

SELF-LIFE MUST BE TAKEN FROM US

#S312R 0524 23W (BAPTISM)

Very few professing Christians have any idea what the death of the self-life really means. Since it is the most important and absolutely necessary thing that must take place in the true Christian life, we should desire to know and understand what it really does mean to us.

As we consider some of the details of that transformation that must be made in our life, we will be able to understand its importance, and how that is to be accomplished within our heart. As already stated, there are very few people who have the least idea of the importance of the 'death of the self-life' within.

Originally, God created a 'perfect being', that is, perfect spiritually and in every other way. Jesus said that we were created in the very likeness of God. Since God made us in His own image, that meant that we were to have the same divine love, the same real faith, the same peace, and same wisdom that He had, in fact, God was to live within and control us, absolutely so, in spirit, soul, and body.

God was to be our Physician, just as He was Adam's; He was also Adam's only Protector, and Adam did not have a particle of trouble in the Garden of Eden, because he trusted God for everything. Therefore, he was well able to receive everything from God that he needed and desired because he trusted God for those things. It was the most natural and common thing for Adam to just trust God for every blessing, and God in His great heart of love was eager to provide every desired thing.

Since the first man, Adam, was created in the image of God and to be perfect as God is, he did not have heartaches, nor troubles, nor anxiety, nor worry about maybe starving to death. Not even a 'cross word' between himself and Eve since everything was created to be ideal in God's perfect image, with no aches or pains, nor burdens, and no financial battles. God had provided everything for their comfort, happiness, and blessing. God had created a perfect atmosphere for mankind, (but man sinned and began to follow plans and ways of a self-life controlled heart).

Let us just think about what modern science has done to plague men and women of the world (the late Pastor noted). They become old before they are young, and many have broken down health right in the midst of their life, and, feeling sick with a tired out burdened-down look about themselves.

It was not that way in the Garden of Eden. They had very little hard and laborious work to do, rather, to just take care of the trees in the Garden, and to feel free to eat fruit from any

tree in the Garden, except the 'tree of knowledge' in the middle of God's Garden of Eden (which literally means a pleasant and delightful place, or a state, or paradise. They did not have to make a fuss about keeping the bric-a-brac clean, or polishing the silver, or the door handles, and marble steps to scrub. These are just mentioning a few things of a life of self that men and women have burdened themselves with, which were not part of God's original plan, and to enable us to see how far this is from God's humble and delightful plan for us

Nor did they in the Garden need to half kill themselves with working day and night to earn a living, but, rather, to just do what God told them to do and trust on Him daily to provide for them as needed. All of those ways of the world are a result of departing from God and His plan and way as He directs in His Word.

In the Garden of Eden, it was entirely different, until man rebelled against God through the temptations of Satan, at which time he started out to depend on himself to manage and control his own life in this world, according to his own wisdom and strength. THAT IS THE 'SEAT OF THE SELF-LIFE', AND IT REMAINS A DESPERATE SITUATION TODAY.

Many people (members of the churches) who think they are doing no harm to others, and though living a fairly moral life (at least outwardly), still have a carnal mind. They may not cheat, lie, or steal, but may still have the self-life embedded. The self-life is managing and controlling them in all things, as they gauge everything via their own wisdom and their own power, apart from God's plan and power as laid out for us in His Book (Bible).

Not many professing Christians even know that God has a plan for their lives in His Book (the Bible). They have not the least idea that God has a plan for every detail of life, and it is a plan that will automatically eliminate that destructive self-life, and bring us back to trusting God, where man was originally in the Garden of Eden. That means, to again be in touch with God's great love, God's wisdom, His power, blessing, and protection from every evil thing that Satan would try to touch us with. Getting back into God's plan for us, makes us wonderfully righteous, happy, and well, and it puts us in line with every blessing that God has for us. Our life in God's Plan then becomes easy and pleasant and happy again. That is what Jesus promised for us (Matt.11:28) "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, 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 My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

