SI, from evangelism, to teaching. That's why I snoop around here I suppose...

Happy Birthday to you!

MC

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/24 2:16

Quote:

-----I want to make sure that I left no small offense with you.

Rest easy my brother. No offence perceived or taken! :-)
More later.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/24 6:00

Gen. 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. This is the first instance of the word 'sanctify'. Often 'first instances' are helpful in setting the mood for what follows. We can see from this first use that it was 'instant sanctification' not progressive. It was, in many ways, God staking His claim on something and thereby 'separating' it from others of its kind. The root word means to 'cut out' in the way you might 'cut out' a piece of pie and set it aside for someone special who hadn't yet arrived at the meal!

Hence the injunction Ex. 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Don't let it re-merge with the others of similar kind. It is specialisation. God has cut it out from the rest of the herd for a special purpose. In general the special purpose is that it is to be wholly the Lord's. It does not belong to anyone else. God says 'it is mine' in a unique sense although, in fact, all the other days are His too.

A connected truth is that the people of Israel were instructed to 'keep' holy what God had made holy. But this is not 'progressive' sanctification; it is 'maintained' sanctification.

This sense comes into the 'sanctification' of the nation of Israel. Ex. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: Here it is plainly stated that 'all... is mine' but the people of Israel were to become God's own unique people. The ASV makes the 'selection' clear; Ex. 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine: notice the 'from among'. This is the essence of sanctification, division, separation, specialisation.

This is just a preliminary introduction but you may see why I insist that, of its nature, sanctification cannot be partial or progressive. The NT takes up this language constantly. God's people are 'saints'; those that He has set apart for His own unique purpose. It probably surprises us when we discover that the most frequent term for 'Christians' in the scripture is 'saints'. It is relatively rare for a group of Christians to be addressed as 'the church' in the epistles; the most usual designation is 'the saints'. In fact, the designation 'ekklesia' translated 'church' in most of our translations has a similar idea to that of 'the sanctified ones or saints'. Technically from its OT derivation, saints would be 'the cut out ones' while ekklesia would be the 'called out ones'. Neither title can be partial or progressive.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/24 15:17

Charles Spurgeon wrote:

Quote:
----- "I cannot make this change," says one. Who said you could? The Scripture which we have quoted speaks not of what man will do, but of what God will do. It is God's promise, and it is for Him to fulfill His own engagements. Trust in Him to fulfill His Word to you, and it will be done.

"But how is it to be done?" What business is that of yours? Must the Lord explain His methods before you will believe him? The Lord's working in this matter is a great mystery: the Holy Ghost performs it.

Scripture tells us how it is to be done.

John 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

In this section of Scripture Jesus teaches that the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. How does the Holy Spirit guide us? **He speaks!** How else would we know Him? "...He **will guide** you into all truth; for He **will not speak** on His own authority, but whatever He hears **He will speak**; for He **will tell** you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and **declare** it to you.

What is the result of hearing and obeying?

John 14:21, "He who **has** My commandments and **keeps** them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved

d by My Father, and **I will** love him and **manifest** Myself to him."

Unless one hears and obeys one will not experience Christ **manifesting** Himself to him.

This is the only way to overcome sin. Christ manifesting Himself to those who have learned to trust and obey through the Holy Spirit's guidance. Joy of fellowship with Christ overcomes this world.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whoever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

To live by faith mean to say, "Yes Lord," when He speaks to you.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/25 21:59

Keep talking brothers, I am learning something here.

In terms of theology, alot has been written trying to capture the meaning of "sanctification." I think I am ailing from a slew of poor or incomplete "sancification doctrine" from both sides of the calvinist/arminian camps. One side says that sanctification is only a positional reality while the other says it is a gradual experimental reality culminating in a final second work of grace. Both sides have some merit but I believe are incomplete...

I spent some considerable time in prayer yesterday on this most important area. The Lord shared with me something on sanctification...that I am very ignorant of it. I say this reluctantly because I have called myself a desciple and it's hardly fitting for a desciple to be vague on the idea of sanctification.

Ron, observing that sanctification cannot be properly understood without it being "entire" or "complete" makes perfect sense. Though I missed it earlier...your point now seems to me to be self-evident.

I think one of my problems is that I am too familiar with all of the various textbooksystems and positions. Yet, theology, even good theology, is a little like a swiss watch without the face and hands that shows fine craftsmanship but not the hour. I want to see the flesh and blood of all this. Brothers help me see the face and hands of sanctification.

I want to know what sanctification is to you in life...what the Lord has taught you. I believe He can teach me through you.

I need sancification 101.

Could we lay the foundations by saying something along these lines... that I who was a slave to sin am no longer because I have been made free to obey God. (How and why for a follow-up conversation...) Along the same lines I, who was married to the law have been made dead so that the marriage is void. Therefore, as a former slave to sin and former partner to the law I am free and divorced in order to be completely bound and bethrothed to Jesus. These are not phased concepts but are realized "at once". In both cases our former states have been changed over to a completely new state. This is not a process or an evolution but a new creation as it were...

