

Fundamental Christian Living

4 Battles of The Christian

SIN - THE WORLD FLESH & SELF

Dennis Lee Brown





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FLESH & SELF

Written, Edited and Illustrated by Dennis Lee Brown



A B C's of the Gospel Fundamental Christian Living

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Forward

I undertook this project to convey to the young in Christ how to lay a good foundation of Christian fundamentals and practices, which are the building blocks of a life of wholesome spirituality. After studying the Word of God for some forty years, the information contained herein is scripture based on the King James Version of the Bible, <u>https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/</u> where you can view the hold chapter and/or see verse in context with reference materials from <u>Strong Concordance Bible</u>. These spiritual resources have withstood the test of time and have proven to be the true child of Gods' ways of holy, Christian living.

If by now, you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and you want to be saved (born again) then prayer this prayer from the heart in faith believing...call upon the name of the Lord and you shall be saved.

"Dear Jesus, be merciful unto me a sinner, forgive me of my sins, all my sins. Wash me in your blood. Save me. Right now, deliver me from all the power of the devil. I accept you as my Lord, and I thank you for saving me."

If you prayed this prayer truly from your heart, than you were saved for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved <u>Romans 10:13</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u> ... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation <u>Romans 10:9-10</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>.

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord, you now have SALVATION. You did not become a member of a religious origination, nor did you become religious. In fact, you were baptized into the "Body of Jesus Christ" the true Church of the living God. There are four Christian battles you must win to live a victorious Christian life. When you came to Christ, you received a measure of the Spirit of God; some even was baptized in the Holy Spirit with evident of speaking in tongues, which is promised to all believers. The Holy Spirit is given to us to help get the victory over the four battles, sin, the world, flesh and self.

SIN: Sinner to Christian

Being saved, means one must repent, calling on the name of Jesus Christ Jesus the Lord, turning from their sins. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved <u>Romans 10:13</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>. Following repentance, you must as a newborn babe, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby: <u>1 Peter 2:2</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u> (1 Peter 2:2). This is how to grow as a newborn babe in Christ. This is spiritual nourishment... the unadulterated milk of the Word of God, by partaking of it Christian growth developers. The pure doctrines of the gospel, as recorded in: St. Matthews, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John, the new covenant.

Christ Jesus the Lord was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him is no sin <u>1 John</u> <u>3:5</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>. Give all your sin and bad habits to Him. For in that he [Jesus Christ] died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord <u>Romans 6:11</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse</u> <u>in context</u>. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof (Romans 6:10-12). As Christ died for sin once for all and dies no more, so we should die to sin once and live unto God forever.

Here sin is pictured as a king or a tyrant, who has the soul passions, spirit faculties, and physical members of man under control, dominating his life. Let him not work or reign in your mortal body; give sin no place or grounds to work in your being. Sin does not rule or ruin; sin rules and ruins. Wherever sin is, it will have more or less dominion. Do not obey sin in its lusts. Sin is a real demon spirit ruling the life of the ungodly. Sin itself has lusts other than the lusts of man. The lusts of sin are in reality the lusts of Satan. Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44; (Also see: Ephes. 2:2-3; 1 John 2:17; 1 John 3:8). The lusts of man are his own creative powers depraved and corrupt (James 1:14; James 4:1,3; 2 Tim. 4:3; 1 Peter 4:2).

They make up the basic Adamic nature. The same faculties that yield to sin can likewise yield to God and commit holy acts (Romans 8:1-13; Col. 3:5-10). It is not sin to be tempted; we sin when we yielding to the temptation. Let no man say when he is

tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death, James 1:13 | View whole chapter | See verse in context.

While sin exists as satanic solicitation, it is Satan's lust and sin, not ours. When we yield, we make the Devil's sin our own. When you are tempted should; submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you James 4:7 | View whole chapter | See verse in context. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith. (1 Peter 5:8-9). Neither give place to the devil (Ephes. 4:27) when man refuses, regardless of how strong the temptation is, no sin is possible (1 John 3:4; James 1: 13-15).

When you came to God by Christ Jesus the Lord, He forgave you of all your sins, and He has given you power to become a son or daughter of His. You can stop living in sin. You have the power to say NO to the devil. Jesus has taken your sins away and now you have the ability to refuse the temptations of all sinful things. At the time of your repentance, you were washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, and all your sins were forgiven. He cleansed you, and made you a new creature in Him (See: <u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>). You now have power and authority to live without sin n your life. You can resist the Devil by not paying attention to his temptations. Cast out all evil thoughts, binding the Devil in the name of Jesus. When he tries to get you to commit sin, right then pray to your heavenly Father for strength to overcome the Devils' lust and temptations. If you so this you will witness the Devil fleeing from you.

