

September

1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes,
and Song of Solomon.



ALL

for Jesus

always

“They that wait upon the Lord...”



“...shall renew their strength” Is 40:31

September

*“It is time to
love the Lord Jesus”*

*During this month we'll read through
and learn from the books of
1 Corinthians,
2 Corinthians,
Galatians,
Proverbs,
Ecclesiastes, and
Song of Solomon.*



Devotion to God

**is the only
acceptable motive
for actions that are
pleasing to God.**

Jerry Bridges

I September: Praise the Lord!

Pray “Lord, please make my little life a praise to You...”

Read 1 Corinthians 11:16-34 and Psalms 148-150

Think + write The Psalms of David are full of praise to God. In Psalms 148-150 alone I read the word “praise” 30 times! When I say “**Hallelujah!**”, I actually say: “**Praise the Lord!**” When I think of Who and How God is *and* of what He has done for me and for others, I’d like to praise the Lord for:

-
-
-
-
-Please read Ps 103:1-5

I can praise the Lord in the following ways:

-
-
-

When I participate in **the Lord’s Communion** (the Lord’s Supper), I see that it involves a threefold look. It serves as...

1. A *backward look* to the Cross: what Christ has done (1 Co 11:26a)
2. An *inward look* to my Conscience: what I have done (v28)
3. A *forward look* to His Coming and crown: what He will do one day (v26b)

I read in v 28 that **I “ought to examine myself”**. God says: “**Examine your MOTIVES, test your heart...**” (MSG). For instance:

What are my motives for wearing a certain blouse or shirt, or shoes?

What are my motives for gelling my hair or for leaving it “open”?

What are my motives for sending a certain sms or e-mail?

What are my motives for wearing a ring, or necklace, or earrings?

What are my motives for wanting to talk to a certain boy or girl?

What are my motives for going to the youth meeting?

What are my motives for painting my lips or eyelids or nails or bike?

Even if I do something that’s not wrong, if my motive is wrong (selfish or self-centered or sinful) then what’s right is WRONG...!!

Pray “OH LORD, PLEASE SHOW ME MY HEART, SHOW ME MY MOTIVES, EXAMINE AND TEST MY HEART AND MY WAYS, AND LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING...”

Go + Do what is God’s will only, and what is pleasing to Him.

2 September: Know God!

Pray “Lord, I want to know You and love You with all my heart.”

Read Proverbs 1,2 and 1 Corinthians 12

Think + write God says to me: “My son (my daughter) if sinners entice you, do NOT give in to them” (Pro 1:10), “...DON’T give them a second look; DON’T listen to them for a minute” (MSG). From this I learn that.....

In Proverbs 1 I learn about the knowledge of God. The most important thing in life is to know “the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom [He has] sent” (John 17:3). This is eternal life—to know God! Proverbs 1:7 mentions...

1. The Beginning of knowledge: “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*” “The fear of the Lord is to HATE evil” (Pro 8:13). The moment I choose to hate evil and love God, I’ll turn away from my sins, repent and begin to know God... Furthermore, “In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence” or FAITH (Pro 14:26;KJV). When I turn away from my sins (choosing to hate them) and put my trust in the Lord Jesus, I start to know God and to know eternal life (See Acts 20:21; John 17:3). Hallelujah!
2. The Barrier to knowledge: “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7b). An unrepentant mind and unbelieving heart is a barrier to knowing God...

Proverbs 2 teaches me that “the Lord gives wisdom” (v6). Worldly wisdom is “earthly, sensual, [and] demonic”, whereas heavenly wisdom “is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy” (James 3:15,17). God’s wisdom is a Gift to be Possessed (2:6) & a Goal to be Pursued...

According to 1 Co 12:27 I see that ***I am part of the body of Christ***. This is wonderful and amazing. I am not insignificant, I am not worthless, I am part of Him and He “has carefully placed each part of the body right where He wanted it” (v18;MSG)... Thank You, Lord!

Pray “*Father, I choose to hate evil and love You; I choose to trust You and not my feelings or thoughts; I choose Your wisdom and NOT the worldly wisdom, which is wicked and leads to wickedness!*”

Go + Do ask, seek & receive God’s Wisdom (Pro 2:1-6)

3 September: Trust in the Lord

Pray *“Lord, I choose to trust You and love You all my days.”*

Read Proverbs 3,4 and 1 Corinthians 13

Think + write It is impossible for me to please God if I do not TRUST Him (Heb 11:6). To trust the Lord is (1) a response to a revelation of His love and power, as well as (2) a choice I make with my will, irrespective of feelings... God says to me: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight (He will direct your paths)” (Pro 3:5,6). When He says I must do, I must do! Just DO IT! Just trust Him! To TRUST in the Lord means:.....

.....

.....

.....

The word “trust” here literally means “to CLING to” Him!! That is how I want to live all my life... In the Amplified Bible “to trust” is translated as to “lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord”...

Proverbs 4 teaches me that if my life is going to please my heavenly Father, then I must accept discipline over my heart (v23), my lips (v24), my eyes (v25), and my feet (v26). God says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Pro 4:23); “Keep vigilant watch over your heart”!! (MSG). This means that.....

.....

.....

.....

The LOVE spoken about in 1 Corinthians 13 is “agape” love. I call it “CHOICE” love, NOT “feeling” love. “Feeling” love (or lust) wants something NOW, while Godly love (true love) can WAIT. “Feeling” love gives you palpitations, but not purity. Godly love “doesn’t want what it doesn’t have” (v4;MSG); godly love is not “give-me” love; it’s not selfish; it’s not hungry, but holy; ...it’s pure. “Love” that comes from the flesh, from what I see or feel, is lust. Love that comes from God, from His Spirit in me, is agape love. No other “love” can be trusted... No other “love” can fulfill or glorify God.

Pray *“Oh Lord, fill me with Your love, Your holy love, Your love that has NO darkness in it—for Your Name’s sake. Amen.”*

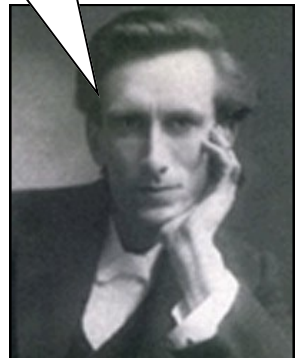
Go + Do trust God and love Him, practically.

“GUARD your heart...”

Proverbs 4:23

“KEEP
the center of your heart
for Jesus Christ
and watch
inordinate affection
as you would the devil...”

Oswald Chambers



4 September: Emotional Adultery

Pray “Lord, please keep me true to You.”

Read Proverbs 5, 6 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-20

Think + write According to Proverbs 2,5&6 there are women (and men) who are adulterers, they are like open graves, like lustful leeches, like seductive snakes... , like bold beasts... The Bible says:

- their speech is smooth (5:3; 7:21),
- their paths are not straight (5:6),
- their eyes try to captivate you (6:25),
- they have “eyes full of adultery” (2 Peter 2:14)
- their feet never stay at home (7:11), they are restless and roaming,
- their way of dressing is with crafty intent (7:10), they are “*dressed to seduce*” (MSG),
- they are loud and defiant (7:11),
- they lurk at the corners... (7:12), “loitering at the moll” (MSG),
- they also speak “soft words” (5:3;MSG)
- they ignore the covenant they made before God (2:17)

To avoid falling in this subtle Satanic trap, I need to:

- Fear God (1:7) and get Wisdom (2:12)
- Listen carefully to God’s words (4:20) & guard it in my heart (4:21)
- Guard my heart (4:23)
- Let my eyes look straight ahead (4:25) - this is very important!
- Keep...FAR from him or her (5:8)... “*Keep your distance...*” (MSG)
- Do NOT let your heart turn to his/her ways (7:25)
- “Don’t fool around with a (man or a) woman like that” (7:25;MSG)

The main lesson for me is:.....

.....

.....Apart from Physical adultery (or fornication), there’s also the sad, sick reality of Emotional adultery (or fornication) which takes place when I share intimate emotions (which were meant to be shared with my husband/wife only) with someone that I am not married to... Emotional adultery (or fornication) often leads to physical adultery (or fornication).

Spiritual adultery takes place when a person.....

.....

.....(See James 4:4)

Pray “Father, fill me with Your holy HATRED for sin!”

Go + Do what is needed to “STAY AWAY” from sin.

5 September: Obey God, not my feelings!

Pray “Lord, please speak to me and show Yourself to me”

Read Proverbs 7,8 and 1 Corinthians 14:21-40

Think + write God says: “My son (my daughter), KEEP my words” (Pro 7:1) - **OBEY** my words. This command is written in a portion preceded and followed by descriptions of immoral living. This means that in the midst of a sex-mad, sinful society we are told to OBEY God. It does not matter how we feel, or what desires may come up in our thoughts or feelings or bodies, irrespective of whatever, WE MUST OBEY GOD! This is how we show our LOVE to God (John 14:15). It means it is possible to obey God, irrespective of how we feel. Just obey God!

- If He says “Flee!”, then flee...
- If He says “Guard!”, then guard...
- If He says “Stay away!”, then stay away...
- If He says “Do not let your heart turn to (him) her” (7:25), then do NOT let your heart turn to him/her...
- If He says “Seek Me!”, then seek Him...
- If He says “Love Me!”, then love Him...

I know I need to obey in the following area/ matter in my life:.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

The Bible says that the **FEAR OF THE LORD**...

- ✓ Is the beginning of knowledge (1:7)
- ✓ Is to hate evil (8:13)
- ✓ Is the beginning of wisdom (9:10)
- ✓ Is a help for men and women to depart from evil (16:6)
- ✓ Is a fountain of life (14:27)
- ✓ Is to be chosen (1:29;KJV)

To fear the Lord means.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

Pray “Father, I choose to fear You and love You and obey You.”

Go + Do what He told me to do...

6 September: Discipline or Death...

Pray “Lord, I don’t want to be a ‘Mr Folly’ or a ‘Ms Folly’ ...!”

Read Proverbs 9,10 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-32

Think + write I read in Proverbs 9 that Ms Folly (or Mr Folly) says: “Steal off with me, I’ll show you a good time! No one will ever know—I’ll give you the time of your life” (Pro 9:17;MSG) ...We’ll have a “good time”....., we’ll “enjoy”.....“but they don’t know ...that all her/his guests end up in HELL”!!! (v18). To choose sin, even if it tastes “sweet”, is madness!! The wages of sin is always DEATH; the soul that sins shall DIE... (Rom 6:23) - that is what GOD says. From this I learn that.....

.....

.....

Paul reminds me in 1 Corinthians 15 of the Gospel (the Good News) he preached. He says that this is the Good News: “Christ died for our sins...” (v3). Because He died for my sins, I don’t have to die for it any more—provided I repent of all my sins and believe in Him. This is Good news for Bad people!

God says: “The road to life is a disciplined life; ignore correction and you’re lost for good” (Pro 10:17;MSG). Discipline and diligence go together (10:4). A disciplined life, which is a road to life is characterized by the following:

1.
2.
3.
4.

The specific things in my life in which I need to discipline myself are:

.....

.....

I read in Proverbs 10:18 that “whoever spreads slander is a fool.” (See the next two pages in this booklet please). The Bible also says that if you try to correct an arrogant sinner, he’ll either slap you in the face or kick you in the shins, but... “If you correct those who care about life... they’ll love you for it!” (Pro 9:9)

Pray “Father, may I care enough to be corrected & disciplined...”

Go + Do what is disciplined in God’s eyes.

SLANDER IS SIN

- "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour." Exodus 20:15
- "Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness." Exodus 23:1
- "The first to present his case seems right until another comes forward and questions him." Proverbs 18:17
- "A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends." Proverbs 16:28
- "Do not ...use your lips to deceive." Proverbs 24:28
- "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish." Proverbs 19:9
- "Whoever slanders his neighbour in secret, him will I put to silence ..." Psalms 101:5
- "He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool." Proverbs 10:18
- "**Get rid of all** bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and **slander**, along with every form of malice." Ephesians 4:31
- "Remind the people to ... **slander no one**, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men." Tit 3: 1-2
- "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire and is itself set on fire by hell." James 3:6
- "Therefore **rid yourselves of** all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and **slander of every kind**." 1 Peter 2:1
- "One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offence he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the Lord before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. The judges must make a thorough investigation and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, you must purge the evil from among you. The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you." Deuteronomy 19: 15-20
- "*Character Assassins*" is an excellent book, which deals with this **sin of slander**.