Following these same lines can I say, without contradicting myself, that at the same time I can walk in complete obedience to Christ as a servant, I also receive undeserved Grace and Love as part of His Bride. In a way I am like those instruments that are graciously chosen for God's house who are washed and then reserved for holy service. They were entirely sanctified at their entry and yet their sanctification continues to be maintained. I note that remaining sinless is not so much the ultimate focus of the vessel as much as remaining cleansed, innocent, set apart, and reserved for God's will and pleasure. Some vessels may have not even fulfilled their intended purpose, yet they remain sanctified even as they sit waiting in the temple. Untill their day of usage comes, it is enough that they remain set apart, reserved for service.

So, can we say that being cleansed and given over totally to God is the essence of being sanctified? It is not simply a term whose meaning is limited to "sinless", but in a fuller sense, a term implying "ownership", "rulership" and "belonging". Do these simple ideas I am expressing begin to scratch the surface of what sanctification is?

Jeff, your thoughts regarding how this works is helpful. If we could, I would like to linger a little more on the "what" of sanctification.

ctification...before the "How" we get there. This will make more sense to my pea brain... (Someone once told me that a thing must be before it can do. ;-))If I could come to terms with this I would be so glad.

In the meantime, I did want to share these two verses from John that stirred up some thoughts on this subject...

"Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean...Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine"

Bless you guys,

MC

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/26 4:04

Quote:

-----So, can we say that being cleansed and given over totally to God is the essence of being sanctified? It is not simply a term whose meaning is limited to "sinless", but in a fuller sense, a term implying "ownership", "rulership" and "belonging".

Yes! I don't mean it as a throw-away line but every Christian should be 'sinless'. If the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin, surely anyone rightly related to Him should be 'sinless'.

I see your note that you want to concentrate on the 'what' rather than the 'how'. At some stage we may need to concentrate on the 'when' and this will be a difficult area. We make so many assumptions and have different understanding of things that the question 'who is "we"? does need to be asked. It isn't, for example, someone who has just happened on a Bible opened at a certain verse. Bible statements always have roots. We shall need to understand how and when a man becomes part of the 'we'.

Re: Compton....., on: 2005/5/26 9:35

Hello MC,

I can sure understand where you're coming from, beloved. If there is confusion in the church, it is over justification/sanctification, flesh/sprit, law/grace.

It would be delightful to tell you that I've got it all figured out myself. Ha! I surely don't. But I'm farther down the road than I've ever been before and I will attempt to share with you what I have learned. I pray that what I do share, though flawed as it may be, will somehow be used by God to open a window of rhema revelation to you.

The first time I met God in a real and personal way, what people described to me as how I looked astounded me. Those who knew me could tell that something very dramatic happened to me without saying a word to me, or me speaking to them. It was just all over me. They would infact ask me, "what in the world happened to you"?

I do believe I was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit all in one visit from God. But like any life as we understand it, it must be nourished. I did not know how to do that. I had no one to feed me. Those in my religion only knew how to offer me more tradition. Though tradition tasted alright and appealed to the hunger of my flesh, when it hit my inner being, it did not satisfy the hunger. I degenerated back into my old self except for one huge difference. I had God on board Who was ever trying to mercifully get me to a place where I could grow, and I knew God was real without anyone telling me or me reading it in a book. I had a witness somehow on board that never gave up on me. He still has not failed me but has been ever faithful, ever loving, ever patient, ever merciful, and ever forgiving. Blessed be the Lord God almighty.

Then one day, the Lord blessed me with an encounter of some religious folks in my religion that were carrying bibles. I asked them why? "Soul food" they warmly replied. Oh. So I went and bought me a bible. Now I at least had something to eat. I then began to grow. I also read my way out of religion and into faith.

However, my legalistic background kept me running back and forth between law and grace. I'd listen to so called "christian radio". One would say this, another that. Through it all, I'd find an acorn here, a turnip there, and grow on in Christ Jesus. But what a mess I had to live through and find my way through. If Jesus Himself was not the way, the truth and the life, I would not have made it.

I'm still in the growing process. What I learn today, I build on tomorrow. It's that growth, education, revelation and understanding that to me is what sanctification is all about.

Fortunately, I do not have to wait until I get my degree to be used by God to bless others. I'm sure I touched some, just as a babe. Especially those who knew me before God moved in. I pray that I have also blessed one or two here and there along the way.

One thing that kept me in misery for many years was a lack of understanding about the old man and the new man. I saw them as homogenized, as many others do, mainly because the old man is to me still with me. I did not understand that to God, my old man is dead, has been since my new birth. I did not realize that only my spirit was born again and destined to live forever with God, and not my old man. I did not realize that my flesh could not be made to conform to the image of Christ, but could only be crucified with Him. Crucifixion and death are one time events, just like birth and resurrection are one time events. Keeping my flesh subdued in death is a day by day process for us, but to God it's finished work. That is why Paul in Ephesians 2 says we have been made (past tense) to sit with Christ Jesus at the right hand of the Father. This could not be so if we had more to add to the shed blood of Jesus to complete our salvation. We are in God's eyes now seated with Christ. I have no idea why we often look up when we are praying since it would only make sense that if we wanted to "look at the Father" we should turn our heads to the left. lol.

