

“RESULT OF FORSAKING A SELF-LIFE NATURE”

FCG Church/Phila #S198R
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3137wds

To have a self-life nature fully removed from our heart (so the ‘nature of Christ’ can take its place within)—we can then be made over by God to have a pure heart within, and made back into the perfect being that He created in the Garden of Eden (before mankind sinned against God). In that way, God, Himself can prepare us for Eternal Life in Heaven, instead of eternal torment.

When God allows us to be tested spiritually, we may be attacked physically in our body, or in our finances, or in our home-life, we can rest-assured that the self-life within us is deeper than we think, ... also, that God in His great mercy has allowed this to happen, that our eyes may be opened for us to see where that traitorous nature of ‘self’ is still within our heart. We must also realize that self-life can be eliminated and completely gotten rid of. When it is, these troubles will all come to an end.

All of this can be accomplished by God in our life, if we will simply turn our life over into God’s hands for Him to have His way with us (whether it pleases us or not). We are to make a deliberate and final choice to do just that in our life without reservation. This is God’s Plan for everyone, which is not taught in so-called Christian circles, however, we must make that decision in our life so self can be removed by God’s mercy and grace, for it is necessary for us to have that self-nature removed so we can get to Heaven.

First of all we need to repent of sin, and have every sin of ‘self’ pardoned and cleansed from our heart, ...and a second step to make an unconditional surrender of our will and life to God. That would be (as Scripture tells us), “Holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom.12:2).

A pure heart within is a wonderful thing to experience, that is, to have malice, bitterness, hatred, strife, unbelief, and hypocrisy taken out of our heart. And a most blessed thing is to have a heart which can forgive enemies and those who say and do wrongs against us (and family), and to have a heart that knows, loves, and fears God. Also, which would hunger and thirst after God, to receive fulfillment of what Jesus’ Promised for everyone who will listen and follow His Words, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.” (Meaning that we shall be inspired with the true character of God, so we can have in us, the same love, mercy, and power He has.)

That pure heart within, will enable us to be willing to meet circumstances of life as they come, and to meet them according to God’s Plan. His Plan emerges from a pure heart, and can be divided into three general ‘principles of Truth’, but we need to get some idea of what these principles are, and of what the final ‘death of self’ really means to our eternal interests.

A first principle part of God's plan is that we are never to resent, nor try to resist in our strength any wrongs done toward us. We need to realize that we are not to resent mistreatment, whether at the workshop by employer or employee, or by a wife or husband in the home, (or coming from other sources).

We are not to touch the problem in our own strength to try to correct it if it costs us our life, which is a vital 'principle to be met in the 'death of self' within. The natural heart of man will always resent evil when he is wronged and not treated right, and he immediately wants to pick up and get out; while a spiritual person does not resent nor resist evil. Our only hope of Heaven is to allow God to fight our battles, and He is to conquer our enemies for us. (That is brought out clearly(Rom.12:19-20)"Do not be revengeful, my dear friends, but give way before anger; for it is written, " 'REVENGE BELONGS TO ME: I WILL PAY BACK,' says the Lord." "On the contrary, therefore, IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, GIVE HIM FOOD; IF HE IS THIRSTY, QUENCH HIS THIRST. FOR BY DOING THIS YOU WILL BE HEAPING BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD." "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome the evil with goodness."

When people treat us mean it causes 'self' to rise up from within, and we are tempted to not meet the meanness right. When we finally decide to meet it right, it will end the trouble in our life, end all strife, and every separation caused by the self-life which is controlled by Satan. This all must be made right and the circumstances met right in God's way, or go to the Pit blindfolded. When our last self-effort has ceased, and God alone is working on that case against us, our very enemies will be at peace with us (as Scripture assures us Prov.16:7), (and our difficulties will end.)

God is able by His presence and power to keep and uphold us spiritually. He will heal and protect our body without the slightest human remedy on our part, also will supply our financial needs from His 'riches in glory by Christ Jesus'.