SLANDER

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so where there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth.
The words of a tale-bearer are as wounds.—PROVERBS xxvi. 20, 22.

*“Bad company
corrupts
good character”*

1 Corinthians 15:33

*“A righteous man
is
cautious
in friendship”*

Proverbs 12:26

7 September: **Bad company is never good!**

Pray “Lord, please help me *NOT* to be misled...”

Read Proverbs 11,12 and 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

Think + write The living, loving God of the universe says: “Do not be misled: ‘**Bad company corrupts good character.**’ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning...” (1 Co 15:33) “Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character” (Ampl). From this I learn that:.....

.....
.....
.....
When I spend time in someone’s company who does not love God with all their heart, after a while I start to speak like that person, think like that person, feel like that person and behave like that person... In the light of this truth from God’s heart, I need to take the following action-steps to prevent this contamination:

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....See 2 Tim 3:5

God says: “**A righteous man is cautious in friendship**” (Pro 12:26)

I read in 1 Co 15:57-58 that if I

Stand firm... Let nothing move me...

Always give myself fully to the Lord’s work...

Thank God...

...**HE gives ME the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ;

Then I’ll be able to win souls. The Bible says: He who wins souls is wise” (Pro 11:30), or “He that is wise wins souls”... **To win souls it’ll be wise to do the following:**

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

“Heaviness” (Pro 12:25;KJV) or **discouragement** is a demonic device! Whenever I feel discouraged I need to

.....See Psalm 42

Pray “Lord, I love You; I choose to not be drawn to bad company.”

Go + Do what God says: “Stay away” from bad company! 2 Tim 3

8 September: Love God... don't backslide!

Pray “Lord, please show me my heart...”

Read Proverbs 13,14 and 1 Corinthians 16

Think + write I read in Pro 14:14 (KJV): “The backslider in heart will be filled with his (or her) own ways...” Anything less than moment-by-moment loving dependence on the Lord Jesus is backsliding. Dr Stephen Olford explains that:

- ♦ The Point of Spiritual Departure starts with an unguarded heart. I need to guard my heart with (1) the Word of the Father (Ps 119:11), (2) the Life of the Savior within me (Eph 3:17), and (3) the Strength of the Spirit in my inner man (Eph 3:16).
- ♦ The Process of Spiritual Decline starts when I start to follow my “own ways” (v14; Is 53:6), my own thoughts, my own feelings.... “Foolish children do their own thing” (Pro 13:1;MSG). Remember, “*There is a way that looks harmless (that seems right), but in the end it leads to DEATH (it leads straight to HELL)*”!! (Pro 14:12). Backsliding starts in the heart, long before external, gross sins are committed... **I need to therefore guard my heart and keep it in love with the Lord Jesus!!**

I can know that I have backslidden if I find that:

I have lost my first love for the Lord Jesus

I do not love to read the Bible any more

I neglect to spend time in prayer with God

I start to love the world again (or things of the world)

I start to listen to worldly music again (even “Christian” rock)

I become impatient, critical or angry more easily

I am hungry for worldly amusements

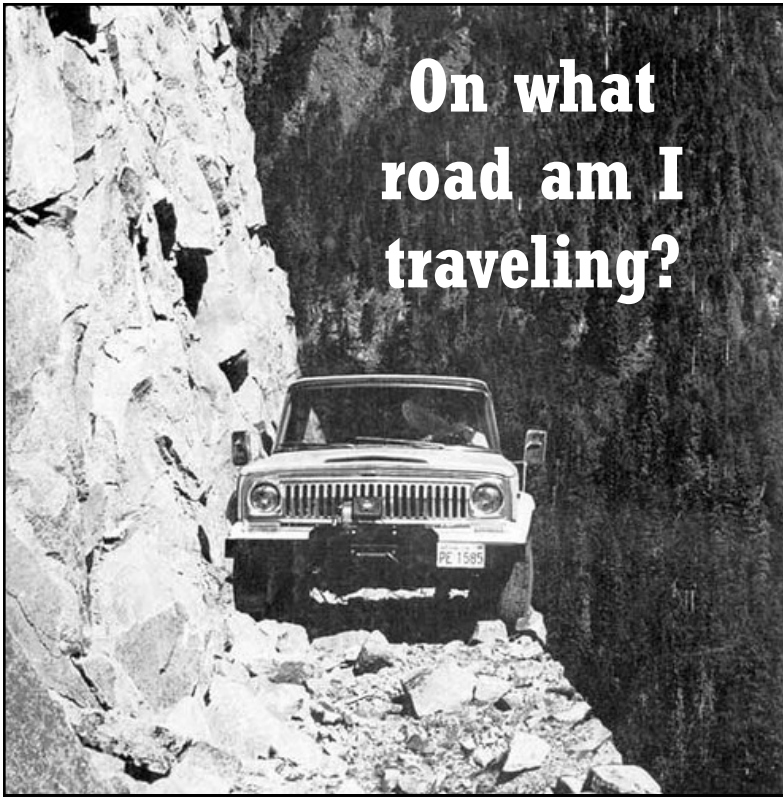
I do not lead people to Christ any more...

I start to do some of my “old sins” again...

I avoid my spiritual counselor or pastor...

- ♦ The Power of Spiritual Deliverance and restoration comes from the goodness of God (Rom 2:4) that leads me to DAILY repentance, DAILY dependence and DAILY obedience. Charles Finney said: “Come, then, to Christ at once, like a guilty, condemned sinner, as you are;...and take all the shame and blame to yourself, and believe that notwithstanding all your wanderings from God, He loves you still—that He has loved you with an everlasting love, and, therefore, with loving-kindness is drawing you” ...now.

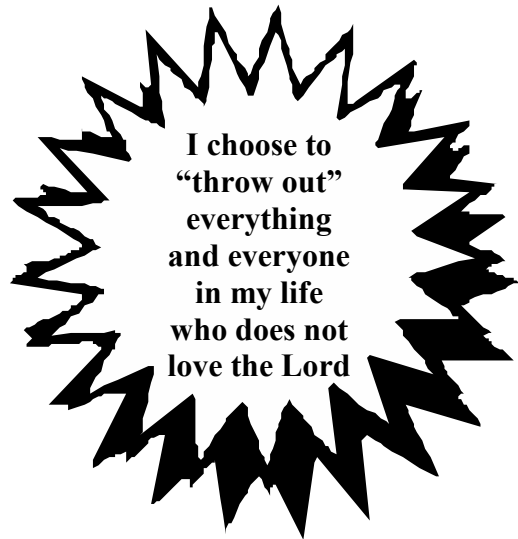
Pray “Lord, I come back to You NOW...” **Go + Do** my 1st works



*“There is a way that
seems right to a person,
but eventually it ends
in death” (GW)*

*“You may think you are
on the right road
and still end up dead” (CEV)*

“If anyone
won’t *love the Master*,
throw him (or her) out.
Make room for the Master!
Our Master Jesus has
His arms wide open
for you.”



God says:
“If anyone
does not *love the Lord*
- a curse be on him (or her).
Come, O Lord!”

1 Corinthians 16:22
MSG & NIV

I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** Jesus I
I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** Jesus I choose Jesus I
choose **Jesus** I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose
Jesus I **choose** Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose
Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose Jesus I
I choose Jesus I choose Jesus I **choose** **Jesus** I choose

**Oh Lord, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I surrender myself to You. I give myself to You to pray. I shall pray. Please teach me and help me to pray - for Your Name's sake.
Amen.**



The Privilege and Priority of Prayer

9 September: “Yes!” for Jesus

Pray “Lord, please put Your ‘Yes’ in me!”

Read Proverbs 15,16 and 2 Corinthians 1

Think + write I learn from 2 Co 1:18-22 that all of God’s promises are made “Yes” in Christ. Christ makes all God’s promises become true (in me). He is God’s “Yes”. Furthermore, God puts “his Yes within us” (v21;MSG), and then “God’s Yes and our Yes together” (v20;MSG)... Two main lessons come from this:

✠ When God promises something, Jesus says: “YES! I’ll make it come true!” This is wonderful news to me. God promised me victory, purity, peace, fruitfulness, eternal life, freedom from sins... and Jesus says: “Yes! I’ll make it come true!”

✠ When God tells me to do something or leave something, I say: “YES! I’ll do it Lord, with Your help!” When He tells me to leave a certain relationship, or a song, or a CD, or a dress, or a sin, or a feeling, or a plan... I say: “YES! I’ll do it Lord, with Your help!”

May I always say “Yes!” to Jesus and “No!” to the devil, “No!” to temptations, “No!” to sins, “No!” to pride, “No!” to passions, “No!” to thoughts and feelings that are NOT from God....

The things I need to say “YES!” to God to in my life now are the following:

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

The things I need to say “NO!” to in my life now, are the following:

- ☒
- ☒
- ☒
- ☒

God says “He hears the prayer of the righteous” (Pro 15:29) and “the prayer of the upright pleases Him” (15:8). This shows a wonderful Promise about prayer (that God hears prayer...), as well as the wonderful Privilege of prayer (to please the Lord through it...). I say “Yes!” to learning to pray better, and “No!” to laziness in prayer.

Pray “Father, please help me to always say ‘YES!’ to You and “NO!’ to my flesh and to sin and to Satan...”

Go + Do it!

10 September: Godly friends

Pray “Lord, may Your friends be my friends...”

Read Proverbs 17,18 and 2 Corinthians 2

Think + write God says: “There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother” (Pro 18:24). True friendship is to be Found and Formed only in Christ. False friendship can take a person to hell... True, godly friendship is characterized by:

-
-
-
-

False friendship is any friendship where:

- ⊗ The “friend” is not truly in Christ
- ⊗ The “friend” is NOT a friend of Jesus
- ⊗ The “friend” does not love God out of a pure heart
- ⊗ The “friend” loves worldly things more than the things of God
- ⊗ The “friend” does not agree fully with you about being all-out for Jesus and on fire for Him...
- ⊗ The “friend” draws you to himself (or herself), NOT to God!!!
- ⊗ The “friend” does NOT make you love God more
- ⊗ The “friend” does NOT make you hate sin more

Any such friendship is from hell!! STAY AWAY in Jesus Name!!

I read in 2 Co 2:11 - “We don’t want to ...give Satan an opening”, “for we are not unaware of his schemes...” (MSG;NIV). One of the schemes of Satan is to give me feelings or thoughts of “affection” or “attraction” for a person who is NOT godly and pure and in love with Jesus. I must Recognize it, choose to reject it and Reject it continually, Rebuke it in Jesus’ Name, then Ignore it... and Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. HE is the Author and Finisher of my faith. In this way I will NOT give Satan an opening. To further make sure that I do NOT give the devil any opportunity or opening in my friendships, I need to.....

.....
The Lord Jesus is the Best Friend!!

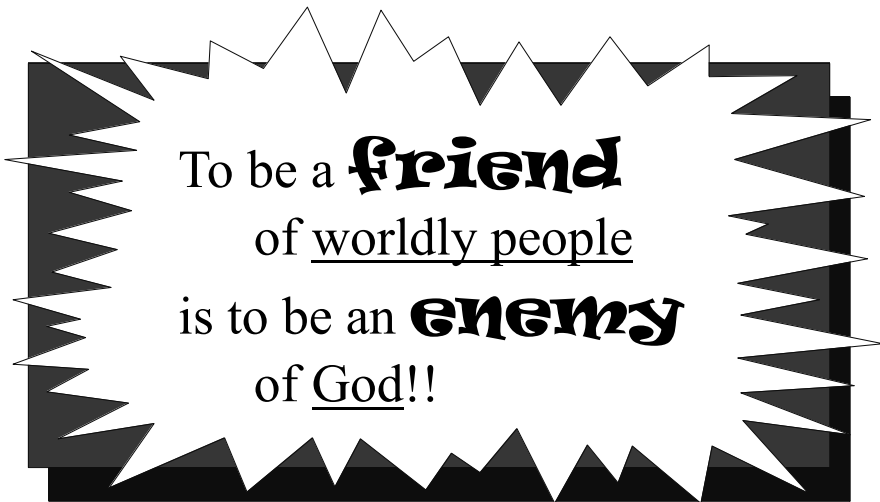
Pray “Lord Jesus, please be my Best Friend, always!”