Our existence here is like that of a walnut. There's not much value in the "shell". It's what's inside that counts. Ever open the shell of some nut and find there is nothing inside? That is worthless. But the shell is no different than the one that has a delicious nut inside or a seed that when buried can bring forth new life. The shell is destined for destruction. You already know it has little or no value before you crack its hard shell for what's inside. The shell and the nut inside are "one" although they are completely different in value. I already know when I pick up a walnut that the shell is going to be discarded and I'm only going to consume what's inside.

It's kinda like that with God. He is going after what is going to live forever with Him. He finds no value in our old man, no fellowship with our old man. Yet He chooses to live with us inside the shell of the old man until that blessed and glorious day when we can put off the shell and take what is valuable to the Father forever and ever more.

Our flesh has been crucified with Christ by faith through grace (unmerited favor). That's the way God sees it. However, all who are born again realize and recognize that the flesh still has to be contended with until that glorious day when we put off our flesh. It's the war within. One says "go this way" while the other says "no, come with me". One is the flesh, unregenerate and still corrupt, the other is the spirit, perfect, saved, righteous, holy, sanctified, pure, obedient, and precious to God.

We have the choice moment by moment to follow one or the other. To follow one is by default to ignore the other. Both lead in opposite directions to the other. One leads in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit, ie, walk in the Spirit. The other leads in obedience to all the sinful and sinful desires that we were born with and cultivated along the way in our "natural corrupt life".

The works of the Spirit are alive to God. That is, the things we do in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit are pleasing to God and He stores up reward for us for that great and glorious day.

The works of the flesh are dead works. Why? Because our flesh has been crucified with Christ. If flesh is dead, so are its works. Works of the flesh are to God dead works. Dead is dead, no longer alive. Its works, sin, are washed and covered by the precious blood of Jesus.

Now Paul said that all things were "permitted", but not all things are "profitable". How can He say such a thing? Because we are not under the law. If we are not under the law, then how can anyone bring a charge against us? Only that which is of Spirit is alive. Only that which is of flesh can do what is sin. Since there is no longer a binding penalty to law breaking in that we cannot be punished in our spirit for the actions of our flesh, the new man lives in freedom because of what Christ has already paid the price for on the cross.

Why are not all things profitable? Because if we allow ourselves to be led by the flesh instead of by the Spirit, we then subject ourselves to the chastisement of the Father. That is always unprofitable to my flesh, but very necessary to turn me around and get back into the leading of the Holy Spirit within me, One with me, glory be to God.

Do we use our "liberty" (freedom from the punishment required by the law) as an occasion of the flesh to follow it? God forbid. Yet we do that often times. But the fallen sinful nature of the old man shall not have dominion over us. That is, it will not overcome us and rule in our lives any longer.

We can aid our spirit in this war by training it and strengthening it. These are all our works of the Spirit, ie, prayer and fellowship with God, Worship, bible reading, reaching out to others and blessing them with our help and resources, lending a helping hand. These things bring forth more of the life of God in us and we are able to follow the Spirit and let it rule in our lives and have victory in the struggle between flesh and spirit.

If we walk after the things of the flesh, the lusts of our bodies, the allurements of the world, then we strengthen and fortify our flesh and it will begin to walk in victory over the leading of the Spirit in our lives. We have the choice. One brings forth favor from God, the other brings forth chastisement. But nowhere that I can find in God's Word does it say that the flesh, the carnal sinful nature of the old man will ever find itself total victor over my born again Spirit. My flesh can never prevail entirely over me and win this war. Why? Because the war is already won. It was won 2000 years ago. Glory be to God, now and forever amen.

So beloved, the moment we become justified, we become sanctified in God's eyes. We are one hundred percent a child

of God, though yet a babe. But the maturing process that trains and molds us into the image of Christ as His representative is a day by day adventure with God that takes us through the entirety of our life here on earth. By the way, the word representative means just that, "re present". We present Christ afresh when we walk after the Spirit. When I first encountered God, I had this representation all over me, even as a babe when I knew nothing about the bible and very little about God. Since then, I've moved from presenter to Ambassador. Ambassadors are more than a title. I got the title way back when. But I'm only now learning that to be a true presenter of Christ, I must present His life rather than my own. He is my connection with the state department of Heaven. I must seek Him in all my actions and never act on my own. When I act on my own, even though I have the privilege of doing so, I stop presenting Christ and start presenting myself.

Well, as usual, I've gone on and on here. I've probably lost many to snoozing or solitaire by now. But I hope that God has walked me through this and that it may be a blessing to even just one. God bless you richly with the revelation of Himself, in Jesus' Holy Name.

I ever remain teachable. I am always blessed by the input and the Spirit within here at SI. God bless you all for sharing your life in Christ with me.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/26 11:31

Quote:

-----One thing that kept me in misery for many years was a lack of understanding about the old man and the new man. I saw them as homogenized, as many others do, mainly because the old man is to me still with me. I did not understand that to God, my old man is dead, has been since my new birth. I did not realize that only my spirit was born again and destined to live forever with God, and not my old man.

Lahry

In what follows please understand that I am questioning your theology not your experience. I do think there is massive confusion over 'the old man'. It is not helped by almost all modern versions simply abandoning the term and switching to 'old self' or 'old nature'. This destroys the link between the old man and the new man, the first man and the second man, the first Adam and the last Adam.