Now if you have accepted Jesus Christ, you have His Spirit. You are now a child of God. Your name is written in the "Lambs Book of Life." The Spirit you received upon repenting will not lead you into sin, but it will lead you in the paths of righteousness and true holiness. Therefore, if you do not have His Spirit, then you are of Him. As many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God (Rom. 8:9) When you were saved, you were born-again. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever <u>1 Peter 1:23</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See</u> <u>verse in context</u>.

The Two Agents of the new birth:

- 1. Holy Spirit (John 3:3-5:, 1 Cor. 6:11)
- 2. Word of God (John 3:5)

You were reborn, not of the flesh, but of the Spirit and Word of God. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever 1 Peter 1: 23. You are no longer are in the kingdom of darkness, but you are now in the kingdom of light. Because you are born-again, the Devil is out to get you to fall and sin against God. This is his job, and ultimately, he wants to cause you to lose your soul at the end of your life. The new nature, (God's Nature) will lead you to follow Christ, and your old nature will lead you into the things of this world, and the Devil. Understand when you were born-again; you were completely changed into the image of Jesus. As a babe in the Lord, you must learn to walk in the Spirit, live by faith, and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Desire, hunger, and thirst after the sincere milk of the Word of God that you may grow thereby. As you, learn to walk by faith, you will not feel the presence of the Lord with you all the time. Do not worry! He has not left you, and if you have not sinned, do not think that you have done anything wrong.

There comes a time in every saved persons' life that they must learn how to walk by faith, trusting the Lord, taking Him at His Word, (God cannot lie). Just as a natural babe is placed in the middle of the floor to see if it will take a step to begin walking without the parent holding him up, so God places you in situations to see if you will take that first step of faith and began to walk in faith. Do not be afraid to take that first step of faith. Keep in mind that you are beginning to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. God is cheering for you. He is counting on you. He is not going to put more on you than you can handle. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me (John 14:1). Jesus said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). The Lord has promised that, is He is always with you even though you may not feel His presence He is there with you.

Seeing that you are saved, washed and cleansed in the blood of Jesus Christ, those same unclean spirits are waiting to regain control of you again. They are waiting to get back into you. For each bad habit, you had, as a sinner there is a demon spirit that caused you to lust after and commit that sin. If you had trouble with cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, strong desires for sex, riotous living, and worldliness, you must separate yourself from them, and especially from those who will try to temp you to go back to your old habits. Even if it is your husband, wife, sister, brother, son or daughter, boyfriend or girlfriend, or any one, you must not permit them to seduce to the do ungodly, immoral things. The Word of God instructs us to, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. <u>2 Corinthians 6:17</u> | <u>View whole</u> <u>chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>. Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, is a military term—keep your own ranks; do not leave the fellow-ship of Christians and join with unbelievers.

Obtain good Christian friends and fellowship with those who live spiritual they will help you concerning spiritual living. DO not hang around carnal people; they will not add anything spiritual to your life. By all means possible, stay away from people who try to entice you to do worldliness, joining yourself to unbelievers will cause you to backslide. They will have you back in sin in no time. God wants you to separate yourself from all things that are not like Him.

Righteousness cannot mix with lawlessness; light can have no communion with darkness; Christ and Belial (the Devil) cannot be of one accord; a believer cannot have part with an infidel; and there can be no agreement of the temple of God with idols. You cannot live in righteousness and in sin at the same time. 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 (2 Cor. 7:1).

WORLDLINESS

Upon receiving salvation, you were transformed by the Spirit of God. You are no longer a part of this world. Therefore the world should have no hold on you, neither should you be influenced by it, nor desire the things of it. The desire for the things of this world should be gone and the desire for spiritual and heavenly things should be present with you. Your heart should be set on things above. Col. 3:1-10 reads, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him".

If you are dead with Christ from rudiments of the world, act like a dead man. If you are risen with Christ, act like a new living man alive unto righteousness and dead to the world unrighteousness.

