

Have One Mind (in Christ) - Philippians 2:5

A Monthly Magazine

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Battle With Self — Jerry O'Donnell

One of the greatest battlefields to face is not the antichrist or even Satan, but it is with self.

What did Jesus say is necessary in order to have Him in our lives? "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Jesus said that we had to deny ourselves. We have to train our mind to not get everything it wants or craves. It is called "developing discipline". The more we exercise self-control the more disciplined we become. The more we give in to our wants and cravings the less disciplined we become. Discipline is developed and not something we are born with.

How often are we to do deny ourselves? "I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31). Unlike the "once saved, always saved" crowd, the Bible tells us that it is a daily denial of self, in fact, it can be said that every moment of the day requires denial of self.

How will denial of self affect the body? "But I keep under my body,

and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27). We need to bring our bodies into subjection. We need to not allow every craving to get the ascendancy no matter what bodily sense it is trying to come in through.

What must we believe we have in order to gain the victory? "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:3-4). We must believe that Heaven-sent divine power is granted to us, "for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10), and then we no longer live in the carnal or human nature but the "divine nature".

Why do we struggle so easily with temptation then? "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am

carnal, sold under sin" (Romans 7:14). We wrestle with our carnal natures. It gets the ascendancy, or we consult with it. "How can I allow a little selfishness and yet be on safe ground?" Or something to that effect is often dwelt upon instead of a sharp resistance.

Where do we NOT find anything good? "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" (Romans 7:18). Definitely not inside ourselves, therefore, we must depend wholly upon God for the victory.

Then what do we need to have dwelling in us? "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:8-9). We need the Spirit dwelling in us. No wonder the Spirit "will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8).

What is promised if the Spirit dwells in us? "That the righteousness of the law might be

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fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:4). The righteousness of the law would be fulfilled in us then. In other words, we will then be actually keeping the commandments of God.

What warning are we given regarding the flesh? “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 6:8). We ought not sow to the flesh, but notice that it is a choice, just like Joshua stated, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15). This goes back to the beginning in which Jesus tells us to deny ourselves.

What is the strength level of our flesh? “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41). The flesh is weak. That means, every time we fall it signifies that we are listening to the flesh instead of the Spirit. We need to build up a resistance to the flesh, the cravings, the desires. We fall because “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin” (Hebrews 12:4).

Where is the battleground actually fought? “Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). It is the mind. That is because “as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he” (Proverbs 23:7). Thoughts become actions.

What do we specifically fight against? “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing

into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). It is imaginations. We imagine we are going to suffer if we do not give in. “I will be so hungry if I don’t continue eating beyond my comfortableness.” In reality, we are just stretching the stomach when we should be thinking of how we can shrink the stomach, like a plan to eat only two meals a day, as opposed to grazing all day.

How do we know we are actually battling in the war as opposed to simply fooling ourselves as we are defeated over and over? “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Romans 8:5). When a person is overcome, how they feel afterwards determines if the defeat was due to weakness in the battle or secret enjoyment of having given in. In other words, are we remorseful for giving in or not. Many Christians see sin as no big deal. That is foolishness.

What are we called to do? “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 Corinthians 7:1). A cleansing process of all filthiness must be performed. Too many simply pick certain fruit to throw away while still leaving other bad fruit in place that undermines the determination. In other words, they will work on cutting out smoking, drinking, and watching fouled-language movies, but tell themselves that once they get those things under control, then they can work on temper, diet, and the raunchy music. It has to be a total house cleanse, because

what is not cleaned out weakens the person when confrontation towards the primary temptations comes on. We should not be looking at the bad fruit to pick, but “the axe is laid unto the root of the trees” (Luke 3:9). The root of selfishness needs to be cut down.

What is the battle like? “[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil 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: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, 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. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16-25). We have to recognize that our struggles are in the category of lusting, which is not reserved for sexuality alone. That makes for a real wrestling match.

What needs to be developed? “And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the

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The mission of *Have One Mind (in Christ)* is to encourage the desire of “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (2 Peter 3:12), “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), and to “abideth in the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 1:9) by following the words of Jesus, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

Editor and Founder

Jerry O’Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God’s Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

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flesh” (Jude 1:23). Hatred for seeing our garments spotted with sin needs to be encouraged. Ask God to instill the proper hatred.