Theologically, I don't believe you ever had an old man... :-? not a personal one anyway. This is 'our old man'; the possessive pronoun is plural, the noun is singular. This is Adam. Neither do we have a personal 'new man'. The consequence of that would be lots of new men, while the scripture is very clear that there is only one old man and only one new man.

Take a look at the repetition of the word one in this key passage in Romans: "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:11-21, KJV) That is 12 times in 10 verses. Do you get the impression that someone want us to notice one old man and one new man?

In this expression of truth there have only ever been two men. 1Cor. 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Re: Hey Phil, on: 2005/5/26 11:43

That's really interesting. I'll have to ponder that a while. I never looked at that way. That is part of what makes SI great. Different views of a very large God and His Holy Word. Thanks again, dear teacher, and may God really bless you this day.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/26 11:54

Brother Lahry wrote:

Quote:
-----We have the choice. One brings forth favor from God, the other brings forth chastisement. But nowhere that I can find in God's Word does it say that the flesh, the carnal sinful nature of the old man will ever find itself total victor over my born again Spirit. My flesh can never prevail entirely over me and win this war. Why? Because the war is already won. It was won 2000 years ago. Glory be to God, now and forever amen.

Rom. 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—**not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.** 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

This is the choice you speak of. But what does Paul warn the brethren of? "For **if you live** according to the flesh you **will die**; but **if by the Spirit you put to death** the deeds of the body, **you will live.**"

Here Paul teaches clearly that we are given all things by the Spirit, yet the choice to listen to the old man still is real as the choice to listen to the Spirit. What is the outcome of you not putting to death the deeds of the body? Death. Now how can one die if he has not been made alive by the Spirit of God?

I believe that being born again is the door by which we enter into all the promises of God. Yet to realize those promises require faith. When we speak of God's **unmerited favor** it seems like we try only to apply His mercy to our lives. But really what does it mean to a believer when God favors you? What is the substance of that favor? Barnabas could actually discern that God's favor had been poured out on the gentiles. It is not only mercy. What enabled Barnabas to discern that the Spirit was working in Antioch?

Acts 11:22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

What was the substance of this grace?

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/5/26 12:02

Quote:
-----That is 12 times in 10 verses. Do you get the impression that someone want us to notice one old man and one new man?

In this expression of truth there have only ever been two men.
1Cor. 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

That is interesting! I have heard you teach on this before Bro. Ron and wondered if you could expound that to help us understand how this plays out. Does it mean that we share Adam's sinful nature until we are in Christ and once we are in Him- we have received His nature? It is very difficult to see this playing out on a personal level, but I'm coming around.

God Bless,

-Robert

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/26 12:36

Quote:
-----I see your note that you want to concentrate on the 'what' rather than the 'how'. At some stage we may need to concentrate on the 'when' and this will be a difficult area.

Ron,

Please don't let me pick the music...let's hear all the themes including the prelude! In the end...I know that these things may not be neatly linear in life but for the sake of right thinking I want to hear all the movements of the composition as it were. It would be nice to hear your complete thinking on this matter...from a to z. I know that all of us could rapid fire questions depending on where we are... but this student assembles ideas better when all of the pieces are layed out rightly related to each other.

Lahry,
Thank you much for what you shared. Your posts always seem full of grace to me. The words ministered to me. Even the length of your testimony touched me. Bless you brother. You said many fine things but I wanted to talk about this in particular...

Quote:
-----So beloved, the moment we become justified, we become sanctified in God's eyes. We are one hundred percent a child of God, though yet a babe. But the maturing process that trains and molds us into the image of Christ as His representative is a day by day adventure with God that takes us through the entirety of our life here on earth.

Praise God that we are not the source of our sanctification...
"Jesus also suffered, that He might sanctify His people with His own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

However, it is at this very point that I have had some personal confusion. I have equated maturing in Christ with a kind of "gradual sanctification." Almost like I was saying that my imperfect experience was slowly catching up to the perfect reality...

Suddenly I am beginning to see "living as sanctified" as an issue related to maturity but keenly separate. For instance, I expect my 11 year old son to be obedient to me yet I do not expect him to be a man yet. So it is possible for me to expect that he sets aside his will for mine even while I know he remains a young boy full of wholesome mischief instead of manly character.(LOL)I do not measure him according to my responsibilities but according to his. His commitment to my will is what will produce in him a better manhood because I am the one most committed to his success as a man. (Though even in this analogy the idea becomes confusing because we might say that a good and obedient boy is "mature" even though he is not a man at all.)

The point is that while immaturity proceeds maturity, it does not need to be a place of disobedience and therefore sin. I think this is what Paul meant when he said "Do not let people despise your youth." Youth, in the physical and spiritual cannot be skipped over or denied...but it need not be despicable.

When I equate maturity with sanctification I can get into trouble along the following lines; someone might say that they are "entirely sanctified" and I would dismiss them as being naive because it seemed to me they were claiming to be entirely like Christ the God-Man. That seemed a little like an arrogant high school basketball star saying he is equal in performance and ability to Michael Jordan. I believe this is a point of much confusion on this subject.