A second important step toward the elimination of 'self' from our heart and life, is; When we truly give God His place, and we can say from our heart "All my spiritual help from Thee I bring; all my physical and financial help from Thee I bring;(as I choose to depend on the living God alone;) ... when that final decision has been made, and we have given up our last effort of 'self', made our last hint for others around us to help us;, and made the last self-effort to make a 'way of escape' for ourselves;... then a fullness of blessing spiritually and physically will be the result, along with the complete 'death of self' within. And, that will be like putting a big spike in the coffin of 'self' to keep him there, so he cannot get back into our heart and life.

A third principle part of the self-life that must be gotten rid of, is that we would naturally think that we need to be worrying about things that seem to be important in a 'life of self' In reality, worry is like a crutch of the self-life that we lean on, (and we could probably say truthfully that everyone of us is worrying about

some thing somewhere in our life). However, God has told us not to be anxious about anything, but that we should turn all things over to Him to be taken care of for us.

We could classify ourselves (the late Pastor said), and see just how much of that old 'self-life' is still within us, by how much we worry about certain things instead of turning them over to God and believing that He is taking care of that issue for us. We need to realize that God is saying to us, that if there is something that we need to do to make corrections where they are needed, then He will show that to us, but as far as our worrying is concerned, He has told us that 'He will do that part for us'.

God has taken that prerogative upon Himself to do that work for us, (which we can conclude is a 'rather nice thing' for us). We have been so used to having some kind of burden on our hands to try to drag us down and to be worrying about, that we think something is wrong if we are not worrying. Also, that we need that 'worry crutch' of the self-life to lean on. But what a crutch Satan makes worry out to be in our life, and it is one of the last crutches of self that we find so hard to be rid of from our spiritual condition, (since the human heart wants to hold onto worrying, instead of turning matters over to God and believing He will take control.)

We may find ourselves worrying about our spiritual condition, or about how we are to meet temptations, or we may hear another person say, that, "I need to worry about my *own* spiritual condition. But, according to God's Word, we should just be concerned enough to turn our spiritual condition over to *God*, and be among those "*who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time*" 1 Pet.1:5.

We may think that surely we must worry about our loved ones (instead of placing them in God's hands and believing that He will work in their life as well as in our own life). Or. we may worry about where the money will come from to pay the rent and buy heating fuel this winter? Or, that surely I must worry about my spouse (instead of also placing them in God's capable hands to be controlled and guided by Him) (which is what God wants to do, and is waiting to do for us). But, we all need to learn the great lesson of putting our confidence in God (and that is what He wants to teach us to do). And, when we have come to have that knowledge of God, we will have found something that is more valuable than any gold mine in the world, because it will include our Eternal Life interests. So, we need to take heed to the inspired instructions given us in God's Word. (Phil.4:6-7) "Be anxious (careful) for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Or,) "will be a garrison to guard your hearts and minds in union with Christ Jesus."

Being careful for nothing is a mighty big factor in the death of the 'self-life', (because worrying becomes a hindrance to our 'life of faith' on God). When we give up what we may think to be our 'privilege' to worry, we have put a nail in the 'coffin of self.' "And, when we worry about something (instead of placing it in God's capable hands), that is going against God's Word, so it would be a disobedience toward God. Every word of instruction for us in the Bible, will hit against some area of the self-life that we were born with,(because God knows that it has to be removed and replaced by the 'nature of Christ')..

The late Pastor said, "I hardly thought that could teach about the question of getting rid of 'worry', because I can honestly confess that it hit me pretty hard in my Christian life. If anybody came from a 'worrying family', it was myself. I had a mother who continually worried about where this or that of needed things would come from, and I inherited that same attitude. What a battle we have had, to learn to trust God without worry', but I knew that He had victory for me, and that we can become victorious."

"I also want to acknowledge to the glory of God, that He has given me the victory, and to say that He will do the same for anyone who trust Him for that. This is a vital point in the 'death of self' from within us, that is, when God's Word says "be careful for nothing", it includes the least thing to the greatest." Again, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

The only privilege we have to worry about something, is to tell God all about it, and that kind of worrying really means 'not to worry at all'. That certainly strikes a blow to the 'self-life', and it is some blow (because turning the matter over to God without worry or doubting, leaves no room for Satan to disturb our peace).