It is God's wish for people to have rest and peace in their entire life, and 'how easy life becomes if we will 'take His yoke upon ourselves and learn from Him. We would never even know that we had a yoke upon us, and God would make all things comfortable when we want to live up to the Truth of His Word. (John 8:32,

Jesus said), "And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

Jesus said further, that if "the Son made us free, we are free indeed. That in itself, should end all of our desire to manage and control our own affairs in life, apart from God's wisdom and plan. God's plan as it is laid out and revealed in His Book, is that everyone born since Adam fell to Satan's plan, is filled with their own confidence in 'self', and they have no confidence in God. And, as far as getting any answers to prayer in this life, or having faith, those things appear to them as foolishness. They simply could not depend on God, nor trust Him to provide a toothpick for them, which is only natural since they are under the control of 'self', and so, utterly unable to do that (the late Pastor noted). "Therefore, it is very valuable for us to know this."

It has been said, that if you were to ask the natural man under the control of self and the devil, to write out what he thought of God, give a description of what God is like, ... you would have to turn his description completely around to get any true idea of what God is really like. The man born with the natural mind of a life of 'self', would write something directly opposite to God's real character, and it would all be the result of that 'fallen nature' of mankind.

The self-life is not only totally ignorant of God's presence, but it does not want anything to do with Him, does not have any desire to trust in God, nor does it have any desire to obey God's Word; and, in fact it could not obey His commands, because its desire is to have nothing to do with God and His plan for our life. The natural man (under the control of 'self', cannot receive God. (e things of God, nor can it receive the Word of God. (Rom.8:5-8 explains)"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. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (To be baptized and receive God's 'gift' of His Holy Spirit, is a 'first step' toward having the 'carnal mind & life' taken from our heart by God's power and training!) [Weymouth's says) "And those whose hearts are absorbed in earthly things cannot please God."*

Since we were all born with a 'fallen nature' inherited from Adam, Jesus said that nature must be completely removed from our heart and life. In other words, that whole evil nature of 'self' must die from within us. It cannot be improved upon, it cannot be polished up to be made to appear all right on the surface, and it cannot be made better; instead, it is to be removed from our heart entirely!! We all need to know that, and the sooner we do understand and know, and allow that to be accomplished in our

life, the better it will be for us!! [We can then become 'spiritually-minded' which "is life and peace" (as the apostle explained, Rom.8;6), and we can then enter into and enjoy our 'Atonement rights' through Christ.]

As long as that 'fallen nature' of 'self' abides in us, we will never enter into the 'fullness of blessing' that God has provided for us. We will never have the real faith in God that we ought to have; we will never serve and trust the 'living God' with our whole heart; we will never love our neighbor as our selves (as Jesus commanded), nor will we obey every command that God gives us in the Bible.

All of that will come when that 'evil nature' is removed, and the divine nature takes its place in our heart. This will drive all our troubles away, and a real confidence will take possession of us; doubt and fear will vanish as we look to the 'living God' instead of toward earthly things.

We will then be inspired to 'love God' supremely; forgive our enemies, will bless those who curse us, and pray for them who despitefully use us. As a result of our right attitude toward God, we will have the divine love of God instilled in our heart, and we will have the faith that Jesus had, along with the wisdom and grace that He had (to make right decisions). And, we will enjoy the good health that God has for us, for God will place that in our body through the power of the Holy Spirit, and make us well and strong as He also watches over and protects us.

The Pastor said that a woman had written to him, to tell him that she "had gone to 'Tongues' church meeting to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but that she had been troubled and sick in her body ever since."

We had the privilege he said, of writing to tell her that it was a counterfeit Holy Spirit which she said she had received, not the genuine Holy Spirit of God, Who always brings health and life into these mortal bodies of ours, as He enters. (Rom.8:11) "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also (quicken) give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

The word 'quicken' means to put life into these mortal bodies of ours. We told the woman that, that "counterfeit 'Modern Tongues Movement' (which is a form of spiritualism), always brings sickness, trouble, insanity, and sooner of later death in its wake." (We were telling her what I already knew to be the truth).