My error, (I believe it was an error) leaves a Christian with two extreme polars that frustrate the sincere heart. On one hand there is total Christlike perfection which is beyond description and on the other hand there is accepted lawlessness because the law has been decreed impossible. The latter may seem pleasing but it saddens the heart desiring to see more of God.

So when Paul would talk in terms of an athlete training for a race, I would assume he was talking about training to be more and more sanctified...which would set up conflicts in other texts. I now wonder if Paul was simply talking about how an athlete gives his heart completely over to the race at hand. For instance, if I am training for a competition I do not imagine that I will be the fastest runner in the world but that does not give me an excuse to eat jelly-filled donuts. The Lord may not expect me to run as fast as He can but he certainly has not permitted me to enjoy whatever food I want because I plan on losing. A serious athlete can not eat what others' eat...he has given himself over to his trainer's diet.

So, a young basketball player may not be able to perform like Michael Jordan but a young player can bring the same dedication to the game as Michael Jordan. In this aspect, the young and the seasoned player can be the same...not in strength and skill but in heart.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,...and became obedient to death. even death on a cross!"

Well, these are just elementary thoughts. I'm trying to untangle the strands of maturity, sinlessness, and obedience so that sanctification can be better understood and articulated to my own children. I grew up as a Christian wandering between the impossible and the unacceptable...I am now thinking that the sanctification of my heart for the Father, the desire of every good son, is possible and certainly acceptable.

Bless you guys.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/26 13:05

Brother Mike wrote:

Quote:
-----My error, (I believe it was an error) leaves a Christian with two extreme polars that frustrate the sincere heart. On one hand there is total Christlike perfection which is beyond description and on the other hand there is accepted lawlessness because the law has been decreed impossible. The latter may seem pleasing but it saddens the heart desiring to see more of God.

The words of the Bible, the words of man's doctrine, the words of those who seek to comfort by thoughts and ideas cannot satisfy. Only by the Spirit will one find rest. Only by the power of His Spirit will one know how God sanctifies those who are His by grace through faith. There are no formula's only the Spirit.

You cannot separate the whats, whens, or hows. That is an endeavor of men. Look for the new song that God promises to those who are His.

IN Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by AsliEren, on: 2005/5/26 13:25

Quote:
-----I grew up as a Christian wandering between the impossible and the unacceptable

I did too. I am believing and have been believing as of late that we must believe completely in the impossible scriptures as possible and nothing less than that. That is the only way I've managed to see a genuine change in my life. It makes me get to the heart of the issue (my sin) and put my faith in Him completely. Scripture in the past year has moved completely out of the realm of my knowledge and have been seen as things to believe in completely. It's a completely different experience as my Spirit actually is getting fed now.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/26 13:49

Quote:
-----It would be nice to hear your complete thinking on this matter...from a to z.

Well I started this once but got sidetracked. At present I had done about a-f I should think but there will be enough here to show my direction...try to 'assemble this'...
(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id1664&forum42&post_id&refreshGo) Christian Perfection... or 'dis-assemble' as the case may be...

Re: This is really moving....., on: 2005/5/26 21:02

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit".

Wow, such great input and sharing. How blessed it is to see that we have all been struggling and God is slowly but surely putting pieces together for us so that we can see just a bit more as we travel down this narrow way together. Praise the Lord for each of you.

Perhaps we should look at what the word "sanctify" means. It means "to render". Now all we need do is clarify what "to render" means, and we've got it, right? 8-)

God renders or declares us set apart, holy, pure, and righteous through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. From the moment we are born again, I believe this to be so. Otherwise, how could we come boldly to the throne of grace, even as a new christian? We have not our own holiness, righteousness, purity and sanctity. We have what is imputed to us by the finished work of Jesus Christ. God renders or declares, and therefore we are.

Every thing we do in our physically awakened state is tainted by flesh. It is very difficult to walk free of selfishness in whatever form. As someone has already said, it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us that we are able to walk in obedience at all. God will let us flounder in our own recipe or formula for holiness and sanctification. To be successful, God has to place in us both the will and the desire to do His good pleasure. We know from what Paul wrote to the Philippians that this is exactly what God does. Anyone who has had any success in this area, knows that this is so. Our struggles leave us worn out. our faith leaves us rested. Rested from what? The works of our religious flesh to try and bring about holiness and sanctification, thus finding favor with God. It just does not work. We either get it by faith, or we don't get it.

Grace, as unmerited as it is must have the cooperation of the one it is bestowed upon. We cooperate with and are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, the fountain of grace, obeying His voice and not the letter of the law. For the letter brings forth death, following after the flesh, while the Spirit brings for life, following after the Spirit. Does that make sense? Maybe someone can say it better than I can. Sigh.

The bible says without faith, it is impossible to please God. Anything that is not of faith, is sin. So here again, we must lean on God with our whole hearts and not trust in our own understanding. God said I am sanctified, therefore I am.

Then.....we began to look at the process of maturing and we began to allow God to move through us to bring forth death to the deeds of the flesh and conformity to the will of the Spirit. Not everyone who says Lord Lord will enter in, but he/she that doeth the will of the Father. Do we ever achieve perfection? I do not believe this to be so, other wise God's grace is not any longer sufficient. If we could have our flesh perfected, we would not need grace. Thank God grace is sufficient. License to sin? Nope. But it does cover all the warts, by faith. If any part is not covered, nothing is covered. It's all covered and all finished.

But as we go through this maturity process of subduing and putting our flesh to death by faith in the cross, we become more and more Christlike. If we think we can walk double minded, spiritual one day and carnal the next, we need not think we will receive anything from God.

I'm currently reading a book by Andrew Murray on the Blood of Jesus. It is totally awesome and really addresses all of this.

I've got to be going, but I am really looking forward to reading more about what you all have to say. God bless you and keep you.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/5/27 2:23

Quote:
-----Perhaps we should look at what the word "sanctify" means. It means "to render".

I have never heard this before and can't quite square it with the origins or definitions of the word. Where did you get it from?

Re: thanks... - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/27 4:48

Quote:
-----At present I had done about as far as I should think but there will be enough here to show my direction...

Thanks Ron...I was wondering if you already had something in the works on this subject.

MC

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/27 5:22

Quote:
-----There are no formula's only the Spirit...You cannot separate the what's, when's, or how's. That is an endeavor of men. Look for the new song that God promises to those who are His.

Nicely put and I certainly think worth noting. I like the music analogy...we cannot understand music by trying to formally perceive it through its parts and interrelations of parts. Yet that is precisely how most music teachers teach music...not to replace or substitute the experience but to establish a common language that will allow those with experience to guide the novice.

I apologize because I probably pushed my "assemble" metaphor too far. Bonhoeffer once said that "Each man makes a fool of himself the best way he knows how." The best way I know how is to come up with smart sounding metaphors that only confuse the matter.

I only want to say that I am not looking so much for a formula of sanctification (insert tab a into slot b ect.) as much as a description of it. (I apologize if I gave the impression otherwise.)

To expect a right description of so important a matter as sanctification is only reasonable. It is true that men seek to analyze truth in their heads without knowing truth in their hearts... Yet right understanding can also be an endeavor of the Spirit... "Thou hast the words of eternal life." Head knowledge can't substitute for actually listening to the music, but a little music theory may help me with music recognition and appreciation:-) (After all, there are many songs titled "sanctification"... are they all copyrighted by the Spirit?)

As for listening...I hear that I need more instruction... ;-)

I believe the Spirit can breathe on me through the words of His teachers.

Thanks Jeff,

MC

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/27 11:16

I hear you Brothers Mike and Lahry,

I hear that what you speak of is the finished work of Christ. And I say Yes to all that you say in terms of the fact that Christ's blood is sufficient. Paul tells the Corinthians that they have been given everything in Christ. All knowledge all wisdom, all gifts come from Christ and were received by the Corinthians. This is the fact that I see Brother Lahry expressing in his thoughts that he has shared. Brother Ron also expresses this same precept. And it is the truth according to Scripture.

Yet, having been given all things pertaining to Christ, Paul declares that they do not know the things of the Spirit. This is where I am focusing on. I am trying to progress from the definition of what salvation means to those who have been given the free gift of Christ just like the Corinthians have been given. The Scriptures declare that all things are available to those who have entered into a relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

My question, the believers have the Holy Spirit, and yet do not understand the things of the Spirit. They continue to follow the carnal mind. This is their problem. Paul points this out to them. This is the point where Paul begins to explain the Corinthians failures. This is also the point of our discussion concerning sanctification.

Sanctification by the Spirit, the Corinthians didn't know.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/27 15:29

Quote:
-----My question, the believers have the Holy Spirit, and yet do not understand the things of the Spirit. They continue to follow the carnal mind. This is their problem. Paul points this out to them. This is the point where Paul begins to explain the Corinthians failures. This is also the point of our discussion concerning sanctification.

Brother Jeff,

You said that in a way that I can understand your meaning. Thanks much.

Within your admonition to not test these things with the carnal mind, I hear the confidence you have in the Spirit's ministry and witness to us. It is very encouraging!

I also believe that we can test things with a spiritual mind. I hope that doesn't sound like double talk...I don't think that knowing a definition of a thing is the same as knowing the thing...yet there are teachers, like yourself, who have the ability to provide healthy benchmarks to test what is in our hearts. Submit one to another...examine yourselves...

Thanks again for the warning. I believe it is wisdom and I appreciate your sensitivity in this area.

MC

Re:, on: 2005/5/27 20:38

Thayers Lexicon

Sanctify - (hagiazō) I don't write greek, but this is the definition for the word used in the NT as "sanctify" Stongs #37

Render or declare sacred or holy, consecrate.

Other biblical uses:

1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow

2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God

a) consecrate things to God

b) dedicate people to God

3) to purify

a) to cleanse externally

b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin

c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/28 9:23

Brother Mike,

I am sorry for maybe the sense of how I have communicated my thoughts with too much passion and not enough clarity. I will endeavor to ask this question in a different sense.

Again as I have stated before, Paul discerned first, that the Corinthians were not a spiritual people. Secondly, Paul identified that because the Corinthians remain following their carnal minds they are suffering from the state in which they choose to remain. Sin is still manifesting itself in them. Do you see this correlation?