What must we be careful not to listen to? “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is

come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2 John 1:7). Do not listen to anyone who teaches Jesus was different from us, as if He had the nature of Adam before the fall. That is what the average Christian is taught, which is deadly error. If that were the case, then this whole message

is worthless; there would not even be a reason for battling self, for there would be no way for us to ever gain the victory. The truth of the matter is, “For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham” (Hebrews 2:16). Jesus took on our nature and defeated Satan in our flesh, our nature.

What may we have to change to get the upper hand? “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” (Ephesians 2:3). Stop talking about how great the difficulty is against certain sins. The more a person talks about certain temptations being too strong to resist, that person will never gain the victory. We must talk “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

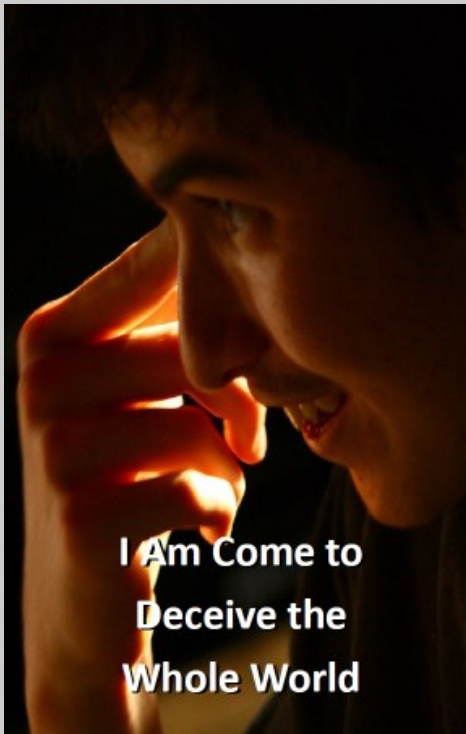
Who helps us to bring the will into conformity? “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” (1 Peter 4:1). Go to Jesus, for He alone will help us bring our wills in line “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

What, practically, are we to do? “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

May each of us experience victory over self.



I Am Come to Deceive The Whole World



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While people are distracted by sports, politics, Hollywood idols, etc., the march towards the agenda is already upon us and increasing in intensity.

Heavenly Health

What part does the mind play in the health of the body?

First of all, let us attempt to define what the mind is in usable terms. From Webster's 1828 Dictionary comes this abbreviated definition: "The intellectual or intelligent power in man; the understanding; the power that conceives, judges or reasons." We could say it is a collection of all the mental functions of the brain including feelings, or affections, thoughts and ideas, which all join hands to form our intellect. Impulses to perform duties are born in the mind. Cultivation of habits and character, right or wrong, takes place there, and the process is such that the mind itself can actually become set in a certain bent, affecting, and possibly stunting our spiritual growth, and our thinking and behaving in a negative way, so we must be very careful to steer our thoughts in a positive direction, as negativity does not originate with God. The mind needs to be exercised like any other part of the body so we may increase in knowledge and reasoning, therefore, it is imperative to have a healthy, vigorous, clear mind. Since the health of the mind depends much on that of the body, it is equally necessary for adequate care and exercise of the physical faculties in order to have a strong, balanced mind.

Both body and mind require the proper nutrition to function properly, but even when providing the best of food to our minds and

bodies, the mind will become just as bogged down as the physical body if the body is overfed and its own systems are clogged. Overindulgence always clouds the mind, making our thought processes and reasoning difficult and confused. We are not to ever be slaves to appetite, instead we are to be masters over it. A clear mind and good overall health can be achieved and maintained when we fuel our bodies with good food, and only as much as is needed – not until we are "full"!

Just like all the mechanical parts of an automobile, all parts of the human body work best when everything is in balance and in a state of good repair, according to the manufacturer's manual, because all parts must work together. So, do we get warning lights as cars do? Sometimes we do, but many times we are not following the directions for care and we miss the signs that are not immediately evident until much further down the road when it is more difficult to turn back and correct our course. We must be cognizant of what we are doing to our bodies at all times so if a mistake has been made, we can correct it quickly and get back on the right track.

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." What is meant by "a merry heart" is simply a heart, or spirit, that is cheerful, peaceful, and delights in right-doing. If you have a Bible with marginal readings, the word "medicine" in this verse is defined

as "healing". This delightful mind-set can be the result of proper discipline of the thoughts and reactions to events and circumstances, bringing them into line with scripture, and can bring about healing, just as the scripture suggests. I would find it hard to believe that there is a single physician anywhere, unless he or she is a hard-core atheist, who would not prescribe cheerfulness, and peaceful living to assist in any healing modality. Cheerfulness promotes health and is a friend to both body and mind.

The mind and the body do not operate as separate units; they must work in unison. Happiness and cheerfulness flow through our systems via the mind just as surely as the blood flows through our veins to every organ, lightening their burdens and flushing away any build-up of trash that has been allowed to accumulate, setting us up for disease. What better way to promote harmony in a system than to maintain a clear mind filled with joy. As was stated in our October, 2023 article, "To be in health is to be whole... to be whole is to be complete in every area of our lives – mental and spiritual as well as physical", and so now we can see that the mind, the very life, and the body make up the whole man, and when a person is sanctified in a Biblical sense, all of these parts are set apart to the glory of God, and employed in the service of our Creator. That sanctification begins with the mind. Sanctification

cleanses our minds from sinful, carnal thoughts; it redirects the current, or direction, of the thoughts so they flow from sin to holiness. And in this work, we are to be laborers together with God.

Now let us notice the word "holiness" and see how it plays a major role in the health of body and mind. When we read Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:", it is helpful to know that the root-word of "health" is actually the same root-word of "holiness"; so, holiness of the body and mind is

expressed in the word "health". We cannot expect to enter heaven with unhealthy, unholy carnal minds and bodies, so this ties in with the work of sanctification mentioned in the previous paragraph and is very important to our understanding of God's requirements of us in the care of our entire beings.

2 Corinthians 7:1 says, "...dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Here we see the definite connection of body and mind, reinforcing the importance

of performing this sanctifying action since it is to be done "in the fear of God". It seems an old saying we have probably all heard is taking on a deeper meaning now and we will not be taking it so lightly the next time we hear it – "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". There is much more to it than meets the eye.

We could go much further into this study, but I believe we have sufficiently answered our title question for now, but as with all of these health articles, we will refer back to it in future studies.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Oven Baked Tofu

(This is a gluten free version.)

Ingredients

- 1 pound super-firm tofu
- 1 ½ c. vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon liquid coconut aminos
- 1/2 cup vegan mayonnaise,

- 1/4 cup chickpea flour
- 1/4 cup brown rice flour*
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil

Instructions

1. If using firm or extra firm tofu, press tofu between paper towels to remove excess water.
2. Then cut into strips or cubes and marinate in vegetable broth for 30 minutes.
3. Mix vegan mayonnaise with the coconut aminos and coat the tofu with it.
4. In another bowl combine the remaining ingredients well. Coat tofu with dry herb mix and place on a greased baking sheet that has been oiled with olive oil (to keep the tofu from sticking)

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5. Bake at 400 degrees for approximately 30 minutes turning halfway.

(You may also cook on a lightly oiled frying pan until golden and crispy.)

*you can use cornstarch instead of brown rice flour



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Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

2 Corinthians 3:3 says, “[Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” Here is one of those verses that people read by without understanding or appreciating the full meaning. To be a spiritual epistle, a spiritual writing, it is a fancy way of saying that a person is actually a living example of what was taught. That is the sanctified life. Besides, what is specifically written on the tables of our hearts? “Shew the work of the law written in their hearts” (Romans 2:15). “This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them” (Hebrews 10:16). So, are you a living epistle, an

example of the law being in your heart?

Ephesians 1:14 states, “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Again, when Christians have an agenda to avoid keeping the commandments, they do not read verses as they are intended. To give God praise of His glory related to receiving the inheritance and being purchased and even redeemed is to live a holy and sanctified life. The phrase “praise of his glory” is that we ought to live our lives to praise God. When we sin, we praise self and Satan. When we keep the commandments, we praise God. Even Proverbs 28:4 tells us this: “They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the

law contend with them.” So, are you praising the wicked while sinning, or praising God by keeping the law?

Philippians 1:29 shows the result of a sanctified life: “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.” Believing on Christ is more than just mere words or thoughts – it is actions. How do we know? Because of the suffering that may follow. Back in the 80s, a group of American Christian reporters were captured by Middle East extremists. People were literally losing their heads. After leaving their captors and getting off of a plane, the leader of the group was asked, “How did you escape?” The reporter replied, “They asked us to renounce our faith and accept Allah, so we did.

It's not like we meant it." The Bible also says, "Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33). True Christians suffer because they do not go along with the ways of the world. We are persecuted for their belief and action on Bible principles. We are persecuted for not baking a wedding cake that is outside of a male and female connection. We are persecuted for homeschooling. We are persecuted for not going along with vaccines. We are persecuted for our stance on Christian values. If a sanctified and holy life was not expected, then we would stand for nothing making the Bible verse "Stand

therefore, having your loins girt about with truth" (Ephesians 6:14) null and void, and without taking a stance, there is no suffering. So, do you stand for God's standards, even the Ten Commandments and His Word, or do you stand for nothing, being a Christian in Name Only?

Colossians 1:12 says, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." Again, Christians read this so quickly that it looks like we have just simply been given the inheritance, but read carefully – we are "meet to be partakers", as in, "made ready"

right now. How are we made ready? By living "in light". What does that mean? Jesus said, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." That means, to be partakers in the light is to have our deeds of sin reproved, which means to stop doing them, and do deeds that are of God, like living a holy and sanctified life. So, are you a partaker in the light, or still a partaker in the darkness (sin)?

Who Is the Real Antichrist?



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1 Thessalonians 1:9 says, “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” How often ought we to serve the living and true God and not have idols in our lives? All the time is the answer, for Jesus reinforced, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matthew 22:37). The feeling of just having to watch those idols on TV or in the movies, singing their songs, pushing their products, is all idol worship. Relying upon pastors, parents, or one’s own feelings above the Bible is idol worship. Even working to earn income to the point of neglecting daily communion with God is idol worship. Paul writes, “whose God [is their] belly” (Philippians 3:19), so not willing to give up foods and stimulants that God condemns is idol worship. Therefore, turning from the idols in our lives unto the living God is a sanctified and holy life. So, are all of the idols gone in your life?

2 Thessalonians 2:12 states, “That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Now again, this is not obvious but it is right before our faces regarding the need to live a sanctified and holy life. If people are damned because they do not believe the truth, which is more than head knowledge, and as a result, the fruit of this unbelief is having pleasure in unrighteousness to any degree, then it means that those who are saved do believe the truth – truth which results in the fruit of

having pleasure in righteousness, which is right doing, resulting in the sanctified and holy life. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (1 John 3:7). “Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). So, of the two groups, what life are you displaying, revealing what you believe, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20)? Do you believe lies and have sin in your life, or do you believe the truth and live a righteous, holy, sanctified life?

1 Timothy 1:16 states, “Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.” Obtaining mercy is clearly the teaching of justification of which we can add nothing. It is a gift from God. Being made into a pattern for others to see what a Christian is, what a true believer is, which happens to be the sanctified or holy life. Christ wants to transform us into obedient, sin-conquering, temptation-overcoming Christians. A non-believer should be able to recognize in character that we have been with Christ. There is a different pattern than that of the world once a person becomes a believer. That pattern is one that rejects the ways of the world, rejects sin, rejects selfishness, and simply lives for Christ. “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine [shewing] uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:7-8). So, do pattern yourself after sin, worldly ways and interests, or do you pattern yourself after righteousness, heavenly ways and interests?

2 Timothy 2:4 says, “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” Our warfare is not physical but spiritual, and all of us are involved. “Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). It is a spiritual battle against self. “If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). And if we are not warring but just claiming salvation, we have lost already. One thing we need to do in this war is to not be entangled with the affairs of this life, which is the sanctified and holy life. Who cares who is president? Who cares who wins the sports trophy? Who cares who did what in a soap opera? Who cares what the latest entertainment craze is? Who cares what the latest fashion is? Who cares what the latest slang is? Who cares, who cares, who cares?? What matters is that daily, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). So, do you “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto

thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12)?