So, the fact always was and still is, that the 'self-life' must be destroyed and eliminated from our lives, because it is the cause of all the troubles we ever had. In reality, it is the cause of all the trouble, worry, and sorrow in the world, the cause of all pestilence, famine, premature deaths, and all destruction which has ever come upon humanity. The self-life in mankind is the cause of the 'terrible condition' found in the world today, that

is, a world full of sicknesses, accidents, and life-threatening dangers and plagues of many kinds.

Although it is sad, it is yet helpful for us to realize and know that there is 'one primary cause' for all of these things, and that is the old human nature of 'self' that mankind is born with since the fall of Adam. That fact, that all the troubles in the world have been caused by 'self' within people's hearts, is something which every person should consider, and to understand that it must be removed from each one's life (which the Holy Spirit will do for everyone who will turn their life over to God).

If we would go to the Lake of Fire (which has been prepared for Satan and his followers), it will be the self-life that will take us there, even though 'self' can appear to be very pious. The Pastor opined that whether 'self' is in the heart of a thief If self is in the heart of a robber, or he is hidden in the pulpit or pew under a 'cloak of religion', it is still 'self' and Satan in disguise.

The self-life can appear to be just as 'holy' in one place as in another, and it will still destroy our life and land us in the Lake of Fire just as quickly from hiding disguised in the pulpit or pew as he hides anywhere else. It is still the self-life no matter what guise or disguise.

In the 12th. chapter of John we are told of some Greeks coming to see Jesus, and Jesus' made a remarkable statement in reply which concerns self-life in the hearts of people, and which proved that unless we get rid of it, we will never receive eternal life. However, the average professed Christian believes that if they mentally accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and, sign a card on their 'profession of faith' to be confirmed and taken into membership of some church, then they are sure to be saved and receive eternal life when they die.

They think that in the meantime, even if they lie, go into debt, commit secret vice, steal (but do not get caught), but otherwise lead a good moral life, then they are sure to go to heaven. However, the truth is, that it is the self-life doing all those things (which people are doing on a daily basis), but they will go to the Pit blindfolded (by Satan). The self-life must be destroyed and removed if we ever want to get to Heaven; and the Christ-life (the new divine nature must take its place).

(John 12:24-25) "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. (In the next verse Jesus then applied that truth, and it strikes directly at our self-life that we were born with.) "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

"He who loves his life will lose it', means that the person who holds onto their natural 'life of self (regardless of guise or disguise), will not only lose it here, but will lose it forever. We do not even want to think about that!

'He who hates his life in this world', means the person who hates the desperate, degenerate, natural, and carnal nature with which we were born. It is written in Scripture that the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and that no one could know that of themselves. So, we should despise and hate that 'carnal nature', since we have been told in God's Word just what a terrible enemy 'self' has been to us. (And we Pray for God to remove 'self' from our heart, and the hearts of our children, and others).

Not many people know nor realize that our only hope is that 'self' be driven out and removed completely from our life. Neither do they realize that 'self' shuts out righteousness, peace, health, protection, financial prosperity, and it shuts out peace in our home life with harmony between husband, wife, parents, and children. Self-life will do that every time; because it is thoroughly unscriptural and contrary to God's plan, and if not gotten rid of we will keep our self-life into eternity, but it will not be with God, instead, will be with Satan and his angels. [That is true as confirmed by Scripture as given in God's Word.]

&&&&&&&&&&

S312R Some main points are:

1--Very few people have any idea what the 'death of self-life' means, nor do most people realize that it must be removed from our heart and life, in order for anyone to enter into Eternal Life in Heaven.

2-- That '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 in this world and apart from God, instead, to depend on his own wisdom and strength. It still remains a desperate situation in peoples' lives today.

3-- All the troubles in the world up to this day, were caused by 'self' in the hearts of people, and as long as that fallen nature remains in our heart, we will never enter into the 'fullness of blessing' that God has provided and promised us in His Word. "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest", (Jesus promised us Matt. 11;28). (That will be the result, when we have the 'divine nature' to replace 'self-life' in our heart.

&&&&&&&&&&

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia