

Getting Self out the way

Your greatest cheerleader when it comes to you depending on you is Satan - Gen 3:1-6 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God really say**, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, '**You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.**'" 4 "**YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE**," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "**For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**" 6 When **THE WOMAN SAW** that the **fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, SHE TOOK SOME AND ATE IT.** She **ALSO GAVE SOME TO HER HUSBAND, WHO WAS WITH HER, AND HE ATE IT.**

Peter displays a good example of how "meaning well", based on self, instead of just following what HE says could be extremely dangerous - Matt 16:21-23 - 21 From that time on **Jesus began to explain** to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"** 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! **YOU ARE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO ME; YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT THE THINGS OF MEN.**"

Being Christ-led truly allows us to be used by God, while being self-led expects God to see us as we want Him to see us - 1 Cor 7:17-24 - 17 Nevertheless, **each one should retain the PLACE IN LIFE that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him.** This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDS IS WHAT COUNTS.** 20 **Each one should remain in THE SITUATION which he was in when God called him.** 21 Were you a slave when you were called? **DON'T LET IT TROUBLE YOU** — **although if you can gain your freedom, do so.** 22 For **he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman**; similarly, **he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.** 23 **You were bought at a price; DO NOT BECOME SLAVES OF MEN.** 24 Brothers, **each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.**

*Place in Life – Is how you were born, brought up...whatever you got, out of your control, weather desirable or undesirable

*Situations –The circumstances and seasons we face in life, weather desirable or undesirable

OUR LIFE FOCUS

Recognize, there are only two choices; for God or not for God. Choosing the wrong one is devastating -Gal 6:7-9 - 7 **DO NOT BE DECEIVED: God cannot be mocked.** A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who **sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature WILL REAP destruction**; the one who **sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit WILL REAP eternal life.** 9 **LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **IF we do not give up**

Our sole life purpose must be to display God -1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.**

Our role is walk as Jesus did, and recognize the evidence if you are or not - 1 John 2:3-6 - 3 **We know that we have come to know him IF WE OBEY HIS COMMANDS.** 4 The man who says, "**I know him**," **BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT HE COMMANDS IS A LIAR**, and the truth is not in him. 5 **But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM:** 6 **Whoever claims to live in him MUST WALK AS JESUS DID**

How Jesus Walked

Jesus lived only seeing things as God says - John 5:30 **By myself I can do nothing; I judge ONLY AS I HEAR**, and my judgment is just, for I **seek not to please myself but him who sent me.**

Jesus lived doing exactly what God says - John 14:31 but **the world must learn** that I **love the Father** and that **I do EXACTLY what my Father has commanded me.** "Come now; let us leave.

Our entire "life focus" must be based on what God says NOT on how we see it - 2 Cor 5:7 We **live by faith, NOT by sight.**

It all depends on God's Mercy –

Rom 9:16 It **does not**, therefore, **depend on man's desire or effort**, but **ON GOD'S MERCY.**

Rom 9:20 But **who are you**, O man, **to talk back to God?** "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

A true Christian keeps themselves from being corrupted by the world - James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD.**

Live, NEVER depending on the flesh - Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we **who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus**, and who **PUT NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH—**

God dictates how we deal with all situations and people, and it is Not based on self - Matt 5:38-44 - 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, **DO NOT RESIST AN EVIL PERSON.** If **someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.** 40 And if **someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.** 41 If **someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.** 42 **Give to the one who asks you**, and **do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.** 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,**

WHAT WE MUST WATCH OUT FOR

To keep from being misled as Eve was, we must stay focused and keep ourselves in Christ control - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 **BE self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH,** because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

We **CANNOT depend on our viewpoint** - Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

We **CANNOT trust what man esteems because it will most likely be what God hates** - Luke 16:15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men **IS DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT.**

All of Our daily battles are spiritual and the only spiritual weapons we have are through Christ - Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

We must realize **worldly wisdom is deceptively worthless** - 1 Cor 3:18-20 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves.** If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should **become a "fool" so that he may become wise.** 19 For **THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS IN GOD'S SIGHT.** As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

When we allow ourselves to get into an argument, God lets us know it is our fault - James 4:1 **What causes fights and quarrels among you?** Don't they come from **YOUR DESIRES THAT BATTLE WITHIN YOU?**

HOW TO LIVE "SELFLESS

True Christians have consciously removed "old self" and put on "new self" - Eph 4:22-24 - 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to PUT OFF YOUR OLD SELF, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to **BE MADE NEW IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MINDS;** 24 and to **PUT ON THE NEW SELF,** created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

We must completely live for God, stop being influenced by the world and to completely learn again from God - Rom 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY,** to **OFFER YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD — this is your spiritual act of worship.** 2 **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,** but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We must devalue all we value and only value Christ - Phil 3:7-9 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and **BE FOUND IN HIM,** not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that **which is through faith in Christ** — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

We have to be heavenly focused, ALL THE TIME - Col 3:2-4 - 2 Set your minds on things above, NOT ON EARTHLY THINGS. 3 For you died, and **your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We are to **do nothing based on me and how I see it** - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **Do nothing out of SELFISH AMBITION or VAIN CONCEIT,** but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Totally trust in God, while eliminating me factor - Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;**

We are to live rejecting being led by the body - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, **ARM YOURSELVES ALSO WITH THE SAME ATTITUDE,** because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 **AS A RESULT,** he **does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires,** but **RATHER FOR THE WILL OF GOD.**

We must allow Christ to be our strength so situations will never dictate us - Phil 4:11-13 - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned **THE SECRET OF BEING CONTENT IN ANY AND EVERY SITUATION,** whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.**

We must be Spiritual - Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

I have to discipline all of me

My body - 1 Cor 9:26-27 - 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

My mind, for both internal and external influences - 2 Cor 10:5-6 - 5 We **demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God,** and we **take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** 6 And we will **be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.**

Live in complete reverence of God - Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for **IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU TO WILL AND TO ACT ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PURPOSE.**