Titus 1:15 states, "Unto the pure all things [are] pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving [is] nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." The pure are the ones living a holy and sanctified life. The defiled ones are those who do not believe that they are given the power to be living a pure life. This is so plain of a teaching that Daniel even saw this happening: "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (Daniel 12:10). See! There are only the pure and the lost. In fact, the last-day church would be "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5). That is a lot of good people attending church but on

their tongues are all forms of criticism of the pure life: "No one can keep the commandments", "The commandments are nailed to the cross", "Once saved, always saved", "We're under grace now", etc., etc., etc. Those are examples of denying the power to live a pure life. So, are you pure, living a life free from sinning, or are you a deceived unbeliever thinking you are a believer but are not?

James 1:18 may speak a little cryptically, but overall, it should be easy to understand that we become sanctified and holy people when we are born again. "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." To be "begat" is to be born again. How are we born again? – Through "the Word of truth", therefore, it is important to believe specific truth as opposed to having a social time at a church we like. It does matter what we believe. The "creatures" mostly

refer to the whole human race, for a donkey does not know God's Word. To be made into "firstfruits" is to be made into something without blemish because this refers to the firstfruits offering made in the Old Testament, which "shall be without blemish" (Exodus 12:5). God is not talking physically but spiritually, for a person who has lost their arm can still be saved. Therefore, the blemish is the sins, transgressions, the iniquities, the bad habits, the un-Christian character. Interestingly, Paul tells us that in being part of the church, we are to be "holy and without blemish", "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:27). So, are you part of the firstfruits of the human race, being holy and sanctified by the power of Jesus Christ (Jude 24), or are you just like any other fruit with wrinkles, spots, and blemishes to the character, allowing sin to continue?



Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God—(2 Timothy 2:15)

How To Overcome

[January 2024 study showed the reward of the overcomer but how does one overcome?]

1. Who overcomes?
1 John 5:5

2. What do we need to overcome the world?
End of 1 John 5:4

3. What are we to become to overcome the world?
Beginning of 1 John 5:4

4. Who is greater than the addiction, the sinning, the temptations, etc., making it possible to stop sinning?
1 John 4:4

5. What do we need abiding in us to be overcomers?
1 John 2:14

6. Who must we get to know to be an overcomer?

1 John 2:13, Revelation 14:1

7. What do overcomers escape?

2 Peter 2:20

8. What becomes of people who are overcome by what they escaped, especially those who think they can jump back and forth at will, therefore, such activity ought to be avoided?

2 Peter 2:20

9. What are we considered in when we continue in sin?

2 Peter 2:19

10. What do we use to resist giving in to the evils of the world?

Romans 12:21

Answer To January 2024's Study

Battle With Self

1. Who said the battle is with self?
Matthew 16:24 "Jesus"

2. How often are we to battle against self? **1 Corinthians 15:31 "daily"**

3. What do we need to do with the body? **1 Corinthians 9:27 "bring [it] into subjection"**

4. What help do we have? **2 Peter 1:3-4 "divine power" and "divine nature"**

5. What do we need dwelling in us? **Romans 8:8-9 "the Spirit of**

God dwell in you"

6. What warning are we given regarding the flesh? **Galatians 6:8 "reap corruption"**

7. Where is the battleground fought? **Romans 8:7 "carnal mind"**

8. What do we specifically fight against? **2 Corinthians 10:5 "imagination" and "every thought"**

9. Who helps us to bring the will into conformity? **1 Peter 4:1 "Christ"**

10. What practically are we to do? **James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil"**



Questions & Answers

QUESTION: Should we get the Real ID?

ANSWER: As we know, the Real ID is not the Mark of the Beast. When a person compares Daniel 7:25 to the items in Revelation 13, there will be five specific items that describe the antichrist including the Mark of the Beast. Seeing that "worship" is quite involved with the antichrist and even the Mark, the Real ID does not fit, however, it can be involved in the tracking of who gets the Mark and who refuses it. The actual Mark requires more

time than what we want to expose here, so please refer to the March 2022 issue in the Bible study section for the details.