Go + Do what is needed to have God’s friends only as my friends.



***“The friendship of the world is
enmity with God” James 4:4***

The word “world” here means
“worldly people”



To be a **friend**
of worldly people
is to be an **enemy**
of God!!

*Please remember that if we love the world
the love for the Father is NOT in us.*

1 John 2:15

11 September: I am a letter to God

Pray “Lord, please let there not be one letter in my life-letter that is not from You.”

Read Proverbs 19,20 and 2 Corinthians 3

Think + write I see in 2 Co 3:2-4 that **I am a letter...**

- ☐ I am read by everybody (v2), by them just looking at me (MSG)
- ☐ I am a letter from Christ (v3)
- ☐ I am a letter written by the Spirit of God (v3)
- ☐ I am a letter written for God (v4;MSG)

When people look at me and read the letter of my life, what do they see? What do they “read”? Do they clearly see that I am FOR GOD? May they not find anything in my life-letter that does not glorify God. May they see and read Jesus in me.

I further see that I should be an OPEN letter, not a closed, secretive letter—I should learn to walk without a mask, without a veil with which I hide the truth about my life...(2 Co 3:12-18). After Moses met with God on the mountain, his face shone with God’s glory. He then put a veil in front of his face “so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor” (v13;RSV). *He was hiding behind a mask!* There is a danger that I too may try to hide behind a mask of godliness or friendliness or religion. *When I hide something in my life, or pretend to be what I am not, then I wear a mask.* Some of the reasons why people wear masks are:

1.
2.
3.

In my own life I need to deal with the following masks and reasons:....

Pray “Lord, I want to be open and broken, with no masks in my life. I want to hide NOTHING in my life. I turn to You Lord, because You said that whenever anyone turns to You, the mask (the veil) is taken away! (v16). I choose to live with nothing between me and You. I read in 2 Co 3:18 (MSG): ‘Nothing between us and God, ...our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.’ May it be so, to Your glory. Amen.”

Go + Do love God, live in the open & reflect Him.

I'm keeping a personal diary



Adapted from “*Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*” by Donald S. Whitney.

Why?

1. It helps me to meditate/think on God’s Word.
2. It helps me to understand and evaluate myself and others and what happens in life better.
3. It helps me to express my thoughts and feelings to God.
4. It helps me to remember God’s words (from my Time Alone with Him or from sermons), works & dealings with me (Ps 77:11-12).
5. It helps in creating and preserving a spiritual heritage (Ps 102:18) and to raise up a “monument of God’s faithfulness” in my life.
6. It helps in clarifying and articulating insights and impressions and prayers (in writing).
7. It helps in monitoring goals and priorities and books read.
8. It helps to order and maintain the other spiritual disciplines (for godliness - 1 Tim 4:7) in my life.

How?

- Use a small notebook or a diary with dates for every day
- Keep it with your Bible
- Try to write every day (with a fountain pen if possible)
- Write at least one sentence a day
- Persevere in the Discipline of thinking and writing ***what happens to me and what I learn***.... to God’s glory.

12 September: Wake up & Get up!

Pray “Lord, thank You that everything I need is found in You”

Read Proverbs 21,22 and 2 Corinthians 4

Think + write The Bible says: “What a man (or a woman) desires is unfailing love” (Pro 19:22). Such love can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. God says: “Everything you need is to be found in ME” (Hosea 14:8;MSG), this includes unfailing love. From this I learn that I should never look for it from any person, but from the Lord Jesus alone...!

I also read: “Do not love sleep” (Pro 20:13)...“Wake up and get up”! (MSG). Some people have a great difficulty to wake up, while others wake up, but they do not get up... This is a problem. As a result of this it may happen many times that time alone with God is neglected and the person becomes vulnerable to temptations and they backslide. This is terrible and sad! The things that will help me so that I will not fall in this trap of Satan, are the following:

1.
2.
3.
4.

In 2 Co 4 Paul mentions how he went through hardships and difficulties and troubles:

- ♦ “We do NOT loose heart” (v1); “We do NOT loose heart” (v16)
- ♦ “We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen” (v18) - on the Lord Jesus Himself (Heb 12:2)
- ♦ “So we’re NOT giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace” (v16;MSG)

Another key to the victory they experienced is in 1 Co 4:2. Paul says: “We have renounced secret and shameful ways...”(NIV). “We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires ...the methods and arts that men hide through shame)” (Ampl). To me this means that I should always.....

Pray “Father-God, I renounce all feelings that are NOT from You”

TOP TIPS

To wake up and get up ...for Jesus



“He wakens me morning by morning...”(Ampl) “He wakes me up in the morning. Wakes me up, opens my ears to listen The Master, GOD, opened my ears, and I didn't go back to sleep, didn't pull the covers back over my head....”!!!
(Isaiah 50:4,5;MSG)

- ♦ Go to bed earlier
- ♦ At a specific time
- ♦ Get enough sleep
- ♦ Pray to God to wake me up
- ♦ Use a good alarm
- ♦ At a distance from bed
- ♦ Set reasonable wake-up time
- ♦ Get UP immediately !
- ♦ Get OUT of bed
- ♦ Wash my face
- ♦ Sit & read & pray & write

13 September: “Give Me your heart”!

Pray “Lord, may You alone have my heart!!!!”

Read Proverbs 23,24 and 2 Corinthians 5

Think + write God says, “My son (my daughter), give Me your heart...”(Pro 23:26). My “heart” refers to the core of my whole being, the centre of my will, my true “me”. It may also refer to my affections, my feelings, my love. Have I given my “heart” to anything or anyone? Is there anything or anyone who has won my “heart”, who has my will? Comment:.....

.....That’s why God says to me TODAY: “.....(my name):

- ✦ Give **ME** your heart! I need to give my heart to HIM ONLY!!!
- ✦ Give Me your **HEART**! I need to give my WILL, my LOVE, my affections, my “me”...to Him!
- ✦ **GIVE** Me your heart! I need to **GIVE** it, I need to **MAKE THE CHOICE TO GIVE IT**! I **GIVE** my heart to God... I do NOT wait for some feeling... NO, I **GIVE** it **NOW**!

My response and prayer now is: “Lord,
.....Amen.”

AFTER I have given my heart to God, the devil will come back in full force or with great subtlety... to regain my “heart”. I need to be very WATCHFUL and to make WAR. John Bunyan’s book, “*Holy War*”, deals with this in a magnificent way. In Pro 24:6 I read that “for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers”. I accept this truth and will put it into practice.

Some of my favorite verses in the Bible are 2 Co 5:14&15—
”For Christ’s LOVE compels us (me), because we are (I am) convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but **FOR HIM**...” To live “not for self”, but “for Him” means:.....

Furthermore: “We make it our goal to please Him...” (2 Co 5:9)

Pray “Lord Jesus, my heart is Yours! I’ll live for You only... please help me by Your Holy Spirit. Amen” **Go + Do** it.



Heart Relationships

From SeekGod.org

General Guidelines for All Relationships

(Mark 12:30) 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

True love is a decision that begins with giving your heart to God. God desires that you love Him with all of your heart. We are only to give our whole heart to God, and NOT to any other person. (Proverbs 23:26 NKJV) **My son, give Me your heart.** And let your eyes observe My ways. The most important commandment given by God to us, is to "love the LORD your God with all your heart" We put God first in our lives by giving Him our heart; our mind and body will follow our heart. As we give God control of our heart His love will fill us and flow through our heart touching other people.

The most important relationship you will ever have is with God; it is an eternal and infinite relationship. The greatest love relationship in the universe is between God the Father, and His Son, Jesus the Christ. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, is what unifies the Father and Son; they share the same Spirit, making them One in each other.

For those who are in Christ Jesus, God also gives us the precious gift of His Holy Spirit, to be with us and in us forever. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, is what unifies us with God and with others who are part of Christ' body of believers. *(John 14:15-17 NIV) "If you love me, you will obey what I command. {16} And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- {17} the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

The quality of your relationship with God will directly affect the quality of all your relationships with people. Although life is short, the rewards of loving God, and of letting His love flow through you to other people has infinite benefits that will keep on blessing you, now and forever. The only thing that you can take to heaven with you is the

people that you love (provided they have repented—*my addition*). The only rewards that you have in heaven are for the times that you express love to God through obedience to Him, and the times that you allow Him to express His love for others through you. (*1 Corinthians 2:9*) *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

Our love for God increases as we get to know Him more and more. (*1 John 4:19*) *We love Him because He first loved us.* Jesus prayed for all believers in (*John 17:25-26 NIV*) *"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. {26} I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."* As the revelation of God's love for us increases through knowing God more intimately, so also our love for God increases. In each of our lives Jesus promises to continue to give us greater and greater revelations of God the Father, so that the same love that the Father has for Jesus will be in us, and that He may be in us.

Jesus in the Middle of Every Relationship

In every relationship that we have with other people our relationship with God must continue to be our most important priority. Jesus says in (*Matthew 10:37*) *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. When we keep our relationship with God as the most important relationship in our life then we will have supernatural wisdom on how to express true love to other people because the Spirit of Love, the Holy Spirit, will guide us."*

In every situation that we come together with another person, or a group of people we are to do so in Jesus name. (*Matthew 18:20*) *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the middle of them."* Every relationship should have the purpose of glorifying God. Jesus should always be in the middle of every relationship. In every relationship a good question to ask yourself is: does this relationship bring me closer to Jesus? Does this relationship bring the other person closer to Jesus?

The glory of God is the manifestation and revelation of His love. Jesus prayed to the Father for you to have unity in your relationships. (*John 17:22-23*) *"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: {23} "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. In a good relationship, with Jesus in the middle, each person is coming closer to Jesus becoming one with Him and thus one with each other. Many relationships go bad because people leave Jesus out of the relationship and give their heart to another person instead of God. This will always lead to disaster. **Whoever you give your heart to, is your God.** People do this out of ignorant selfishness, seeking to get their needs met through another person, which is impossible. Only God can give us the love, joy, and peace that we all are seeking. When you keep Jesus in the middle of the relationship, you will maintain your inner source of love, joy and peace, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...*

Relationships go bad because one or both people loose their focus on Jesus in the relationship. When this happens selfishness takes over, instead of caring about the benefit of God and the other person. (*James 4:1-3 NIV*) *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? {2} You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. {3} When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

The greatest relationships are when two people come together in the name of Jesus. In such a relationship both people have an inner source for love, joy, and peace so that they are both free to be givers to each other, because God is their source of happiness and not the other person. Jesus says in (*John 15:7-14*) *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. {8} "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. {9} "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. {10} "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. {11} "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. {12} "This is*

*My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. {13}
"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his
friends. {14} "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

Relationships with Friends and Other People

(Deuteronomy 13:6-8 NIV) If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods that neither you nor your fathers have known, {7} gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), {8} do not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity. Do not spare him or shield him.

(Proverbs 12:26 NIV) A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

(Proverbs 13:20 NIV) He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

(Proverbs 17:17 NIV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

(Proverbs 18:24 NIV) A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(Proverbs 22:11 NIV) He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

(Micah 7:5-7 NIV) Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with her who lies in your embrace be careful of your words. {6} For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- a man's enemies are the members of his own household. {7} But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

(Luke 21:16 NIV) You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

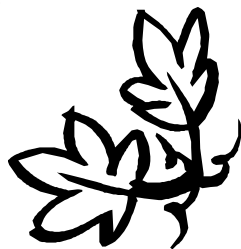
(John 15:10-14 NIV) If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. {11} I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. {12} My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. {13} Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. {14} You are my friends if you do what I command.

(Romans 12:9-18 NIV) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. {10} Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. {11} Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. {12} Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. {13} Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. {14} Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. {15} Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. {16} Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. {17} Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. {18} If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

(1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV) I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- {2} for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. {3} This is good, and pleases God our Savior, {4} who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

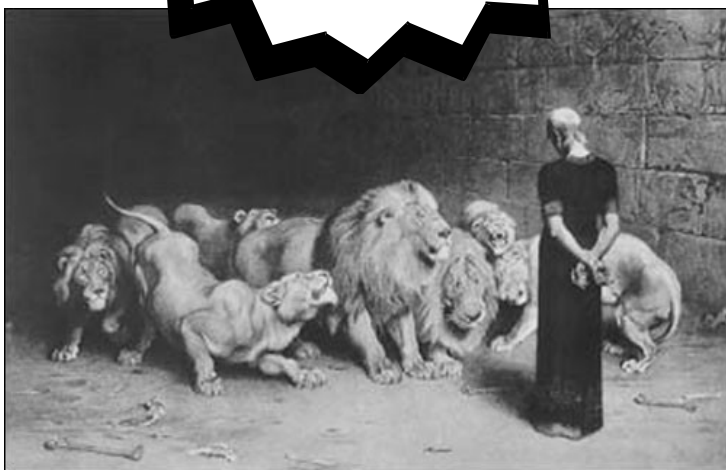
(Titus 3:1-2 NIV) Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, {2} to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

(James 2:23 NIV) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called **God's friend**.





*There's nothing
that can compare
with being a
"friend of God"...*



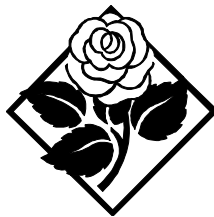
Jesus said: You are...

*My
Friends*

John 15:14

I am known by my friends...

I am known by the company I shun
and by the company I keep...



A friend...

- Always makes me do my BEST*
- Is ONE in thought, heart & spirit*
- LOVES at all times (Pro 17:17)*
- Gives FAITHFUL WOUNDS (Pro 27:6)*
- Always wants the BEST for me*

“Friendship to a soul undisciplined by LONELINESS is a precarious sea on which many have been lost, and on whose shores the wrecks of many human hearts lie rotting.” (Oswald Chambers)

*Whose friend am I ?
Who are my friends ?*

I need to *ask myself*:

- Am I “God’s friend” ? (James 2:23)
- Am I the world’s friend ? (James 4:4)
- Do I have bad friends ? (1 Co 15:33)
- Am I a friend of Jesus ? (John 15:14)

According to

the Word of God

Friendship is NOT emphasized.

*Friendship is the most important relationship to
THOSE IN THE WORLD (and not in Christ)*

God commands us to END our worldly friendships.

*In the church we replace friends with BROTHERS
and/or SISTERS in the Lord.*

The church emphasizes
the relationship of BROTHERS and SISTERS,
NOT the relationship of friends.

The following are **extracts from “Friendships”**, a chapter in the book *“Do All to the Glory of God”*, by Watchman Nee:

“One thing special about the Bible is that it does not say much about friendship among God's children. This does not mean that the word friend is never used in the Bible... But the friendship spoken of in the Bible primarily refers to friendship outside of Christ; the Bible does not say much about making friends with those who are in the Lord. ...**The Bible does not emphasize friendship but instead emphasizes our relationship as brothers and sisters. It emphasizes the relationship of the brothers and sisters in the Lord.** This is the basic and primary relationship. The Bible puts much more emphasis on this than on friendship.

What does friendship mean? An old man can be a friend to a young man. There can be friendship between husbands and wives. ... Being a friend to someone means loving and communicating with that one; this is the only relationship that counts in a friendship. ...**Friendship is an important relationship for a person who has not believed in the Lord Jesus.** Before a person accepts the Lord as Savior, he does not share any spiritual relationship in the Lord. This is why friendship is the most important relationship in the world to him. But among us, friendship is no longer the most important thing. Friendship is rarely mentioned in the New Testament. Our emphasis is on the relationship that exists between us as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Our relationship as friends in the Lord is much less significant. Friendship is not important among God's children.

Before we believe in the Lord, we do not have a spiritual relationship. We only have father and son, mother and daughter, teacher and student, and master and servant relationships. This is why **friendship is an important matter to those who have not believed in the Lord.** ... Man cannot be satisfied with family relationships alone. He cannot be satisfied with the teacher-student relationship or any other social relationship alone. Man needs friendship. Friendship is based on love, not on the blood relationship. Many of our human relationships are inherited from birth; only friendship is by personal choice. **This is why friendship is a most important matter to an unbeliever.** Everyone has friends. A person can have three, five, eight, or

ten friends. He can have dozens or hundreds of friends if he is sociable enough. He can enjoy companionship, love, and fellowship among these friends. Friendship indeed occupies an important place in an unbeliever's life.

If an unbeliever does not have any friends, he must not be a very likable person. He may be somewhat abnormal or have a sick personality; he may be very hard to get along with; or perhaps his untrustworthiness or peculiarities have discouraged others from making friends with him. Under normal circumstances, a man always has friends.

God, however, has ordained that we terminate our friendships after we have believed in the Lord Jesus.

...James spoke of friendship of the world (James 4:4). The world here means "worldly people." **"The friendship of the world is enmity with God."** Please remember that the love for the Father is not in us if we love the world (1 John 2:15). To be a friend of worldly people is to be an enemy of God.

A new believer must be very clear that as soon as he becomes a Christian, he has to replace all of his friends. If you have just accepted the Lord, you must replace your friends. This is the same as changing one's attire and everything else when one believes in the Lord. Friends also need to be changed. One has to have an entirely different set of friends. I know what I am talking about. A new believer will live a poor and shallow spiritual life if he does not change his friends. A person should terminate all of his old friendships as soon as he believes in the Lord. It is wonderful to note that **when God's love comes in, man's love departs.** When the Lord's life comes into us, the world can no longer be a friend to us.

But our Lord did not say that we have to hate the world in order to love God. This does not mean that we have to ignore the world or that we can no longer greet our friends on the street. Rather, it means that whoever befriends the world is at enmity with God. We do not have to treat the world as our enemy, but our deep friendship and our devotion to fellowship with it must be terminated. We may still love our friends, but now our goal should be to save them.

...A person becomes a friend by first becoming acquainted with another, then by loving him, and finally by socializing with him. If we continue such a relationship with our friends after we are saved, we are at enmity with God, and spontaneously we will not be able to go on in a proper way.

...I have seen many brothers and sisters who have been held down by their friends. They cannot be absolute to God's way; it is hard for them to be good Christians. An unbeliever's standard of morality and conduct will always be that of an unbeliever's. They may not drag you down, but they will surely not lift you up.

...Second Corinthians 6:14 says, **"Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers."** Many people think that this is a word for marriage. I agree that being dissimilarly yoked does imply marriage, but it also describes all other relationships between believers and unbelievers.

...Please remember that one contact with unbelievers and one improper communication with them will waste much time. This is a great loss.

...Psalm 1:1-2 says, "Blessed is the man/Who does not walk /In the counsel of the wicked,/Nor stand on the path of sinners,/Nor sit in the company of mockers./Rather his delight is in the law of Jehovah,/And in His law he meditates by day and by night."

Unbelievers have much counsel to offer. It is most pitiful for God's children to seek counsel from unbelievers when they have problems. Many children of God ask unbelievers what they should do when they encounter problems. Even when they give you counsel, you cannot do what they counsel you to do.

...They do not ask whether a matter is right or wrong or whether it is God's will. They have only one motive—personal profit. Can we do something that is purely for our own profit?

...If you become too intimate with an unbeliever, it will be hard for you to turn his counsel down. As a result, you will be carried away.

...A person must settle the matter of friendship during the first few weeks of his Christian life. He must change all his friends. You

must tell all your friends what has happened to you. You may still maintain some friendship with them, but this friendship cannot be intimate in any way. **You must change all your friends. You must learn to be a brother in the church and replace your former friends with brothers in the church.**

...Do not make friends or have friendship outside the circle of brothers. I can assure you that a believer with too many unbelieving friends will surely be a defeated Christian. Even if he does not sin, he will become worldly.

...By now you should see that friendship is something very special. It is a relationship which goes beyond social status. It is a relationship that is free from formality....I believe that **after a person has been in the Lord for a long time and has developed a deep relationship with Him**, he will find some brothers in the church to be his friends. He can go beyond the normal relationship.

...The matter of friendship occupies a very high place in the church. Some day, when we reach a high plane, we may become a friend to little children. We can be far above them, yet can honor them by calling them our friends. Before that day comes, **the church must emphasize the relationship of brothers and sisters, not the relationship of friends.**

It is interesting to note that the church pays attention to many things, but not friendship. This is because friendship is something that goes beyond the normal relationship. It is something that is beyond the ordinary, something that stands on special ground. Friendship is when a great man honors another man by being his friend. Such a man can be so great that he can call another person his friend. This is not something that any brother or sister can do. **Those who are young in the Lord should learn to maintain their relationship as brothers and sisters in the Lord. I hope that you will separate yourself from your former friends and have communication and fellowship with the brothers and sisters in the church instead. If you do this, it will save you from many problems as you go on in your spiritual journey.** *Jesus said: "You are my friends if you keep on doing the things which I command you to do."* John 15:14, Ampl.

14 September: Be an Un-muddied Message

Pray “Lord, please help me to communicate Your Message with my life and my lips, to Your glory and through Your Spirit.”

Read Proverbs 25-27 and 2 Corinthians 6

Think + write As a follower and lover of the Lord, I have a Message to communicate in this wicked world. I read in Proverbs 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver” (KJV). Dr Stephen Olford says this means that:

- ☺ *The Message must be **Verbalized***—I should tell others about the Lord, using appropriate words.
- ☺ *The Message must be **Vitalized***—the word “fitly” means “on wheels”, dynamic, moving... My communication of the Message should be dynamic and full of life, God’s Life, God’s Spirit...
- ☺ *The Message must be **Visualized***—what I communicate about the Lord should be “visible”, colorful, attractive, appealing, *and* with content; it should be “like apples of gold in settings of silver”... My LIFE should be like that too, through God.

I need God’s help so that this Message doesn’t get muddied. **God’s Message can get MUDDIED** in my life in the following ways:

1.
2.
3.
4. The Bible says, “A good person who gives in to a bad person is a muddied spring...” (Pro 25:26;MSG). *I learn that I should never give in to the influence or suggestions of a bad person!*
5. *“Don’t call attention to yourself”* (Pro 27:2;MSG)... by the way I speak, or behave, or dress, or make myself up, or pray, or whatever—this will muddy the Message of God’s love and purity. *“Your face mirrors your heart”* (Pro 27:19;MSG)... If I paint my face to draw attention to my eyes or my lips or whatever, it means I have a painted heart that wants attention. *This is mud in my Message...!*
6. When I go back to sins that I had confessed, when I repeat my folly, I am like a dog that goes back to his own vomit!! *“As a dog eats its own vomit, so fools recycle silliness” and sins* (Pro 26:11; MSG and 2 Peter 2:22). This muddies the Water of Life in me.

Pray “Father, please cleanse me from all mud & help me to keep clean and uncontaminated!”

Go + Do what is needed to BE clean and BE a message.

In 2 Co 6:17-7:1, God says to me:

**“I will be
a Father
to you”**

Thank You, Lord!!

He also says I must:

- ☺ **Come out** from darkness & from being with unbelievers (this includes “Christian” unbelievers who do not live the life of faith in God)... He says: “Leave the corruption and compromise...” (MSG)
- ☺ **Be separate** from them & from the world...
“DON’T link up with those who will pollute you...
I want you all for Myself” !!! (MSG)
- ☺ **Touch no unclean thing...**
- ☺ **Purify myself** from everything that contaminates body and spirit... “*Make a clean break...*”!

15 September: Confess and forsake

Pray “Lord, please speak to me again, in a fresh way.”

Read Proverbs 28,29 and 2 Corinthians 7

Think + write God says in Proverbs 28:13 that “He who covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy”. To me this means that.....

.....