This illustration given to us by Paul about the problems of the Corinthians demonstrates what Paul teaches in Romans 8 :

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

So Paul identifies the two paths a believer may follow. Paul also discerns that the Galatians stumble in the same way.

Gal. 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Paul is trying to teach these believers about the nature of our relationship with the Lord. I believe that there are many today who live under the same situation that Paul identifies in the Corinthians and the Galatians.

Sister Diane (roadsign) speaks of living as a believer who lived according to the flesh. Only through the work of God did she come to understand the things of the Spirit.

There are many thoughts to consider here. As this thread points to the promises that God would make sufficient provisions for His people to overcome sin. This promise cannot be diluted with the doctrines of today. What do we not see that Scripture points to? Do we really want to go deeper into this discussion or do we remain, regurgitating the thoughts of theologians.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/5/29 0:16

Quote:
-----I will endeavor to ask this question in a different sense....Do we really want to go deeper into this discussion or do we remain, regurgitating the thoughts of theologians.

Thank you again Jeff. I confess I was tempted to say enough is enough...but praise God there may be a method to your madness afterall. I heard the Lord...

The point you make is the vital one... There are many good points that can get between us and our right relationship to Jesus. Even the priority of my holiness and my perfection can become an obsession that twarts true devotion to Christ. There is no safe ground, outside of Jesus, when it comes to the pitfall that you are talking about.

Right devotion does not imply strain or effort. Sensitivity to the Spirit is not a pseudo-skill like zen meditation...all claims of aquired skills in hearing God are fraudulent. Likewise, holiness by method or process is also a fraud.

The issue is a heart rightly related to Jesus Himself. To be rightly related to theology and propositions is powerless because these things do not require a response and do not promise grace...these things are only intellectual property.

The Spirit requires a response. This is but one way that we know He is a living Word...Yet a child can respond to the Holy Spirit just as easily as a Phd. of Theology. This is just one proof that our relationship to the Holy Spirit is not enhanced by experience, skill, or education.

I say it again. The issue is a heart rightly connected to Jesus. There is no such thing as partial devotion made more complete with practice. Such faulty reasoning is how the heart tries to clothe it's nakedness from God's light.

Sanctification is not a human devotion to purity...it is a pure unobstructed connection to Christ. All procedures, processes, and progressions towards holiness are misleading and powerless. There is no dimmer switch to adjust. There is only the light with the promise from God that, by faith, we do not need to live in darkness anymore. Jesus is the amen to all of God's promises.

To say anymore with words on this point may become repetitive. All I can say is pray for me that I do indeed have a heart that is rightly related to Jesus.

In fact, pray only for that in me brother Jeff. For what need is there to find a right understanding of sanctification if one is rightly connected to Jesus?

...to Jesus alone.

MC

(Bless you Ron and Jeff...)

Re: Compton, on: 2005/5/29 9:23

Brother, what you said had truth and depth written all over it. Oh my I was so blessed and I agree with you. Everything you said needed to be said just like you said it. My heart just rested in peace and joy in reading what you and Rookie both are dialoging and I have nothing to add but a joyous amen and amen. Glory be to God, I love it.

Re: ...and then there is this...., on: 2005/5/31 10:30

Heb 13:12 Therefore Jesus also suffered and died outside the gate in order that He might purify and consecrate the people through His own blood and set them apart as holy .

Heb 13:13 Let us then go forth to Him outside the camp , bearing the contempt and abuse and shame with Him.

Heb 13:14 For here we have no permanent city, but we are looking for the one which is to come.

Let us go forth outside the camp to the cross of Calvary. The cross is outside the world's system and it's ways. To get to the cross, I must leave the city. Part of me cannot go. I must go completely, or I do not go at all. Leave behind everything and take that one way trip to Jesus via the cross. For we have no permanent city... alleluia.

Jesus shed His blood that He would consecrate us and make us Holy. Not part of us, all of us. We are either entirely God's or we are nothing at all. The cross is not a partial exercise, but it is one way, final, and complete. Once death is entered into, there is no return until Jesus comes again. It is separated and apart from the city, ie, the world, the desires of the flesh, and all attempts by man to sanctify Himself. We are dead to it and it is dead to us. The Blood of Jesus renders us holy. But we have to leave the city and go outside the camp for it to benefit us. Glory to God. How powerful is that?

How often we have been duped into believing that we can live in and enjoy the things that excite the flesh and serve a Holy God. Such audacity as I have personally shown before man and God to take God to the places I've taken Him and done before Him what I have done. Oh God please do not run out of mercy before I am cleansed with the blood outside the camp.

Please note also, that one can be outside the camp and not be at Calvary. The Blood was shed at Calvary.

I love the Amish People and so admire them for their steadfastness in holding onto the ordinary and common while rejecting the fads of this world. But that alone cannot save us. We can reject the fads, the greed, and the lust, but if we do not accept Calvary and the shed blood and suffering of Jesus Christ, then we are as lost as the gravest of sinner who make no pretense to serve the living God. Alleluia.

Saints, it's time for me to rethink my place with God. It's time for me to allow the Holy Spirit to look deep inside and see the compromise and laziness that has been keeping me from running to Calvary. It's the only place where the blood was shed for me. I cannot enter into it's life, unless I am first willing to enter into it's death. Death to all that is me, so I can become totally and completely alive unto God by the power that is in that shed blood to make me Holy unto God.