So, the question comes down to the use of the Real ID, which is being sold as a need, especially in emergency situations, however, it is intrusive and can be used for governmental control. It is actually a tracking mechanism.

The act of getting it or not getting it is by choice. Do you want to make it easier for the government to track various aspects or not? But

before giving the answer, do keep in mind that there are personal purchases and various property ownership that already accomplishes the same task. If a person owns a cell phone, the Real ID is insignificant since the phone, even when off, tracks every movement. In many cases, even purchases. If a person uses credit cards for every transaction, all of that is tracked.

Now, the question comes regarding driving. Many states make the Real ID and the driver's license one and

the same card. If we follow the many Bible examples encouraging to live in the country as opposed to city living and having no driver's license, it is going to cause a whole lot more problems than the government having access to personal information.

And let us not get started with the "smart" things in the home that do tracking and even recording of activities: smart TVs, smart refrigerators, even smart light bulbs.

So, it is a personal choice and may be one that is unavoidable.

Do keep in mind, everyone may run, but eventually no one will be able to hide, even if completely off the grid. Do the work of the Lord and leave the consequences in the Lord's hands.

QUESTION: Is God fair?

ANSWER: We would say that God is not fair, but just. Now, after you let that settle into the mind and may want to argue the opposite position, let us first create a scenario.

There are three people: a billionaire, an employee, and a homeless single mother. If there is to be \$300 given out, the fair thing would be to give each \$100. To be just, as in justice being served, all \$300 would be given to the homeless woman. The Bible states that Jesus "is just" (Zechariah 9:9). It does not appear to state that Jesus "is fair".

In regards to eternal life, all who receive it may believe that it is given out fairly – We all receive the same amount of experience. There are no multiple levels to

Heaven. We all get the same mansions presented to individual tastes, but still mansions. We will get access to the streets of gold, and even access to Jesus Himself. On the contrary, we all come from various backgrounds, primarily that of sin. It all has to be forgiven before any of us step foot into Heaven. Some of us have huge amounts of sins while others, not so much. Some required multiple attempts to be pulled out of worldliness while with others, one attempt was all that was necessary. Jesus even spoke on this. "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little" (Luke 7:47).

If God were fair, all of us would receive the same amount of grace. If it were done by average, those who sinned just a little up to the average point would be allowed entrance into Heaven while all others would get the cold response, "Sorry, there is no more grace to provide." Instead, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). We each receive the sufficient amount based upon our needs. Now, do realize, we are all saved through Jesus Christ completely by His merit. "All our righteousnesses [are] as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). The best we can claim for salvation is, "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). In other words, we cannot add to our salvation no matter how long we walk in righteousness. It is Christ's righteousness that we are saved by, but all of it is one package, both the saving part and the conditions to be met. But let

us not get too deep on that subject as the point of the question is about the fairness of God.

God is just, and not fair. Thank God.

QUESTION: What is the winepress in Revelation 14?

ANSWER: Revelation 14:19-20 states, "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs."

The symbolic object of the "winepress" is squeezing the life out of the lost as it is the "Wrath of God" and is outside the city where the lost are. There are many figures of this event when Jesus breaks through the clouds and the lost realize that they are indeed lost. We have "the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Revelation 6:15-16) when we know in reality all are simply slain: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The winepress specifically is not the focus as opposed to the results thereof, but if a person is really pressing for something, it would simply be that which will slaughter the wicked when Jesus returns preparing them for “an

angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the

flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all [men, both] free and bond, both small and great” (Revelation 19:17-18).



News and Comments

December 2—Yahoo

Latter-day Saints lawsuits raise questions over Mormon tithing – can churches just invest funds members believe are for charity?

"The lawsuit against the LDS church and Ensign Peak, filed on Oct. 31, 2023, is based on the premise that the church has violated its members' trust by amassing massive investments in stocks, bonds, real estate and agriculture that don't support charitable activities." Seems that both sides do not understand the purpose of tithe. Tithe is to pay the salaries of those employed by the church, most importantly that of ministers, but other leadership are also to be paid from the tithe. Charity and investments are not to be made from the tithe (Numbers 18:24).