.....In it I also see:

- ✠ The *Folly of Deceitfulness*: “He who covers his sin will not prosper”
- ✠ The *Duty of Disclosure*: “...but whoever confesses & forsakes them”
- ✠ The *Glory of Deliverance*: “...will have mercy”. There’s no mercy without confession of sins, and there’s no mercy without forsaking of sins. This is serious. This is true. This should not be forgotten.

When I confess my sins, my confession should be

- ◆ **FREE**, voluntary (Ps 32:5), willingly—a choice of my will
- ◆ **FULL** (2 Kings 10:24; Ps 119:104), not leaving out something
- ◆ **FRANK** ...candid, undisguised, sincere, truthful, to the point, not beating about the bush, just as it was or is - call a spade a spade.
- ◆ **FACTUAL** (Lev 5:5)
- ◆ **FROM THE FOUNTAIN, THE HEART** (Ps 51:17) ...
- ◆ **FRONT OF another Christian (to God)** (James 5:16; Jos 7:19)
- ◆ **FORSAKING SIN** (Pro 28:13) out of love to God & hatred for sin—it is a choice, ...trusting in God’s enabling grace & power!!
- ◆ **FAITH** in the blood of Christ, not in my confession (1 John 1; 1 Peter 1:18,19) or in my counselor
- ◆ **FREQUENT** (1 John 1:7-9), as frequent as is needed...
- ◆ **FATHER’S (parents’) sins** need to be confessed and broken away from as well (Neh 9:2).

I read in 2 Co 7:1, “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us PURIFY ourselves from EVERYTHING that contaminates body and spirit...” If I do NOT do this, God says, “A man (or a woman) whose ways are perverse and who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly fall and be destroyed—without remedy” (Pro 28:18 & 29:1 combined), “...by then it’ll be too late to help them” (MSG).

Pray “Father, my prayer is.....

.....

Go + Do what I’ve learned—NOW! Oh, help me, Lord!

*He who covers his sins
will not prosper,*



*but whoever confesses
and forsakes them
will have mercy.*

Proverbs 28:13

Every moment
of
RESISTANCE
to temptation
is a victory!

F.W. Faber



How to prevent a cell phone from taking me to HELL ?!

- ☛ **DON'T have a cell phone!** It is NOT essential to life... I CAN live without it... Just as I CAN live without a TV!
- ☛ **Oh, BEWARE!** Many, many young people are going to HELL through their cell phones. It can link them to people or to pictures or to sites that are ungodly, worldly, demonic...
- ☛ Jesus says: "If your right hand causes you to stumble (if your cell phone causes you to stumble...) **CUT IT OFF, CAST IT AWAY**" ..."you're better off maimed... than the proud owner of" the latest cell phone (Matt 18:8)
- ☛ **NEVER establish a cell phone relationship with someone of the opposite gender!** NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!
- ☛ Even **AVOID** "just" sending messages to (or speaking to) someone of the opposite gender via the cell phone. Since it is easily done in "secret", it quickly breeds darkness... and feeds deception.
- ☛ **BE ACCOUNTABLE** to someone (your parents or counselor)... Ask permission to phone; let them regularly "check" or /and use the phone you use, if you have one.
- ☛ **REMEMBER THE LORD** in everything you do!!!
- ☛ Always **CHOOSE HOLINESS and HIM!!!**

16 September: “Gimme”- Christians

Pray “Lord, please open my mind and heart to Your living truth”

Read Proverbs 30,31 and 2 Corinthians 8

Think + write Paul says: “For *we are taking pains to DO what is RIGHT*, not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of men” (2 Co 8:21). From this I learn that.....

.....

.....

“A leech has twin daughters named ‘*Gimme*’ and ‘*Gimme more*’”! (Pro 30:15;MSG); “... ‘Give! Give!’ they cry” (NIV). If I constantly say “*Gimme this...*” or “*Gimme that...*” or “*Gimme more...*”, I am a spiritual LEECH (a spiritual parasite) and not a spiritual son or daughter of God. From this I learn that.....

.....

.....

“Godly sorrow” (in 2 Co 7:10) means.....

.....

According to 2 Co 7:10-11 “Godly sorrow” brings:

- ✓ Repentance - “it turns us around”
- ✓ Salvation - “it gets us back in the way of salvation”
- ✓ No regrets - “we never regret that kind of pain”
- ✓ Earnestness - zeal, enthusiasm...
- ✓ Eagerness to clear yourself
- ✓ Indignation against sin - anger and hatred against sin!
- ✓ Alarm - ...wide-awake alertness and “fear” for sin & sinning
- ✓ Longing for God and holiness and heaven!
- ✓ Concern (and zeal) for Him and His, ...and for others to come to know Him
- ✓ Readiness to see justice done and to punish wrongdoing, or to let it be punished (*without excusing it or covering it up!!*)

When I apply these verses to my own life I can say that.....

.....

.....

Pray “Father, thank You for loving me enough to give me a ‘godly sorrow’ in my life. May I now live FOR YOU only!”

Go + Do what is right (2 Co 8:21)

17 September: Enjoy - only with Him!

Pray “Lord, everything without You is nothing!!!”

Read Ecclesiastes 1-3 and 2 Corinthians 9

Think + write While Psalms teaches me how to pray, and Proverbs teaches me how to act, Ecclesiastes teaches me how to enjoy. The main message is: **true enjoyment is only possible by being in a right relationship with GOD!!** It teaches me that:

- ◆ “Life not centered on God is purposeless and meaningless.
- ◆ Without Him, nothing else can satisfy (2:25).
- ◆ With Him, all of life and His other good gifts are to be gratefully received and used and enjoyed to the full (2:26;11:8)”.

As recorded in *The Message* translation of Ecclesiastes, **the “Questaer” tried the following:**

- “I said to myself, ‘Let’s go for it—experiment with pleasure, have a good time!’” (Eccl 2:1)
- “What do I think of the fun-filled life. Insane!”
- “Oh, I did great things: built houses, planted vineyards, designed gardens and parks ...then I acquired large herds and flocks” (v4,5)
- “I piled up silver and gold” (v8), I made money...
- “I gathered a chorus of singers to entertain me with song...” (v8)
- “I had many wives...”(v8;CEV)
- “**Everything I wanted I took--I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing...**”!!! (v10). How terrible!!!!

“Lord,
everything
without You
is nothing !!!”

He tried EVERYTHING the world has to offer... This is what many people want to do, they want to taste the world, they want to taste sins, they want what the world can offer them. They think: “If I can just have a boyfriend...; If I can just have a girlfriend...; If I can just go to the disco...; If I can just listen to the music of the world...; If I can smoke...; If I can drink...; If I can do whatever... - then I’ll be happy, I’ll be satisfied, I’ll be fulfilled...” THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST LIES FROM HELL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I read in Eccl 2:11, “Then I took a good look at everything I’d done (I surveyed all)... But when I looked, I saw nothing but smoke. Smoke and spitting into the wind. There was nothing to any of it. Nothing.” (v11). “Everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained...” (NIV).

Pray “O Lord.....

.....” **Go + Do** what is of God only.

18 September: My Mind...

Pray “Lord, my mind needs Your helmet of salvation every minute”

Read Ecclesiastes 4-6 and 2 Corinthians 10

Think + write I see in 2 Corinthians 10 that ***I am engaged in a huge WAR.*** Paul says:

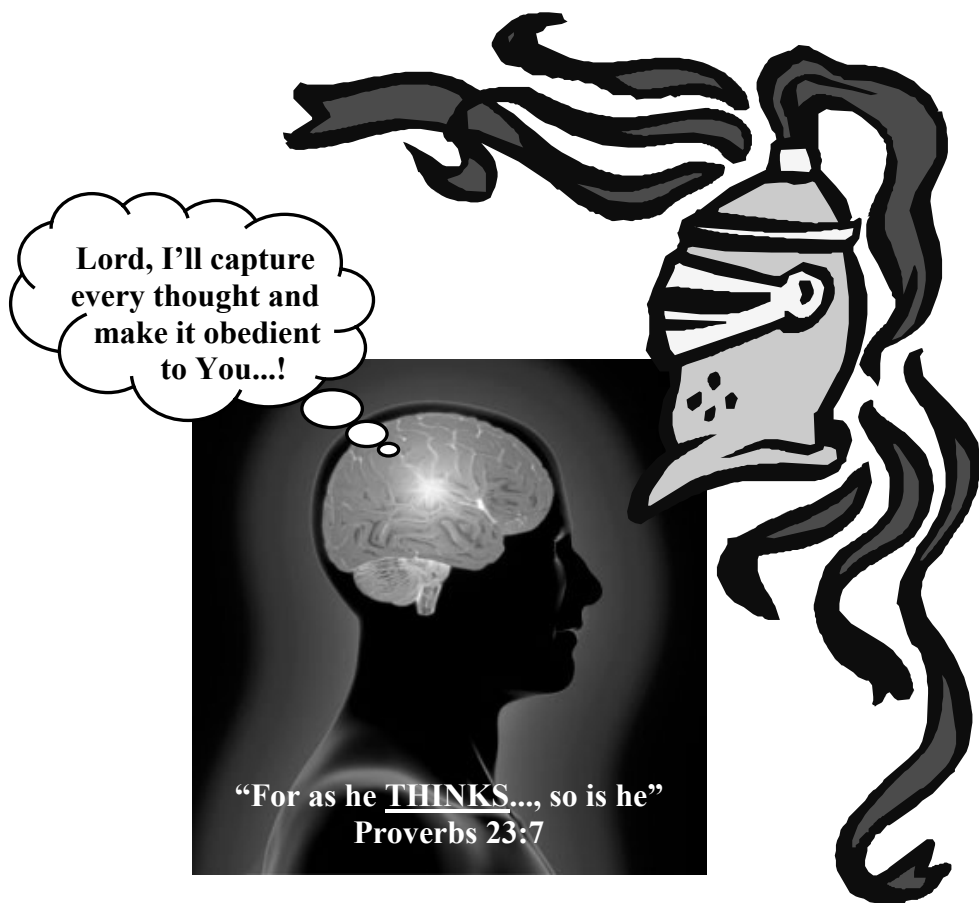
- † We **live** in the world (v3)
- † We **fight** with different weapons than the world (v4)
- † We **demolish** (*destroy*) strongholds (v4)
- † We **demolish** (*smash*) arguments (v5) and reasonings
- † We **demolish** (*tear down*) every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God (v5)
- † We fit “every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ” (v5;MSG)
- † We **take captive** every thought - bad *and* good thoughts...
- † We **make every thought obedient** to Christ (v5). ..

This shows me that **the Mind is the Main Battlefield**...!! Satan can suddenly or stealthily suggest (inject or plant) a thought or idea or imagination or picture or reasoning in my mind. It can be an evil, or negative, or even a seemingly good thought... Watchman Nee said that “All temptations are offered us in the form of thoughts”. If we do not realize it, recognize it, refuse it, reject it, resist it and ignore it, ... we’ll accept it as our own thoughts (or worse, as God’s thoughts), and give Satan a foothold in our mind – which may become a stronghold (or a strong *hold*). This is how **temptation** and **deception** start. I need to remember that **the mind is the main battlefield.** **SUGGESTION is the tool the devil uses!** To live in Victory, I must learn to wage and win this war in and for my mind, capturing every thought and making it obedient to Christ (2 Co.10:4-5). This is very important. It is a CHOICE I make, and make again, and make again, and make again... It is a choice I make with my WILL... The following are some examples of strongholds that can be established in my mind:

- ☹
☹
☹
☹
☹

Pray “Lord, please teach me to capture every thought...”

Go + Do it—daily, decisively and in dependence upon God.



My Mind is the Main Battlefield...

- ◆ I ask myself: *“What’s on my Mind?”*
- ◆ God tells me to THINK about those things that are **TRUE**, ...honest, ...right, ...**PURE**, ...lovely, ...of good report, ...noble, ...honorable — Philippians 4:8
- ◆ I learn that thinking is not just in the HEAD, but it’s actually in and from the **HEART!** “For as he thinks IN HIS HEART, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). When my heart is right, I’ll think right.
- ◆ I also need to remember that Satan and evil (deceiving) spirits may SUGGEST or INJECT thoughts into my mind... I need to recognize, refuse, resist, rebuke and REJECT them all!!