Twelve Obligations of Christian Living:

- 1. Seek those things above (Col. 3:1).
- 2. Set affections on things above (Col. 3:2).
- 3. Mortify all sinful members (Col. 3:5-7).
- 4. Put off the old man (Col. 3:8-9).
- 5. Put on the new man (Col. 3:10-12).
- 6. Forbear with all men (Col. 3:13; I Cor. 13).
- 7. Forgive all men (Col. 3:13; Matthew 18:35).
- 8. Put on divine love (Col. 3:14; 1 Cor. 13).
- 9. Let peace umpire the life (Col. 3:15).
- 10. Know the Bible (Col. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- 11. Teach and admonish one another (Col. 3:16).
- 12. Use the Christian's Power of Attorney that is "The Name of Jesus" (Col. 3:17; John 6:23).

<u>Christians Are Dead to Three Things</u></u>

- 1. Sin (Romans 1 Peter 2:24)
- 2. The law (Romans 7:4; Galatians 2:19)
- 3. The rudiments of the world (Col. 2:20)

Five Things to Put to Death

- 1. Fornication all manner of unlawful sexual relationship Matthew 5:32)
- 2. Uncleanness, homosexuality and all other forms of sex perversion (see: Seventeen Works of the Flesh)
- Inordinate affection, unnatural, unrestrained, excessive, and out of bounds passion and lust (Romans 1 :26)

4. **Evil concupiscence**, evil, wicked, and depraved desire, lust, passion or appetite. The Greek word for "evil" is *kakos*, translated "evil" 38 times (Col. 3:5; Mark 7:21; etc.); "ill" (Romans 13:10); "harm" (Acts 16:28; Acts 28:5); "evil things" (Luke 16:25; Romans 1:30; 2 Cor. 10:6); "bad" (2 Cor. 5:10); "noisome" (Rev. 16:2); and "wicked" (Matthew 21:41). The Greek word for "concupiscence" is *"epithumia"*, and means any strong or vehement desire. It is used of good desires a few times, but mainly of evil and depraved lusts. It is translated "desire" (Luke2:15; Phil. 1:23; I Thess. 2:17); "concupiscence"

(Romans 7:8; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:5); and "lust" 31 times (John 8:44; Romans I :24; Ephes. 2:3; etc.).

5. <u>Covetousness</u>, Greek: *pleonexia* (GSN-4124). It is translated "covetousness" (Mark 7:22; Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; 2 cor. 9:5, Ephes. 5:.3, col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 2:5; 2 Peter 2:3); "covetous practice" (2 Peter 2:14); and "greediness" (Ephes. 4:19). Here it is equated with idolatry because the thing coveted becomes an idol. This sin is also mainly a sexual sin when coveting after a person for sex.

For strong spiritual growth, separate yourself from the world and worldly people. As a child of God, we are commanded to cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the amour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. [v.14] But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof <u>Romans 13:12</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>.

Eight Commands for Christians:

- 1. I. Cast off the works of darkness (Romans 13:12)
- 2. Put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12)
- 3. Walk decently and well behaved (Romans 13:13)
- 4. Stop revelling and drinking (Romans 13:13)
- 5. Quit all immoral living (Romans 13:13)
- 6. Refrain from quarreling, contention, and jealousies (Romans 13:13)
- 7. Clothe yourself with the character of Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14)
- 8. Make no provision for lust (Romans 13:14)

Walk In:

[Honestly] Greek: euschemonos, decently (Romans 13:13; 1 Cor. 14:40; 1 Thess. 4: 12).

Do Not Walk In:

[Rioting] Greek: *komos*, revelling (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3). [Drunkenness] Greek: methe, drunken festivals, generally accompanied with all kinds of unclean singing and abominable sexual acts.

[Chambering] Greek: koite: whoredoms, prostitutions, and all kinds of uncleanness

[Wantonness] Greek: *aselgeia*, *(GSN-766)*, licentiousness, all manner of uncleanness and sexual perversion, Lasciviousness (Mark 7:22; 2 Cor. 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephes. 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; Jude 1:4); wantonness (Romans 13:13; 2 Peter 2:18); and filthy (2 Peter 2:7).

As a Christian, we are to walk in honesty, truthfulness, integrity, sincerity, and candor, not in rebellion, and rioting (parting and feasting with obscene music and drunkenness by intoxicants or drugs which produces lewd and vulgar desires for sexual perversions including chambering) also uncleanness, especially homosexuality and any other forms of unlawful sexuality. Christians are not to live in strife (contentions of anger, contest, and competing for superiority or advantage) and envying (disgraceful and jealous at the blessings of others). We are to put on, be cloth with Jesus Christ. To be clothed with a person is a Greek phrase signifying to take upon one the interests of another; to enter into his views; and be wholly on his side, imitating him in all things. To be a Christian means to be Christ-like.