December 4—KTLA

These California cities are the 'most fun,' study says

The article was accompanied by images of many youth in skimpy clothing, promoting certain lifestyle choices, and many other "fun" appearances. And that is exactly how the devil distracts people, especially the youth, into sin; but as they grow older they realize "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).

December 4—Faith Wire

Young Brits Open to Banning the Bible 'Unless the Offended Parts Can Be Edited Out'

Telling people to stop sinning, and 'Christ is the only way' would be considered offensive. All of Proverbs would have to be removed because fools would be offended throughout. Basically, only the words forgiveness and promise of eternal life, all summarized in a handful of pages, would be permitted. The offensive parts are what we are to stop doing if we want eternal life. God is telling us that "the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, 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" (Galatians 5:19-21). So, removing such verses does not change anything. It just keeps people in the dark.

December 5—Washington Post

Utah wants people to eat invasive bullfrogs. Here's how to catch them.

Back in the days of Noah, of whom we are all related, he knew which animals were identified as clean and unclean:

"Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that [are] not clean by two, the male and his female" (Genesis 7:2). Depending upon the classification, pretty sure frogs do none of these things: "Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: [as] the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof;" therefore "he [is] unclean unto you" (Leviticus 11:4). And being a water creature, "fins and scales" are required (Leviticus 11:9).

December 6—Free P

'All the children were homeschooled': Michigan AG, lawmakers call for home school accountability

Evidently, there was abuse in a home-school household which was allowed to adopt up to 30 children, and the coordinators with the adoption agency were irresponsible in not detecting the abuses. This issue, though deeply troubling, is being used to make it difficult upon those home-educators who do abide with proper environments. This also neglects to address the number of public school abuses that take place more often than compared to home-school environments. These cases are used often to strip parents of their God-given rights to be the responsible influencers upon their children: "Train up a child in the way he should go:

and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). That is understood as direction to a godly set of parents, not to the government, especially since the government does not teach the proper way, which is a godly way.

December 7—Complex

Vegas Shooter Who Killed 3 Was a Professor Who Recently Applied for a Job at UNLV, AP Source Says

Although the title of the article is suspect, we are addressing face value of what the title states. This is the ultimate example of someone throwing a fit because they did not get their way. As for Christians, in all things, we are to "deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow" Jesus (Matthew 16:24). The outrage of not getting your own way is very contagious. According to the New York Post, "HS basketball player, older brother beat up coach after game for getting benched: police."

December 7—Yahoo

Harvard, Penn and MIT presidents ignite furor with 'unacceptable' response to antisemitism

These three college presidents could not identify bullying happening on their campus. The topic is insignificant in what we want to bring out. We simply want to bring awareness that there is an agenda actively happening – If the same situation were to fit the agenda, it is bullying. If it is outside the agenda, it is not bullying. Bullying is bullying, but the world is not interested in addressing all bullying. So, do we really think we shall have a fair trial when "ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak" (Matthew 10:18-19).

December 8—Bloomberg

Apps That Use AI to Undress Women in Photos Soaring in Use

Just when people do not think things can get any worse, all those social media photos can be turned into porn now thanks to the apps available. And do not think that just because you are grand parents and older parents that no one would be interested in you – they may be interested in who is included in your photos, especially teens and younger. Social media was dangerous enough, now innocent users can actually be aiding the porn industry. We use social media to get the word out, but that is all it is. Photos that may be included are nature photos to get people's attention. One word of advice, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). At least abstain from exchanging those photos of the kids, no matter if they have even reached adulthood.

December 11—Yahoo Finance

Nearly two-thirds of millennials say spending \$7 on a daily cup of coffee brings them 'joy' — but Suze Orman has compared it to 'peeing \$1M down the drain.' Who's right?

And this is why feelings have to be kept in the secondary as opposed to the primary. To be driven by what brings joy means that all of the right decisions that are not so joyful are left undone. No wonder the work ethic is so poor with the upcoming generation. This is so wrong on so many accounts. That amount of money and more per day add up quickly to be a serious investment into idolatry, plus not living in reality. "He that loveth pleasure [shall be] a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich" (Proverbs 21:17). And the "poor" does not necessarily mean financially. It can mean that they lack Christ in their life, which means they lack salvation.