“How do evil spirits interfere with our lives?”

In the booklet *“Winning Spiritual Warfare”* Neil Anderson uses the following illustration to answer the question, **“How do evil spirits interfere with our lives?”** He says:

“Imagine that you are standing at one end of a long, narrow street lined on both sides with two-story row houses. At the other end of the street stands Jesus Christ, and your Christian life is the process of walking down that long street of maturity in Him. There is absolutely nothing in the street that can keep you from reaching Jesus. So, when you receive Christ, you fix your eyes on Him and start walking.”

“But since this world is still under the dominion of Satan, the row houses on either side of you are inhabited by beings who are committed to keeping you from your goal. They have no power or authority to block your path or even slow your step, so they hang out of the windows and call to you, hoping to turn your attention away from your goal and disrupt your progress.”

“One of the ways they will try to distract you is by calling out, ‘Hey, look over here! I’ve got something you really want. It tastes good, feels good, and is a lot more fun than your boring walk down the street. Come on in and take a look.’ That’s **temptation**, suggesting to your mind ways to serve yourself instead of God.”

“As you continue your walk toward Christ you will also have thoughts

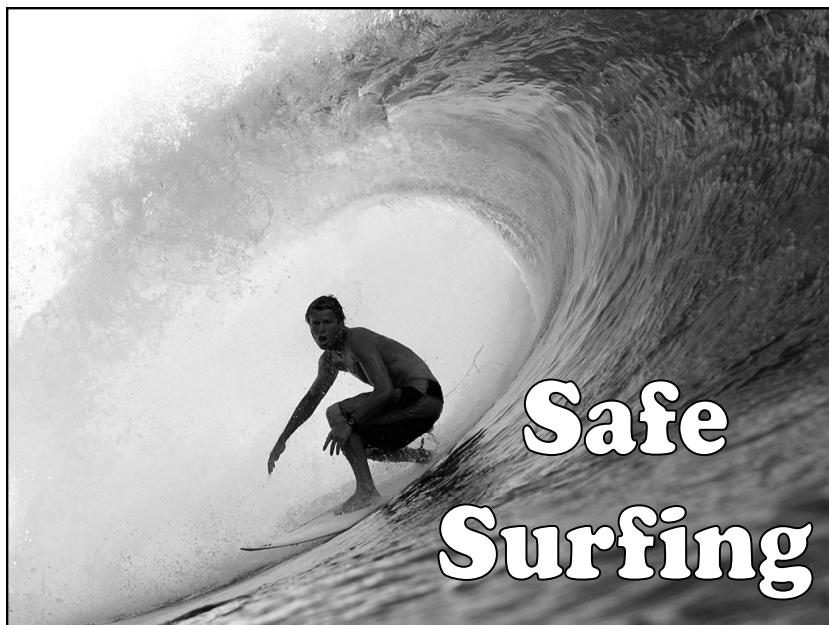
like ‘I’m stupid. I’m ugly. I’ll never amount to anything for God.’ Satan’s emissaries are masters at **accusation**, especially after they have distracted you through temptation. One minute they are saying, ‘Try this; there’s nothing wrong with it.’ Then, when you yield, they’re right there taunting, ‘See what you did! How can you call yourself a Christian when you behave like that?’ Accusation is one of Satan’s primary weapons in his attempt to distract you from your goal.”

“Other remarks that are hurled at you as you walk down the street sound like this: ‘You don’t need to go to church today. It’s not important to pray and read the Bible every day. Some of the New Age stuff isn’t so bad.’ That’s **deception**, and it is Satan’s most subtle and debilitating weapon. You will often hear these messages in first-person singular: ‘I don’t need to go to church today, pray, read my Bible,’ etc. Satan knows you will be more easily deceived if he can make you think the thought was yours instead of his.”

“What is the enemy’s goal in having his demons jeer you, taunt you, lure you, and question you from the windows and doorways along your path? He wants you to slow down, stop, sit down, and if possible, give up your journey toward Christ. He wants to influence you to doubt your ability to believe and serve God. Remember: He has absolutely no power or authority to keep you from steadily progressing in your walk toward Christ. And he can never again own you, because you have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and you are forever in Him (1 Peter 1:18,19). But if he can get you to listen to the thoughts he plants in your mind, he can influence you. And if you allow him to influence you long enough through temptation, accusation, and deception he can control you.”. This illustration is very important to remember. It helps me to understand the battle for my mind and soul.

The Mind is the Main Battlefield...





If a person can't surf safely, he or she may end up in HELL! I'm speaking about surfing the internet... There are a few very important **PREREQUISITES** for Safe Surfing (following the Lord's "standard"*):

- 💀 **Pray** before you go on the internet!!!
- 💀 Have a specific **purpose**. If God didn't lead me, if it's not of faith, if it's not for the glory of God, ...it's SIN!
- 💀 **Prevent** evil pictures to appear by using "safe search" or reliable parenting programs
- 💀 Avoid **unknown sites**
- 💀 Never join a "**chat room**"
- 💀 Never link with a person who's **not pure** in Christ
- 💀 Avoid linking with someone of the **opposite gender**
- 💀 NEVER look at any **pornographic picture** (even if it pops up unexpectedly) - NEVER look... , or use "Alt-Tab" if another window is open.
- 💀 Avoid "**Facebook**," "**MySpace**" and similar programs...
- 💀 **Guard** your heart & eyes & thoughts—all the time!
- 💀 Never go to **occult** sites/links
- 💀 Never go to sites that relate to **relationships or sex**
- 💀 Never engage in "**just surfing**"...
- 💀 Avoid surfing **alone**... Be with someone or in the presence of others... This is very important and helpful.

Remember...

There are
SHARKS in the
water!



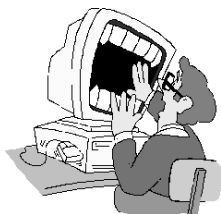
Beware!



There are
rough waves that
can cause you to
lose your
BALANCE,
in a
moment...



There are
sudden
**MONSTER
WAVES!**



...like sudden ***PORNO PICTURES***, etc.

God says:
“When the enemy shall come in like a **FLOOD**, the
Spirit of the Lord will lift up **a standard***
against him...” Isaiah 59:19

19 September: The Simplicity & Purity of Love & Devotion to the Lord Jesus

Pray “Lord, thank You for Your Word & thank You for Your love”

Read Ecclesiastes 7-9 and 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Think + write The devil always wants to complicate matters, confuse me, cripple me, close my eyes, clip my wings, and cast doubt on God. God, on the other hand, shows me the way to the life of simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. This is wonderful. I learn from reading 2 Co 11:1-4 that:

♥ **I am ENGAGED to Christ!** (v2). Paul says, “I have betrothed you to one Husband” (Ampl), “I promised you to one Husband, to Christ”(NIV), “I promised your hand in marriage to Christ”(MSG). Since I am engaged to the Lord Jesus, my life should.....

.....
.....
.....

♥ **My engagement is ENDANGERED** (v3,4) by the devil who’ll come as a snake (v3) or as an angel of the light (v 14!!)... to corrupt and seduce me (Ampl), to lead my mind astray (NIV), to lure me away from the simplicity and purity of devotion to the Lord Jesus (MSG)... I need to therefore be very watchful and guard my heart and my mind (my thoughts and my feelings...!)

♥ **I am ENABLED** through the Lord Jesus to simply Love Him, Listen to Him and Lean on Him, every day. As I surrender to Him and **CHOOSE** to die to the world and sinful desires ...and let Him live in me, Satan is NOT able to lure me away from the **simple purity of my love for Christ!** Praise the Lord!

The main lessons I learn through these verses are that.....

.....
.....
.....

Ecclesiastes 7:26 teaches me that the only way to escape from “the woman who is a snare”, or from the man who is a snare, is to LOVE THE LORD JESUS with my all. This is what is meant with the expression: **“the expulsive power of a new affection” for Him!**

Pray “Lord Jesus, I choose You with all my heart. I choose to love You with all my heart. I choose to lean on You & listen to You & live for You . Amen” **Go + Do** it!!

20 September: Dead flies...



Pray “Lord, please help me to see any dead flies in my life”

Read Ecclesiastes 10-12 and 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Think + write God says to me: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” (Eccl 9:10). “Each day is God’s gift... Make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily!” (9:9,10;MSG). Be diligent, be hardworking; do not be idle or lazy... See Eccl 10:18;11:4,6. Paul also said; “I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep...” (2 Co 11:27).

I read in Eccl 10:1 that “Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary (the pharmacist or the perfumer) to stink *and* ferment...”, “then it is spoiled” (GW). “Dead flies can make a whole bottle of perfume stink, and a little stupidity can cancel out the greatest wisdom” (GNB). I understand this to mean that.....

Some of the “dead flies” in my life are:

- ☹
- ☹
- ☹
- ☹

Satan is also called “Beelzebub” (Lu 11:15), which means “DUNG god” or “Lord of the FLIES...” Flies flourish where there’s a lack of personal or public hygiene - physically and spiritually. Neil Anderson said, “People’s lives are like houses. Suppose a family hasn’t taken the garbage out of their house for months, and they have spilled food and beverages without cleaning up. That will attract a lot of flies. To solve this problem, I don’t think it is necessary to study the flight patterns of the flies and determine their names and rank structure in the insect hierarchy. ...Similarly, to ‘focus on the flies’ in our lives is to allow the devil to set the agenda for us and to distract us from the real issue – which is to get rid of the garbage. Repentance and faith in God have been and will continue to be the answer in this present church age.” **God can remove the garbage & the flies!** (Ex 8:31).

Pray “Lord, I choose to get rid of all the flies in my life, as well as the garbage (the dirt) that attracted the flies to me. Please cleanse me and deliver me. Amen” **Go + Do** confess my sins.

21 September: God's Love Song

Pray “Lord, may I hear Your voice and see Your face...”

Read Song of Songs 1-3 and 2 Corinthians 12

Think + write As I concluded reading Ecclesiastes yesterday I saw that all can be summarized as follows: (1) Remember God in the days of your youth, (2) Fear God, (3) Obey God (12:1,13), “do what He tells you”, and (4) Most importantly: Life can be lived and enjoyed only when I have a relationship with God—without the Lord everything is nothing!!!! Those who turn their backs on this way will end up like the crowd Paul wrote about in 2 Co 12:21, “that *keeps sinning over and over in the same old ways*, who refuse to turn away from the pigsty of evil, sexual disorder, and indecency in which they wallow.” May we rather end up in God’s arms, enjoying life with Him!

The book “Song of Songs” is the greatest and best of all songs. It is a Love Song between the Christian and her Heavenly Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is also her Shepherd and King. This book teaches me that my relationship with the Lord Jesus is both Personal (as my Husband-Shepherd), as well as Public (as my Husband-King). While every word on this book has a message, let me ponder the following:

The loving Christian says to the Lord, her Beloved:

- ♥ “I love You so much” (1:7;MSG)
- ♥ “Take me away with You...” (1:4;NIV)
- ♥ “All I want is to sit in His shade, to taste... His love” (2:3;MSG)
- ♥ “Protect me from the foxes...” (2:15;MSG)
- ♥ “(He) is mine, and I am His...” (2:16;MSG)

CS Lewis wrote:

*“Let me seek You in longing,
let me long for You in seeking,
let me find You in love
and love You in finding.”*

The loving Lord says to His beloved, the Christian:

- ◆ You are like “a lotus blossoming in a swamp of weeds” (2:2;MSG)
- ◆ “Get up...come to Me!” (2:10;MSG), “Arise... come with Me”
- ◆ “Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice...” (2:14;MSG)

Pray (My response is:) “Lord,.....
.....
.....

Go + Do what He asked.

22 September: I need a Spiritual Checkup

Pray “Lord, please help me to test myself...”