You can easily get the victory over the world. Just make up in your mind that you are going to come out of it and do not enter into it again. Christ Jesus the Lord has separated you from the world. Now the world hates you. If you were of the world it would love you, but Jesus has chosen you and called you out of the world and therefore you are hated by it. You should have no problems with going to dances, or parties or worldly things if you are truly letting your light shine. If you are living in the light of the Lord, worldly people will not want to be in your presences if they want to be around you, your light is not shining. You have to cut your light off to participate in worldly pleasures. Sinners are going to run from you because Jesus and the Holy Ghost are in you and will convict them of their ungodly living. Matthew 5:14- 16 Jesus states, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

As a believer, we become lights of divinity in the (*kosmos*), social system of men. The things of the world are not to be imbedded in our life. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world <u>1 John 2:16</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>.

Three Classes of Things in the World System

l. The Lust of the Flesh:

Seventeen Works of the Flesh Galatians 5:19-21)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. The Lust of the Eyes:

(1) Lust for women (Matthew 5:28; Job 31:1)

(2) Eyes full of adultery—even men with men and women with women 2 Peter 2:14; Romans 1:18-28)

(3) Covetousness (Psalm 10:8; Luke 12:15)

(4) All things desired (Eccles. 2:10)

(5) Idolatry (Ezekiel 6:9; Ezekiel 18:6-15)

(6) All kinds of evil (Matthew 6:23; Matthew 7:22)

4. Pride of Life:

Greek: *alazoneia*, vain-boastings.

(1) Self-righteousness (Job 32:1)

(2) Positions (Genesis 3:5; Ezekiel 28:11-17; 1 Tim. 3:6; 3 John 1:9)

- (3) Power (Leviticus 26: 19)
- (4) Riches (Psalm 39:6; Ezekiel 28:5)
- (5) Beauty (Ezekiel 28:11,17)
- (6) Strength to war (2 Chron. 26:16)

(7) Constant boasting of one's self; glorying in sexual activity; pleasures; and all the vanity of life (1 John 2:15; Psalm 24:4; Psalm 36:2; Isaiah 3:16).

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17).

Two Things Not To Love:

I. Greek: *kosmos,* the order, behavior, fashion, and government of this worldsystem (Matthew 4:8; Matthew 13:22; Ephes. 2:1-3; James 4:4; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 2:20)

2. The things that make up the world system of evil and rebellion against God (see <u>Three Classes of Things of the World System</u> above) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him <u>1 John 2:15</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>.

This is the reason men must not love the world system or the things in it. The love of God and love of these things are not compatible. They war and fight against the things of the Spirit of God and the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: [see Flesh & Spirit <u>contrast</u>] that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law (Galatians 5:13-18).

You are called to total freedom from all the law, from darkness, from sin, from the world, therefore you have a responsibility to live right. The new covenant also demands righteousness of all people and the love of neighbors as yourself. The most two dangerous places for a Christian to live in is the <u>FLESH and SELF</u>.

There are different measures of walking in the Spirit, and there are different measures of walking in the flesh, now walking in the Spirit means that the Spirit of God and Christ control you. Walking in the flesh means that the things and works of the flesh control you. The things or works of the flesh works the law of sin and death. While the things of the Spirit is the law of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus the Lord, for we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil, which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that,

when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (Romans 7:14-23).

If I am forced to do what I do not want to do, then it is no longer me, but sin that enslaves me by its' indwelling power (Romans 7:16-20). We have a will do what is right to, but it is so overpowered by the lusts of sin and the flesh, that I am helpless. My passion is stronger than my reasoning. My will, reasoning, understanding, and my conscience are on God's side and consent to His will and law, but my slave master (sin and flesh) will not consent for me to serve God or His law. If your flesh in control of you, it will not allow you to participate in spiritual things. It will stop you from attending Church; it will stop you from praying, fasting and all other spiritual obligations in which you may be entrusted. The minute your flesh begins to fight against spiritual things you need to crucify him. Put him to death. Make him do the things of the Spirit whether he wants too or not. You must put to death your members. "CRUCIFY YOUR FLESH" Put to death all the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-22.

