

# “**SELF-LIFE MUST DIE FROM WITHIN – Part 2**”

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In a previous message on this subject, we considered some details of a transformation that must be made in our life to have the self-life fully removed, to allow the ‘nature of Christ’ to replace that in our heart, and so, be made over by God into the perfect being that He created in the Garden of Eden (before mankind sinned against God). In that way we can be prepared by God for Eternal Life (instead of eternal destruction in a Lake of Fire). (And we were informed that not many professed Christians even know that God has a plan to perfect their lives in His Book (the Bible).

We also learned from Jesus’ Words (John 12:25) “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!)

(However) ‘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’ of self, since we have been told in God’s Word just what a terrible enemy ‘self’ has been to us.

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 given us in God’s Word.]

However, God has a plan by which that self-life should be destroyed. There are three steps; two short ones and a long one in the complete elimination of ‘self’ (the late Pastor made note). God’s plan is as plain as language can make it (and we should want to consider that plan which is so important to each one of us).

The first step (and the only possible way it can be done) is found Isaiah 55:7, “Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.”

The Bible has a plan for everything, and when things do not go to suit us, we are not permitted to ‘pick up stakes’ and move out, and walk away from the problem; instead, we must remain on the

ground and receive our victory where we are. A person may have a job where there arises a little problem between them and their foreman or employer; and they think or feel that they are being unjustly treated or falsely accused, so they pick up and leave. God's plan, however, is to remain there and allow Him to fight the battle for us to make that wrong, right, and a wonderful blessing will be the result (both spiritually and otherwise).

The Bible instructs a person (1 Pet.2:18-23) "Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: *Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;"

The apostle Paul also supported Peter's advice for us to follow, as he emphasized Jesus Christ's own perfect example for us to follow in our life, (Phil.2:7-11) Who "but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Why would Paul emphasize Jesus' example for us? Because, He met the wrongs done to Him in a right way according to God's Plan, in His stay on this earth (and before ascending to His throne in Heaven). God has a throne for each one of us, when we are willing to 'walk in the light' as He is in 'the light', and to meet things which do not please us in God's way, instead of our own way. (As noted before), God has a plan for every part of our life, and they are always a part of having the self-life removed from our heart. We can find His plan for the 'homelife' (1 Pet.3:1-4) "Married women, in the same way, be submissive to your husbands, so that even if some of them disbelieve the Message, they may, apart from the Message, be won over by the daily life of their wives, after watching your daily life" "so full of reverence, and so blameless! Your adornment ought not to be a merely outward thing— one of plaiting the hair, putting on jewelry, or wearing beautiful dresses. Instead of that, it should be a new nature within—the imperishable ornament of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which is indeed precious in the sight of God."

To be a 'daughter of God' is a wonderful thing, so that is why God gives us those instruction in His Word (because He wants us to know and to have what is best for each one of us). Thus, His Word also tells us (Colos.3:19) "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them." (meaning, of course, not to strive with them), and that can make any home an ideal and delightful place to live. That would also be forsaking our own ways of the evil nature that we were born with (and be willing to go by the plan of the Lord in all things and ways). We cannot give up the self-life by ourselves, but we can be willing to forsake it with God's help and following the guidance He has given us in His Word. (Isaiah 55:7) "Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

To have a pure heart is a wonderful thing, ... that is, to have malice, bitterness, hatred, strife, unbelief, and hypocrisy taken out of our heart. It is a most blessed thing to have a heart which can forgive our enemies and those who wrong us , and blessed to have a heart that knows, loves, and fears God. that would be a heart which hungers and thirsts after God. (Matt.5:6) God Promises us, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." (That means we shall be inspired right here on earth, with the true character of God, so that we can have the same love, mercy, and power that He has.)

So, to 'hunger and thirst for righteousness' leads us right into that 'second step' (as mentioned before), and that is to give our ourselves over fully to God, and we will receive the "fullness of the Spirit" (which means to receive God's righteousness).

(Romans 12:1 gives us instructions on how to do just that and so. Take that 'step') "I plead with you therefore, brethren, by the compassions of God, to present all your faculties to Him as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to Him. This with you will be an act of reasonable worship."

That means to turn our life over into God's hands for Him to have His way with us, and whether it pleases us or not. We are to make a deliberate and final choice to do just that in our life and without reservation. This is God's Plan which is not taught in any so-called Christian circles. However, it is necessary for us to have a nature of 'self' removed, and for us to get to Heaven. That is, first of all 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, as Scripture tells us, is "Holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom.12:2).

We should be encouraged to know that the moment we place ourselves unconditionally at God's Altar, God, Himself will take full possession of us. Is that not a wonderful privilege to have the life and nature of God to come into our life and being?: even to just think and know that we can have

the wisdom of God within (as we are told (1 Cor.1:30), “But you—and it is all God's doing—are in Christ Jesus: He has become for us a wisdom which is from God, consisting of righteousness and sanctification and deliverance;” (that means ‘redemption’).