Read Song of Songs 4,5 and 2 Corinthians 13

Think + write In 2 Co 13:5, God says to me: “Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need first-hand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. *If you fail the test, do something about it*” (MSG)... “Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves...” (Ampl). “Keep examining yourselves...” (ISV). I can and must do this on a regular basis. It means, practically, that I:

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

One of the things that I need to constantly test and evaluate and examine is my relationship with the Lord. I read in Song of Songs 3 about a situation where the Christian has lost fellowship (communion) with the Lord Jesus, her Shepherd-King. I need to ask myself: “*Have I lost fellowship with Jesus? Have I lost closeness with Him? Have I lost communion with Him? Have I lost my Love (Him)?*” My response is:

.....
.....
.....The love-relationship and communion with her Heavenly Husband, the Lord Jesus, was restored as follows:

- ♥ “I sought Him...” (3:1). Watchman Nee said, “As long as we remain in our bed (v1) we shall never find Him.” I need to get up out of bed and seek the Lord’s face daily. Dr Hudson Taylor said, “There is no time so profitably spent as the early hour given to Jesus only.” God says I’ll seek Him and find Him when I seek Him with all my heart (Jer 29:13).
- ♥ “I found Him...” (3:4). This is wonderful!
- ♥ “I held Him...” (3:4), “and would not let Him go”...!!!
- ♥ “I...brought Him...” (3:4) to others - so that they may also know Him and love Him above all...

Pray “Lord, thank You, I love You.” **Go + Do** show it, daily.

23 September: “He is altogether lovely”!

Pray “Lord, I am Yours and all that I have”

Read Song of Songs 6-8 and Galatians 1

Think + write The Lord describes His bride, the Christian, as “a garden locked up... a spring enclosed... a sealed fountain” (SoS 4:12). God says I am a garden, a spring, a fountain...; but note—locked up, enclosed, sealed...! To me this means that I am to be.....

.....

.....

I see the growth in love and devotion to the Lord in the changed sequence of the following statements:

♥ My Beloved is mine, ...and **I am His** (2:16)

♥ I am my Beloved’s, ...and He is mine (6:3)

In the early stages of following and loving the Lord, our love and service may be contaminated with selfishness... We emphasize that he is “mine”. But, as we grow in grace and in knowing and loving the Lord, we come to see that He is first and I am last. The first priority is not that He is mine, but rather that **I am HIS**... God says He made me, redeemed me, called me (Isaiah 43:1) ...and bought me (1 Co 6:20;7:23). **I am HIS**. Since I am HIS, it means that

- My body is **HIS** - I cannot do with it what I want, I cannot sin with it as I feel, I cannot pierce or paint it as I like, I cannot dress and decorate it as I choose, NO, it is His, HE is the One to decide and to guide...
- My present and future is **HIS**
- My will is now **HIS**
- My desires and hopes and plans and dreams are now **HIS**
- My all (spirit, soul and body) are now **HIS**

What a privilege to be HIS! There is no one like Him! I read in SoS 5:16 that “**He is altogether lovely**”! There is nothing in Him that is not lovely! His character is lovely; His speech is lovely; His attitude is lovely; His deeds are lovely; His thoughts are lovely; His judgments are lovely; His life is lovely; His love is lovely; His holiness is lovely; He is altogether lovely!!! To choose any sinful man or woman in His place, is madness—it’s to choose a Barabbas or a Judas...

Pray “Lord Jesus, I choose You with all my heart, every day!”

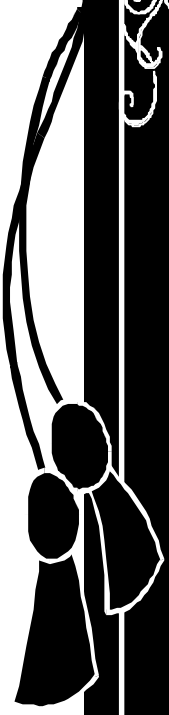
Go + Do show your love for Him.

I am

His

only!

always!



“Higher than the highest heaven,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord Thy love at last hath conquered;
Grant me now my soul’s petition -
None of self and all of Thee.”

Theodore Monod

“Thou with Thy love hast found me!
O do not let me go!
Keep me where Thou hast bound me
Till one with Thee I grow.
My brothers yet will waken,
One look to heaven will dart—
Then sink down, love-o’ertaken,
And fall upon Thy heart.”

Novalis /George MacDonald

“And I claved to Him as He turned His face
From the land that was mine no longer;
The land I had loved in the ancient days
Ere I knew the Love that was stronger.”

Hymns of Tersteegen & others



24 September: I choose to please God

Pray “Lord, show myself to me...”

Read Isaiah 1-3 and Galatians 2

Think + write Paul says, “If I were still trying to please men, I would NOT be a servant of Christ” (Gal 1:10). I am still trying to please men (or women)...

- If I try to impress them, or
- If I try to court favor with them, or
- If I try to say and do what will make me popular with them, or
- If I try to create an impression that will make me more likeable to them, or
- If I try to do what will make me “one” with them...

If I do any of this, then I am NOT a servant of Christ, but of people. Oh Lord, save me from such a life! C.H. Spurgeon said: “*I would do many things to please my friends, but to go to hell to please them I would NOT venture!*” There are only one of four possibilities of living. I can either...

- Live to please *others*, or
- Live to please *myself*, or
- Live to please *Satan*, or
- Live to please *God*

I choose to live to please God! Lord please show me where I grieve You by trying to please others or myself... Some of the things the Lord showed me are the following:.....

.....

.....

.....

God says to me in Isaiah 1:

- Stop doing wrong (v16)
- Wash and make yourselves clean (v16)
- Come now, let us reason together... (v18), “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (v18)
- Be willing and obedient (v19)
- Learn to do right (v17)
- Let us walk in the light of the Lord (2:5)
- Stop trusting in man (2:22)

Pray “Father, I want to live to please You and NOT myself.”

Go + Do seek to please Him only.

25 September: Gal 2:20

Pray “Lord, please be my Life”

Read Isaiah 4-6 and Galatians 3

Think + write In Isaiah 3 God describes the sad state of “the women of Zion” (the Christian women). He says:

- “They are haughty” (v16)
- “Flirting with their eyes” (v16); “making eyes at...the men” (MSG); having “undisciplined...alluring eyes” (Ampl)
- “Prancing around in their high heels” (v16;MSG)
- “Swinging their hips...” (v16;MSG)
- “Tossing their hair...”
- God said the time is coming when He would strip them of their “dangling earrings, anklets and bracelets, ...combs and mirrors and silk scarves, diamond brooches and pearl necklaces, ...rings on their fingers and the rings on their toes, ... the latest fashions in hats, exotic perfumes..., gowns and ...all the world's finest in fabrics and design”(v19-23)



The way God wants His daughters to be is beautifully described in 1 Peter 3:1-6 and in 1 Tim 2:9-10. Please read it. Furthermore, God says He “will wash away the filth of the women of Zion”, He “will give Zion’s women a good bath”! (Is 4:4;MSG). This is wonderful. The heart of the problem (for both women *and* men), ...and the heart of the remedy is found in Galatians 2:20 (KJV): “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.”

“Not I” means:.....
.....

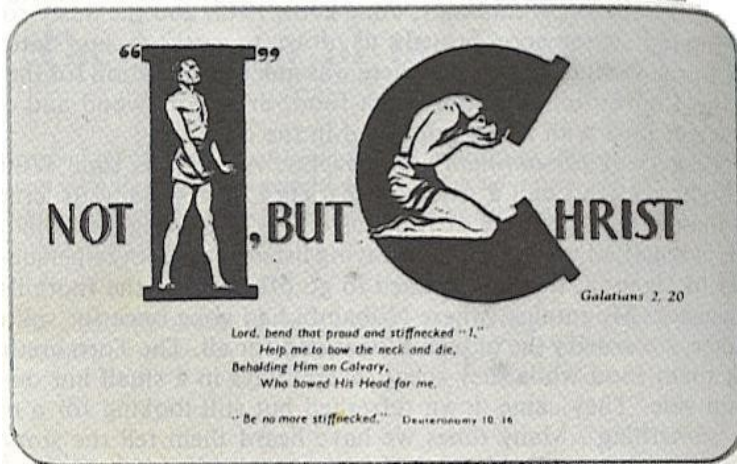
“But Christ” means:.....
.....

This is where Revival begins, where *my “I” dies* - it is no longer what “I” want, ...what “I” desire, ...what “I” like, ...what “I” think, ...what “I” need, ...what “I” will, ...what “I” feel, but rather **what Christ wills!!**

Pray “Father, I have died; may Christ now live in and through me”

Go + Do what will be and show “**Not I, but Christ**”.

Not “I”



but Christ!



Dear Father

“The hardest, gladdest thing in the world is to cry ‘Father’ from a full heart. I would help whom I may to call thus upon the Father...” - George MacDonald

“God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’...” (Galatians 4:6); “...but you received the Spirit... and by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father’...” (Rom 8:15).

“Abba, Father...!” is best translated as “Dear Father...!”

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1a).



26 September: “Dear Father”

Pray “Lord, open my eyes to see You in Your loving holiness”

Read Isaiah 7-9 and Galatians 4

Think + write When I see the Lord, it will bring:

- ✚ **Conviction** of sin and of sins (Isaiah 6:5)
- ✚ **Confession** of sins (v5)
- ✚ **Cleansing** (v7)
- ✚ **Cups running over** (v8,9) - joyous testimony.

When I see the Lord, it brings a “Woe”, a “Lo”, and a “Go”...

- Woe to me! (v5)
- Lo! Your sins are taken away! (v7)
- Go! and tell others God’s Message (v9). After Isaiah saw the Lord in His holiness and saw himself in his sinfulness, he could hear the voice of God saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” He responded: “Here am I. Send me!”(v8,9).
“I’ll go. Send me!” (MSG).

My personal response to all of this is:.....

.....

.....

I learn further that, like Jesus, I need to daily “reject the wrong and CHOOSE the right” (Is 7:15). It is a constant act of my will, where I choose (and keep on choosing) the right and rejecting the wrong, in whatever form it comes. This is very important!

In the book of Galatians I see 3 possible ways of living:

- The life of Legalism - ...rules without a relationship with God
- The life of Licence - ...sinful relationships without the rules of God
- The life of Liberty - ...relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ, where (through His Holy Spirit in me) He enables me to live the life of God, with joy, free from sin, free from people, free from demons, free to do what is right—to His glory.

I also learn that through faith in Christ Jesus I am justified (2:16; 3:24), I live (3:11), I am a son of God or a daughter of God (3:26), and I receive the promise of the Spirit (3:14)...!! This is wonderful!

Pray “Lord, thank You that I too can now say, ‘Dear Father’ to You.” **Go + Do** what is supernaturally natural for a son or daughter to do for his or her “Dear Father” (Gal 4:6)

27 September: The Normal Christian Battle!

Pray “Lord, make me strong for the fight, until I can rest in Your arms in heaven! Please give me faith for the fight... In Jesus’ Name.”

Read Isaiah 10-12 and Galatians 5

Think + write Galatians 5 teaches me about the **Freedom** in the Son (v1-15) and the **Fruit** of the Spirit (v16-26). Closely linked to both is the **FIGHT** of **Faith**! It is very important to realize that though every born-again believer is a new creation (2 Co 5:17), he or she still also has the old “sinful nature” (Gal 5:16), the “flesh”. This means that a Christian has both a “new heart” (Ezek 36:26) and an “old heart”. The Bible teaches me about this normal Christian BATTLE:

✠ The “old heart”, the “old man”, the “old woman”, the “old self” (Rom 6:6;NIV), the old “sinful nature”, the old “me”... is **constantly fighting and desiring and lusting** against the Spirit, against the new nature, against the new heart, against the new “me” in Christ... (Gal 5:16-17).