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:9-14).

Flesh

Sin works in your flesh — to keep from sinning, one must hide, plant the Word of God in their heart, and kill their flesh. In do so; anyone can live spiritual and not carnal. Keep in mind that there is a war going on: the Spirit warring to be in control of you, and the flesh warring to be in control of you, and they are contrary to each other. You will be under the influence of one or the other. The one that has you in control, will be the one you are minding. You are either spiritual, doing the things of God, or you are carnal (fleshly) doing things of the flesh. You must decide if you are going to live as a spiritual Christian or a fleshly Christian.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:12-14). So then, we owe the flesh nothing. It has no more control of our lives. We must not live in the sins of the flesh or we shall die. But if we will put to death the practices of the flesh by the Spirit, we shall live (Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-26; Col. 3:5-10).

Understand that everything you do, there is a reaping or reward. Whatever you do either good or bad you will reap it. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7-8). Just as surely as everything in nature reproduces after its kind, harvests being as sure as the sowings, so every man will reap what he sows and be responsible for his own destiny (Galatians 6:7-8). It is folly to talk about reaping eternal life when one sows to the flesh (Galatians 6:8; Galatians 5:19-21; 1, Cor. 6:9-11; Romans 1:29-32). It is also foolishness to talk about being lost if one sow to the Spirit.

Contrasted life of living in the Flesh and the Spirit

The Fleshly Life:

- 1. Minds things of flesh
- 2. Carnally minded
- 3. Spiritually dead
- 4. Enmity to God
- 5. Cannot be subject
- 6. Cannot please God
- 7. Not in the Spirit
- 8. Not Christ's
- 9. Body alive to sin
- 10. Spirit dead to God
- 11. No Christ
- 12. Sinful life
- 13. No Holy spirit
- 14. No physical quickening
- 15. Debtor to flesh
- 16. No help from Spirit
- 17. The end is death

The Spiritual Life:

- 1. minds things of Spirit (Romans 8:5)
- 2. spiritually minded
- 3. alive (Romans 8:6)
- 4. no enmity (Romans 8:7)
- 5. subject to God
- 6. can be subjected
- 7. can please God (Romans 8:8)
- 8. in the Spirit
- 9. is Christ's (Romans 8:9)
- 10. dead to sin
- 11. alive to God
- 12. Christ in life (Romans 8:10)
- 13. Righteous life
- 14. Spirit indwelling
- 15. a physical quickening
- 16. not a debtor (Romans 8:12)
- 17. the end is life
- 18. help from Spirit (Romans 8:13)

Eight Factors for Victorious Christian Living

- 1. Stand fast in the liberty of the gospel and renounce all keeping of the law
- 2. (Galatians 5:1-3)
- 3. Maintain justification in grace and obey the truth (Galatians 4-15)
- 4. Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17)
- 5. Be led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18)
- 6. Crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts (Galatians 5:19-21, 24)
- 7. Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in daily life (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 8. Live in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25-26) Col. 3:5

SELF

Now there is one more thing to do before you can frilly become a victorious Christian, and that is get rid of SELF. I am talking about you own spirit. God has called you into the work of Christ, and even has placed a measure of the anointing in you that you may perform the works of Jesus, but if you are full of "Self', there is not much God can do with you, nor can He us you in the fullness of your calling. It may seem like every time God wants to take you to another level, or open a greater door for your works; YOU keep getting in the way. This is "Self-willed-ness." Self want to do things its' own way. It wants man to notice him and every little thing he does. He wants to have the preeminence or the supremacy. Self desires that everybody else think that he is more important that others, and that he is special. Self not only requires things to go his way, and done to satisfy himself or herself, and will get offended and will quit if he cannot have his way. It is the spirit of domination — wanting to be in charge as if he is the chief or superior, and others are below him.

The Manifestations of Self

- 1. Self-Conceited Thinks himself to be high and mighty
- 2. Self-Deceived Mislead and misguided by not being informed
- 3. Arrogant, haughty and condescending, self patronizing
- 4. Self-Exalted
- 5. Self-Important Significant, considers himself essential and the chief
- 6. Self-Righteous Blameless, everybody at fault but himself
- 7. Pleased, Self fulfilled, everything done to please himself
- 8. Self-Satisfied
- 9. Looking out for ones' own self, not the good of others
- 10. Self-Seeking
- 11. Self-Supporting Supporting only that which is planned by self

- 12. Self-Sufficient Adequate, felling he is all that is needed (enough)
- 13. Self-Sustaining Ability to support ones' self (needs no help from God)
- 14. Self-Willed
 - Determination to do its' own will, motivated by self
 - • Feel more importance than others, self-valuable
- 15. Self-Worth

When someone is full of selfish, constantly boasting about what he has done. You will hear them sing that song, "I, I, I, and Me, Me, Me, Me!" The spirit of self will not lift up the Lord, giving glory to God, but will be stating how good he is, and proclaiming how good a job he has done. This is pride working in you. Selfish full of pride ... Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16: 18)... Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (I Peter 5:5-7).