And, what a blessed privilege for us to have the quietness, confidence, and faith that God has inspired. We must praise Him always for granting us that privilege. That is what a real consecration of our life will bring in its wake, and it enables us to ‘believe’ and to become ‘holy and acceptable unto God’.

The ‘third step’ (and ‘long step’) is to be ‘willing to meet the circumstances of life (and the details of them) as they come, and to meet them according to God's Plan. His Plan can be divided into three general ‘principles of Truth’, but we need to get some idea of what the final ‘death of self’ really is, and of how far it is to that ‘graveyard of self’ (the Pastor said).

When the time comes in our life that ‘self’ is completely dead, and Christ is really and fully enthroned in our life, there is not a thing that God has in Heaven that will not be showered upon us; ... all the spiritual blessings that we can enjoy, all of God's own peace will take possession of us, all the good health that we can enjoy, and all of God's protection over us. We can go year in and year out without any sickness of cough. All of this seems almost impossible to those of a carnal mind, but it is God's Truth, and it is revealed in His Word. (Psalm 91:5-7) “You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you.”

That is a reality brought about by the ‘death of self’, which will bring about tangible and practical results with everybody. God will put all the money that we can use into our hands, and all that one cares to give away to help others. Everything will be in abundance for us. And if we are tested and straightened by God spiritually, attacked in our body, 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 that, that traitorous ‘self’ and his strength is still within us.

We must realize that self-life can be eliminated and completely gotten rid of. When it is, these troubles will all come to an end.

We need to closely follow God's plan to ‘meet things right’ in our life, and the first principle part of that plan is that we are never to resent, nor try to resist in our strength anything wrong done against us. We all need to realize that I am ‘not to resist anything said or done to me’; (whether it is in

the workshop, whether in Christian work, whether it be by employer or employee or by a wife or husband); .. that it makes no difference as far as our resenting it by our own efforts or knowledge.

We cannot touch it in our own strength to try to correct it if it costs us our life, and that is one of the most vital 'principles' 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."

We are not to resent nor resist evil of any kind in our own strength, neither are we to resent nor resist wrongs which are said or done toward us. As we obey this 'principle of Truth' from Scripture, 'self' within will die very quickly and we will begin to live 'in Christ Jesus'. As we stay committed to lay aside our human efforts, wisdom and plans, the great God of Heaven comes in to fight our battles, conquer any enemy, and 'right our wrongs', and God knows exactly how to do that. He has the love and merciful nature to do it right, and that will be great blessing to us, while also being a great help to those who oppose us, when we allow God to handle them for us, since He already knows all about it. If we were to go around telling others how badly we have been (or are) being mistreated, the 'self-life' will take place in the room of our heart, and take over at the helm of our life.

So, can we say that the matter of 'self' is just a little thing?? 'NO', because it is a most important matter. We are not permitted to give a 'cross look' from the 'life of self' to right a wrong, or give a 'cold shoulder' to another person, nor raise a finger to help ourselves right a wrong done against us.

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 troubles and difficulties will end. If a person were asked to obey these Scriptures while the 'self-life' is still in their heart, they would be quite unable to do so. We must trust God to protect and deliver us from temptation (as Jesus taught us to pray each day for deliverance from Satan's temptations, so 'self' can be eliminated entirely from our heart (by God's grace and mercy).

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, and

that would include everything said or done to us; ...all strife, and every separation caused by the self-life which is controlled by Satan. This must be made right and the circumstances met right in God's way, or go to the Pit blindfolded, and end up in the Lake of Fire; so, there is no reason to cover up the facts. We all must ask for grace from God to meet all wrongs in His right way.

In the true Christian life, we are not privileged to be sensitive about things said and done toward us, because that is evidence of the self-life still within our heart and it must be removed. We all need to realize before it is too late, that self and Satan is behind sensitiveness. It is one of the chief citadels where Satan hides, so our sensitiveness is always a manifestation of the devil still within. Therefore, we should even be ashamed to admit that we are sensitive (the late Pastor opined).

A second principle part in battle with our adversary, Satan, is that he comes to give us a 'spiritual battle', then he jumps in to oppress us in body, then in our finances, and then to disturb the peace in our home. When we first start out in the Christian life of faith, we do not have the least idea of how important a factor it is to meet spiritual, financial, and physical battles in a Scriptural way (God's way and Plan for meeting them), .. because our adversary surely is going around like a roaring lion to block our victory in all those circumstances. (The devil has the power to do that as long as 'self' is not dead and removed from our heart.)

However, God has promised that if we are willing to give up the self-life, and turn ourselves over to God's Plan, He will enable us to get rid of self-life. The final battle instructions in God's Plan are given for us (1 Pet.5:8-10)"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*."

"Be sober, be vigilant", means to always meet everything according to God's Plan, not fight our own battle via self-effort, never try to conquer our enemy (when God's Word promises us that) "When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." So, we should never try to make a way of escape for ourselves; never hint to anyone that we have a need for money, and never use the least human remedy toward healing of our body. All this may sound strange to many people around us, but we all must realize that the least thing of the self-life, can become the worst thing, and prevent us from receiving Eternal Life with God.

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