So, we are to open our heart without reserve and tell everything to God. Let us think about that, the very moment a 'worry' presents itself, we go to God and tell Him about it. That is because it is God's business to take care of that worry for us, just as it is for a shoemaker to repair shoes, or a barber to cut a person's hair, or "a chiropractor to nearly jerk a person's head off to try to relieve them from joint or back pain."(the Pastor said).

(He continued) "the very fact of people running to everybody else to have them pray for them (instead of telling their problem to God), is a terrible mistake, and it is unscriptural. If there is any one thing that the Bible teaches by Word and example (from Genesis to Revelation), it is, we are not to dump our troubles on anybody but God. We have written instructions {Psalm 50;15} "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." We will never get fully delivered out of trouble (or problem) until we do that (as that would indicate that 'self' still has a foothold in our life and heart).

The Pastor queried, “what do you suppose a little girl would do if she was in trouble, and her father was nearby of one side and her mother on the other side? Would she run to Mr. Jones or Mrs Smith and ask them to help her? ‘Never’, but she would hurry to her own father or mother.” And so, it is written in Scripture for each one of us to take heed to (Matt.18:3) “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Therefore, when we begin to settle these matters with God (going to Him with our worry or need, and not trust on ‘self’ or other people or plans and policies followed by those of a worldly and carnal nature), the results will then be forthcoming as we are told in Scripture (Phil.4:6) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

The apostle was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to give those instructions for each one of us to heed and follow by faith, and it is followed up with a Promise from God for us for doing so. So, if we will open our heart and mind up to God, and tell Him of our trouble or worry, what will be the result? Would we have a greater lot of trouble to tell Him the next time? ‘NO’. It would be thoroughly un-Scriptural to think that way, and it would not be of God! Instead, His Promise is given for us, (vs.7),”and the ‘peace of God’, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” That would make it all worthwhile for us to tell all worry or trouble to God alone, as His Word cannot be changed nor altered.

We are then given God’s inspired instructions on how we are to conduct our life, with ‘self-life nature’ taken away and gone from our heart, (vs.8) “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy --meditate on these things.”

God will then follow up with His great rewards as promised for those who will take all things to Him in prayer. (Matt.11:28-30) “Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones, and *I* will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For it is good to bear my yoke, and my burden is light.”

“And I will give you rest”, really means for us that God’s Promised reward of His peace and rest will be ours to receive and enjoy, ”and the ‘peace of God’, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Surely, those Results of God’s Promised Rewards makes it all worthwhile in this life (for us to forsake the ‘self-life nature’), and we are again reminded that ‘self’ absolutely must be removed from our heart so that we can bear fruit unto Eternal Life, as Jesus warned (John 12:24-26) “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat (the self-life) falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life (the self-life) will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for

eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor." (To be honored by our Father in Heaven is certainly something for us to think about, as it is quite a reward for us, for forsaking the human self-nature that was born in our heart, so that God can replace it with His own Nature.

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S198R Main Points:

1.-- The 'seat of the self-life' began in the Garden of Eden, after mankind rebelled against God, and started out to depend on himself to manage and control his own life apart from God, depending on his own wisdom and strength. That remains a desperate situation today.

2-- All the troubles in the world up to this day, were caused by 'self' in the hearts of people. As long as that fallen nature remains in our heart, we will never enter into the 'fullness of blessing' God provided and promised us in His Word, ...when we have a 'divine nature' instead of 'self-life' in our heart.

3-- Worry and anxiety is all part of the 'self-nature' within one's heart, and all of that must be turned over to God for Him to take care of all matters on our behalf. That is a vital part of 'self' and Satan will try to make it hard for us to forsake worry and anxiety, to keep us from entering into the fulfillment of God's Promises when we place all our matters and worries in God's hands.