We should be more than willing to get the mind of the Lord concerning a matter, rather than our own opinion. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). We can confide in the Lord, and secure without fear. It is in God we trust, not own ourselves. The glory is the Lords' glory it belongs to Him. If we have done anything, the Lord has preformed the task through us. If we are serving God, and we have done that which is required by Him, than we have no room for boasting. We have only done those things, which God instructed us to carry out. We have done nothing of our selves. Jesus said in Luke 17:10, "... when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." We are under obligation to serve God without earning merit or blessings. All God ever asked is our consecration to the best good of all, which automatically betters our own selves. Shall we thank ourselves for bettering our own selves? Such service is returned to us in many ways. If we do things for self-praise, we manifest extreme selfishness and we already have our reward (Matthew 6: 1-6; John 12:43).

In the Lord, it is imperative to have a spirit of humility and lowliness of mind — not a boastful attitude of thinking we are something when we are nothing. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another (Galatians 6:3-4).

Christian Humility; Greek: *tapeinophrosune*, Translated "humility" (1 Peter 5:5; Col. 2:18,23);

- a) "Humility of mind" <u>Acts 20:19</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in context</u>
- b) "Humbleness of mind" <u>Colossians 3:12</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in</u> <u>context</u>
- c) "Lowliness" Ephesians 4:2 | View whole chapter | See verse in context
- d) "Lowliness of mind" <u>Philippians 2:3</u> | <u>View whole chapter</u> | <u>See verse in</u> <u>context</u>

Twelve Blessings of a Humble Mind

- 1. The glory of the creature (Rev. 4:11; Luke 17:10)
- 2. Redemption (Phil. 2:5-8)
- 3. Riches and honor (Proverbs 15:33; Proverbs 22:4; Matthew 5:3)
- 4. Fellowship (Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 66:2)
- 5. Soul rest (Matthew 11:29)
- 6. Personal salvation (Matthew 18:3; Luke 18)
- 7. Greatness (Matthew 20:.26-27; Luke 22:26)
- 8. Exaltation (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11)
- 9. Revelation (Matthew 11 :25; Luke 10:21)
- 10. Unity (Ephes. 4:1-3, Ephes. 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)
- 11. Victorious Christian living (Romans 12:10,16; 1 Cor. 13; Galatians 5:26;
- 12. Phil. 2:1-4; col. 3:5-14; 1 John 4:20; 1 Tim. 1:15; Titus 2:11-14)
- 13. Faith (Matthew 8:8; Matthew 15:28; John 4:50)

Another example of self is, a person is always crying about how they are offended. Every time you turn around, they are upset because things do not go their way. This is "Self-pity," People with this kind of spirit are full of disappointment. No matter what you do, you cannot please them they will find something wrong. Self has to do with your spirit man, which we must allow the Lord to possess and be under the control of the Holy Ghost. If the Holy Ghost has control of you, then you will be dying daily to your own spirit and alive to the anointing of Him. We must cleanse our self of the flesh and self. 2 Cor. 7:1 reads, "...dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Every child of God must get rid of self. If you ask God to show you as He sees you, you will find out that you are not at all what you think.

Do not let the devil come to you as an angel of light, because of your self-willed-ness, telling you that you are special and that God has a new revelation just for you. These are seducing spirits, which causes Christians' to depart from the faith following their supposed new doctrine. Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times

some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

This happens for two reasons:

<u>1. You Must have A Love for The Truth</u>. 2 Thess. 2:10-12, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause, God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The devil employs every cunning art and wicked practice he can, using men and demons, to produce deceptive lies in order to deceive men who reject truth. In what sense does God send such a strong delusion? This question is answered in Romans 1:21-32. It is not God's will that any man perish, but that all come to repentance (John 3:16-20; 2 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev. 22: 17). If men persist live in rebellion, then God gives them over to their own ways, which will damn their souls. It is something that He is forced to do because He cannot save men who persist in damning their own souls. God has made the laws of sowing and reaping and this is the sense in which God has anything to do with such destinies (Galatians 6:7-8).