December 12—Fox News

French teachers stage walkout after Muslim students 'offended' over Renaissance painting spark safety concerns

Both sides are overreacting, but the bottom line is the understanding of the content. Most human beings are not bothered by works of art depicting nudity, but should we be desensitized to the content and class it as Renaissance to make it acceptable? The answer is no. True Christians ought to be offended. Leviticus 18 and 20 speak much of the abhorrence of revealing nakedness. Just because it is called art does not make it permissible.

December 14—Fox News

Satanic display inside Iowa State Capitol destroyed, man charged: officials

Although we disagree and are upset with the presence of Satanic content, we are not to restrict people's freedoms as there are no exceptions in the constitution for it. We either have the freedom to express or we do not. The temple Jesus was cleansing was not government property and cannot be used as support for destructive activity. Further, destroying idols in Israel also does not serve as justification to destroy this satanic content as the United States is not a theocracy. Simply, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). That includes to avoid going to visit the state capital of Iowa. The verse does not give permission to be destructive when legally being exercised.

December 14—Reuters

Breathing contributes to global warming – study

Genesis 1:28 says, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish

the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." To subdue the earth does not mean to destroy it, but all things were created for the sustaining of human beings. The movement to kill off the human race is not a thought of God. We have a responsibility to take care of things, but ceasing to breathe is not one of them.

December 14—LA Mag

Report: Fear of Promiscuity Could Be Fueling Anti-Abortion Sentiment

The media will do anything to push the false narrative yet be true in the statement. The use of the word "could" implies it also "could not". It is not a fact but they want those of promiscuous practice who are enjoying it to get upset and vote against anything and everyone on the anti-abortion side. The focus is on life. When God "formed thee from the womb" (Isaiah 44:2), that is when life began, and that means to snuff out life would be to commit murder. In fact, that is how God sees it. "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart [from her], and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges [determine]. And if [any] mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for

life" (Exodus 21:22-23). God calls the "fruit" in the womb as "life".

December 18—Life Site News

Pope Francis publishes norms for clergy to 'bless' homosexual couples

This is anti-Catholic even anti-Christ action. Christ said, "Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4-5). Jesus did not bless or reference any other union as being acceptable. "This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 1:7-9).

December 22—USA Today

Biden pardons marijuana use nationwide. Here's what that means

Do not blame Biden for signing into law the continued demoralizing of the nation because he is just giving people what they want. It is the demand for immorality that causes a politician to do such things. The people have

basically said to Jesus, "We will not have this [man] to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).

December 23—Telegraph

My dad's dignity is being stretched beyond breaking point – I support his right to die

"It's all about dignity", the article stated. Jesus contrasts this because He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7).

December 25—Daily Mail

Moses' parting of the Red Sea may NOT have been a miracle and could have been because of a 'meteorological phenomena', study suggests

The article blames basically "strong winds" for the drying of the land. If that were the case, how could the people cross? They would be falling all over the place being pushed by the winds. And then for the winds to stop at the precise moment to drown the Egyptians is too much of a coincidence. Besides, Moses wrote the experience down. He is the same one who wrote, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:16). To encourage not lying while lying is hypocritical, of which true followers of God do not

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practice. Moses stated, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry [ground] through the midst of the sea" (Exodus 14:15-16). We have a choice, throw away the hope of eternal life and believe

the Bible is a lie, or accept not only the promise of eternal life but the miracles that go with it. There is no middle ground.

December 28—Breitbart

The Methodist Church of Great Britain Labels Terms 'Husband' and 'Wife' Offensive

And will the Methodist church be

rewriting the Bible? "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband" (Ephesians 5:33). "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2).



Natural Remedies

Energy booster

Blend a tablespoon of blackstrap molasses in your smoothie to give yourself an occasional energy boost during stressful times that have been draining your vital energy. Molasses is a rich source

of highly-bioavailable iron and it blends really nicely into the non-dairy milk of your choice, along with a banana. The calcium, magnesium, and B vitamins in blackstrap molasses fight fatigue,

anxiety, and stress while enhancing brain function, mood, and focus.