I hope that you will join me. I hope that you will stand with me and ask God's forgiveness and mercy for me..and for you. Oh dear saint, the throne of Grace is reached only through death. Death by faith, through unmerited favor of God.

He's outside the gate, beloved. He's waiting for me....and for you.

Oh God! Oh my soul is stirred this morning. I've had riches all around me, true riches, and I have been sitting in sack cloth and ashes, lusting after rocks painted gold and calling it blessing. Oh God, look not upon my heinous sin, but upon the blood of Jesus and have mercy upon me, yet one more time. Welcome me oh Lord, to that cross that I may have strength through that precious blood to willingly give up my life that I may keep it. Save me oh God, or I will be eternally lost.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/31 11:53

Br Mike wrote;

Quote:
----- There is no such thing as partial devotion made more complete with practice. Such faulty reasoning is how the heart tries to clothe its nakedness from God's light.

Sanctification is not a human devotion to purity...it is a pure unobstructed connection to Christ. All procedures, processes, and progressions towards holiness are misleading and powerless. There is no dimmer switch to adjust. There is only the light with the promise from God that, by faith, we do not need to live in darkness anymore. Jesus is the amen to all of God's promises.

AMEN.

I believe the prayer of Psalm 51 speaks to the only right relationship that man is to pursue, for the Spirit gives us the "Light of Life."

Psa. 51:0 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Psa. 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.
4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.
9 Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.
14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.
18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

I am convinced that if we believers want what God's words give us here in Psalm 51, the leading of the Holy Spirit would give us Christ as the substance for what we hope for. We have access into all grace through faith in Christ.

The Spirit will show us the only way, Christ.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/5/31 12:01

Br. Lahry wrote:

Quote:

-----I love the Amish People and so admire them for their steadfastness in holding onto the ordinary and common while rejecting the fads of this world. But that alone cannot save us. We can reject the fads, the greed, and the lust, but if we do not accept Calvary and the shed blood and the offering of Jesus Christ, then we are as lost as the gravest of sinner who makes no pretense to serve the living God. Alleluia.

Whether one follows the ways of the Amish or the Purpose Driven program, many fail because they choose to live under the law. These programs do not destroy pride, in many ways these programs enhance the nature of pride within those who live by the program.

Only the Spirit can free us from pride and self preservation. This is the substance of the nature of grace that God gives us that enables us to see ourselves as we really are. As we learn as David learned that we desperately need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to show us, to lead us, in the way that we should go, then we learn about a treasure that changes the nature of our hope. We learn that there is no hope outside of Christ. All other things are futile. This is where the Spirit takes us.

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/6/1 12:42

Heb. 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How is Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith able to overcome the sin that so easily ensnares us?

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2005/6/4 7:34

He has overcome sin by His shed blood.

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2005/6/4 12:37

Brother Lahry wrote;

Quote:

-----He has overcome sin by His shed blood

How does faith give us access to His shed blood?

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2005/6/4 19:52

Jesus said that he/she who believes (has faith in the finished work of the cross, ie, the blood) shall never perish but have eternal life. Faith must always have an object. You cannot have faith in your faith. The object of faith for the christian is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Re:, on: 2005/6/5 0:01

Quote:

Lahry wrote:
Jesus said that he/she who believes (has faith in the finished work of the cross, ie, the blood) shall never perish but have eternal life. Faith must always have an object. You cannot have faith in your faith. The object of faith for the christian is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Steve's response:

Praise the Lord!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/6/5 9:59

Quote:
-----It would be nice to hear your complete thinking on this matter...from a to z. I know that all of us could rapid fire questions depending on where we are... but this student assembles ideas better when all of the pieces are laid out rightly related to each other.

MC
One of the things that gets me into trouble fairly regularly on these forums is the whole question of when a man or woman receives the Spirit in the New Covenant sense. This is obviously a vital factor in my own thinking on this issue. I see John Baptist who was 'filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb' (Luke 1:15,41) yet acknowledged that he did not have the Baptism which only Jesus could administer. Matt. 3:14 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? This, of course, is because the Baptism in the Spirit was not available at the time of John Baptist's ministry. John then, was filled but not baptised??

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2005/6/7 0:17

Ron B. said,

Quote:
-----One of the things that gets me into trouble fairly regularly on these forums is the whole question of when a man or woman receives the Spirit in the New Covenant sense... I see John Baptist who was 'filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb' (Luke 1:15,41) yet acknowledged that he did not have the Baptism which only Jesus could administer.

A couple of verses comes to mind...in the context of this question, could you offer your commentary on these, and perhaps some others that you see fit?

"Ephesians:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—^{to the praise of his glory.}"

Galatians 3:2 "...Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?"

Thanks much,

MC

Re: The wonderful thing is..., on: 2005/6/10 7:51

..that God is unique in how He deals with each soul. Man searches for recipe's for success where God just moves in and by the power of His Spirit in response to faith.

When I first encounter the living God in a real and virtual way, I had no prior knowlege or experience to work with. I just asked God to make Himself real to me. He did and then some. Was I baptized in the Holy Spirit? I do believe I was.