2. The Lack of Holy Living

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Hebrews 12:14) for this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: [v.4] That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (1 Thess. 4:3-4). [Sanctification] Greek: *hagiasmos*, consecration Translated "holiness" (Romans 6:19,22; 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Tim. 2:15; Hebrews 12:14) and "sanctification" (1 Cor. 1:30; I Thess. 4:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2).

Fourteen Requirements of the Will of God and of Sanctification

(1 Thess. 4:3-18):

- Abstain from fornication or all kinds of sex sins (I Thess. 4:3; note, 'Matthew 5:32)
- 2. Know how to possess the vessel in sanctification and honor (1 Thess. 4:4).
- 3. Not in the lust of concupiscence or strong sexual desire (1 Thess. 4:5; Col. 3:5)

Here it means excessive sexual lust like that of the Gentiles who knew no bounds that no man defraud his brother by seducing his wife to corrupt her and break up a home (1 Thess. 4:6). This still refers to sexual sins and not to cheating

- 4. Dealing with sexual uncleanness down to (1 Thess. 4:7) every type of perversion
- 5. Was practiced among the heathens Their gods, their rulers, and their teachers were examples of impurity. They had no system of ethics that forbade these practices. The Christian religion forbade them as worthy of death and hell and this has preserved the world from complete ruin to this day.
- 6. Be diligent in business (1 Thess. 4:11)
- 7. Work with your hands (1 Thess. 4:11; 1 cor. 4:12; Ephes. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- 8. Walk honestly before men (I Thess. 4:12)
- 9. Have a bright hope (1 Thess. 4:13-17)

Therefore, one must totally get the victory over these four battles before he can truly perform the will of God. After you have been saved for a while, God is going to try to test you to determine If you are growing in Him. You must grow in the grace and knowledge of Him before you receive power from on high to do the works that Christ did. He will allow the enemy to try your faith. These test come to prove you, to see if you stand or fall. The Lord has confidence in you. We all are admonished to ... be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephes. 6: 10-18).

God has called you; therefore, you must work on yourself to fulfill that call. In God's plan for your life you are:

- a. Called into the ministry by God
- b. Anointed by the Holy Ghost
- c. Chosen by Jesus Christ to do His work
- d. Sent by God into the vineyard as a labor

This is how your ministry will be fulfilled, providing you become victorious over the four Christians' battles obey the Word of God.

Beloved of the Lord, live in the Spirit, walking by faith, and following Gods' plan for your life, and may the grace of Gods' blessings overshadow you!

THE END



About the Author

After being saved, and raised up in Faith Tabernacle Church of Baltimore Maryland, by the Lord for eight years, He began do deal with me concerning my calling. The Spirit of God began to speak, showing his plan as pertaining to what work He would have me to fulfill as a labor in the vineyard.

After sitting under the ministered anointed Word, and studying in-depth bible studies taught by holy anointed men and women of God, I grow to the place where God our Father called me into the five-fold ministry, where I began to work with the youth in the Church.

During this time, the Holy Spirit was upon me planting the Word within that I might teach the uncompromised Word of God. As time ticked by, the Lord increased my understanding and began to deal with me to preach his word to the Church. As a few years went by, the grace of God, dealt with me to do my calling He had placed in my life. After much praying, fasting, seeking God and being built up in the Spirit and the Anointing, God spoke to me to began a work for Him, and my wife, Linda and I under the guidance of the lord formed "Pentecostal Holiness Tabernacle, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland on Mount Street. As God gave us grace, He blessed us to relocate to the corner of Patterson Park Ave, and Orleans Street where we preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ ministering the thing of God to the community and the people of God for several years.

As the ministry progressed, the Spirit of the Lord began to reveal the need for us to move the work to a place unknown to us – that is "Durham, North Carolina". Pasturing several Churches, we were lead and commanded to set the ministry up in Durham to minister to the lost-dying souls, preach to Gods' people (the Church), feed & cloth the hungry and needy, as God has said, "preach, pray and prophecy unto this nation.

"I look forward to serving you as the minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I am a servant of God toward your".

Bishop Dennis Lee Brown, Pastor

Pentecostal Holiness Tabernade, Juc.

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