✠ This “old heart”, this old “me”, this old “sinful nature” ... “**was crucified with Him**” (with Christ) more than 2000 years ago, on the Cross. When someone was crucified, they were “dead”, although they would still sometimes remain alive for hours or even days, hanging on the cross. Despite the fact that they were crucified and “dead”, they had to *remain* on the cross until they were really dead! Even the Lord Jesus, though He was crucified, was tempted by others to “come down from the cross”. In a similar way, though our old heart was crucified, our old sinful nature was crucified, it is still alive until we (by faith) **keep it on the Cross and reckon it as dead** (Rom 6:11;KJV) **daily**. Then the new heart, the new man, the new woman in Christ, the Spirit can reign and live the life of Christ victoriously in and through me...daily!!! By faith I say: “I know my old self was crucified (because God says so). I therefore choose to **reckon** (to count) it as dead indeed, ...and my new heart, my new inner man as alive to God. I choose for the Spirit and against my old sinful nature... moment by moment, day by day... until Jesus comes back and the battle is over!!!

I learned that.....

Pray “Father, please teach me to fight until I reach heaven.”

Go + Do keep the new heart winning over the old heart!

Feed

the New nature
the Spirit
the New heart



Famish *(starve; kill)*

the old sinful nature
the flesh
the old heart



The Life of Christ

The Believer's Battle		Spirit	
Flesh	Famish	Sustain	Starve
	Feed	Devotion !! ☺	Depletion ☹
		Destruction ☹	Depravity ☹

The Law of sin

“The winner in the battle between spirit and flesh is determined by which one gets fed the most. We need to actively sustain our spirit with prayer, study and meditation of God’s Word, and fellowship with believers. We also need to do whatever it takes to famish the flesh and its evil desires.

It is a daily challenge of faith. When we do sustain the spirit and famish the flesh, we walk in God’s light with wholehearted devotion. We experience a rewarding and fulfilling relationship with Christ and victory over temptation.”



28 September: My Affections Cross-ed out!

Pray “Lord, thank You for what You accomplished on the Cross!”

Read Isaiah 13-15 and Galatians 6

Think + write God says that if I live and *walk by the Spirit*, keeping in step with Him (Gal 5:25), I will NOT gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Gal 5:16), I will NOT be controlled by the sinful nature (Rom 8:13). This is good news! But, if I listen to the thoughts or feelings or desires of the sinful nature, I’ll eventually commit the sins, **the acts of the sinful nature** (Gal 5:19-21). They are:

- Sexual sins: immorality, impurity, fornication, adultery, indecency, “filthy thoughts” (CEV), uncleanness, lustfulness...
- Sorcery sins; Spiritism sins; occultism: idolatry, witchcraft...
- Social sins (relationship sins): hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, quarrels, factions, envy, “desire for what another has”, they separate in groups, “divided homes and divided lives” (MSG)...
- Selfishness: selfish ambition, “all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied-wants” (MSG)...
- Sense-sins (sins of the senses; sins of indulgence): drunkenness, orgies and the like..., “uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions” (MSG)...

God says to all people, Christians included (Gal 1:2), “I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this will NOT inherit the kingdom of God**” (Gal 5:21). This is the truth. This is God’s word! My response to this is.....

.....

I read that “those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the sinful nature** with its passions and **desires**” and appetites and **affections** and **lusts** (Gal 5:24;NIV, Ampl, KJV). Whatever affections or desires I may have, I should NOT be ruled by it or follow it, ..I should take it to the Cross—reckon it dead, kill it by faith and follow the Lord. It is a choice and a reckoning by faith, without surrendering to it. This is part of the Normal Christian Battle!! Through Christ’s Cross, the **WORLD** has also been crucified to me and I to the world!!!! Through the Cross of Christ I’m DEAD to the world. I choose to believe it, reckon on it, and live accordingly...

Pray “Thank You, Lord!” **Go + Do** reckon my natural desires & affections DEAD to sin and dead to the world...

29 September: Made for God!

Pray “O Lord, open my eyes to the riches of Your grace & love”

Read Isaiah 16-18 and Ephesians 1

Think + write In the letter to the Ephesians I come to learn about the **Church in Christ** and also the **Christian in Christ**. Watchman Nee explains that the book deals majestically with

- ✠ Our Position in Christ: “**SIT**” (1:1-3:21)
- ✠ Our Life in the World: “**WALK**” (4:1-6:9)
- ✠ Our Warfare against the Enemy: “**STAND**” (6:10-24)

Put in other words: Our relation to (1) God, (2) people, and (3) the unclean spirits. I see in Ephesians 1 how the **body of Christ**, the body of believers were

Planned by the Father (1:1-6)

Purchased by the Son—with His blood (1:7-12)

Preserved by the Spirit (1:13-14)*

I read that “long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love...”!! (Eph 1:4;MSG).

Why? I see that **God's purpose for me** (us) was and is

- ✓ “To be holy and blameless in His sight” (1:4)...”to be made whole and holy by His love” (MSG)
- ✓ “To be ...revealed as His own children” (1:5,Ampl)
- ✓ “To (be to) the praise of His glorious grace...” (1:6,12)
- ✓ “To do good works, which God prepared... for us to do” (2:10)
- ✓ “To become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit” (2:22)

Through this I learn that.....

.....

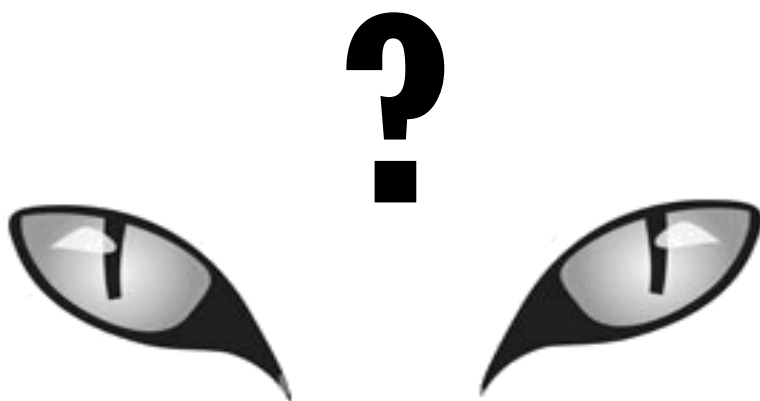
I saw in yesterday's reading from Isaiah 14 why the “morning star” was cast out of heaven (v12) and now roams the earth as Satan. He **came to a fall**, because he said in his heart: “I will...ascend to heaven”; “I will...raise my throne above the stars of God”; “I will...sit enthroned” (v13); “I will...make myself like the Most High” (v14). This teaches me that.....

.....

Pray “Father, please keep me humble and at Your feet.”

Go + Do what He prepared for me to do!

WHO's my
ENEMY



My parents ?
My pastor ?
My peers ?
My principal ?

No!

Then WHO...?!
FIGHT MY ENEMY



- 👹 Satan is my enemy.
- 👹 He hates me and God.
- 👹 He is against me.
- 👹 He is against the One I love.
- 👹 He is silently, secretly, constantly planning for my utter destruction.
- 👹 He has many schemes and devices to trap me and you (2 Corinthians 2:11)
- 👹 He has one aim: my destruction and death...
- 👹 He's a ruthless murderer and rapist.
- 👹 He's a tempter, liar, accuser, evil snake...
- 👹 He comes as an angel of light.
- 👹 Satan is crooked, cruel, contaminating all, clever, cunning, cowardly, craving (for sin), ceaseless in his efforts to rape and ruin, to deceive and destroy..., crouching to attack, crippling with glee, counterfeiting, clandestine, continuous criminal...
- 👹 BUT, he's also created, confined, conquered by Christ's Cross, and consequently condemned eternally.

Fight my enemy, fight Satan

Sinful nature



My “natural me”, my
“natural nature” is my
enemy...

- ☹ My old sinful nature (“flesh”) is my enemy.
- ☹ It constantly craves *against* the Spirit.
- ☹ It is in conflict *against* my new nature.
- ☹ It is fighting *against* my new “me”.
- ☹ It always strives *against* the Spirit of Christ in me.
- ☹ It always lusts *against* the “new man”, the “new woman”, the Spirit of God in me (Gal 5)
- ☹ It desires *against* the things of God.
- ☹ It is opposed *against* God’s good in me.
- ☹ It constantly craves for the things of the flesh and the things of the world.
- ☹ It is always opposed *against* the spiritual man or woman.
- ☹ It always desires *against* what the Spirit wants.
- ☹ It is antagonistic *against* God’s new life in me.
- ☹ It is my enemy... always - until I reach heaven...

Fight my enemy, fight my Sinful nature



- ✖️ The “world” is my enemy.
- ✖️ It is under the power of the Evil One.
- ✖️ It hates God and the things of God.
- ✖️ It minds earthly things.
- ✖️ It offers the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life.
- ✖️ It is part of a mindset and a system that wants to be independent from God.
- ✖️ It creates a pattern that is different than God’s pattern.
- ✖️ It pollutes (James 1:22)
- ✖️ It is inspired by a spirit that is NOT the Spirit of God.
- ✖️ It is at enmity to God.
- ✖️ It does NOT love God... It loves lust.
- ✖️ It lives for the Flesh, for Fun, for Food, for Fashion, for Fame, for Finance, For self..., For Satan.

Fight my enemy, the “world system”

30 September: Twilight Christianity

Pray “Lord, please let Your bright Light shine in and around me”

Read Isaiah 19-21 and Ephesians 2

Think + write “*The twilight I longed for (desired) has become a horror to me...*” (Is 21:4b). Many people like to live in the twilight, spiritually, where there’s a “nice” mixture of a little bit of darkness and a little bit of light. Oswald Chambers said that to people “twilight is a desirable time - not too strong a light and not too dark a dark; details are not too clearly manifested, ugly lines are not visible, everything looks wonderful. We like to get in the sentimental domain of twilight spirituality.” Some of the signs of twilight Christianity are:

**
**
**
**

He also said: “In the Bible there is no twilight, but intense light and intense darkness...” I learn from Is 21:4 that I should NOT desire twilight and twilight experiences, because it is deceptive darkness and will lead to HORROR and trembling... (Please see the next 2 pages)

In Eph 2 I find a description of my “before Christ,” my BC years...

- ☹ I was dead in my sins (v1,5); I used to live in my sins (v2)
- ☹ I followed the ways of this world (v2)
- ☹ I followed the ruler of the kingdom of the air, Satan (v2)
- ☹ I was gratifying the cravings of my sinful nature (v3), living in the pleasure of my flesh (BBE), living according to my natural desires (GNB)...
- ☹ I was following the desires and thoughts of my sinful nature (v3), “fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (MSG)
- ☹ I was separate from Christ (v12)... and far away (v13)
- ☹ I was excluded from God’s covenant-relationship (v12)
- ☹ I was without hope and without God in this world (v12)
- ☹ I was a foreigner (v12,19)

BUT “because of His great love for us (for me too), God, who is rich in mercy, made us (me) alive with Christ...and...raised us (me) up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith...” (v4-8)

Pray “O Lord, I thank You!!!!” **Go + Do** Ephesians 2:10.

TWILIGHT “Christianity” ...

TWILIGHT Described

Twilight can look very beautiful. The sky can be pink or orange or red. The setting sun can shine like copper on people’s skin... Even the dust (and dirty people or buildings) can look beautiful in the twilight hue... It can be the “cool” part of the day...

TWILIGHT Defined

Twilight is the time of day when:

1. There’s a TRANSITION from day to night, from light to darkness, from sunlight (Son-light) to moonlight...
2. There’s a MIXTURE of light and darkness... MIXit time...
3. There’s an INBETWEEN state, a state of compromise...
4. It’s “COOL” - neither hot nor cold, just “nice,” comfortable...
5. DARKNESS becomes attractive and starts to rule...(Pro 7:9)
6. You start to loose clarity of vision - you CAN’T SEE CLEARLY any more - you loose your light, you loose your sight...

Spiritually, “Twilight Christianity” refers to that kind of Christianity where I start to slowly move away from the light, and start to like and welcome and embrace and love darkness (sin); ...where I feel good emotionally, even romantic, but I’m compromising, I’m mixing the things of the world with the things of God; ...where I think it’s “cool” to be lukewarm; ...where I start to sin and I like it...! Oh, it’s a deceptive time! It’s a dangerous time!

TWILIGHT Desired

I read in Isaiah 21:4 about “the twilight I longed for...” (NIV), “the twilight that I desired...” (KJV), “the twilight I looked forward to with pleasure...” (Ampl), the twilight that I loved (Afr)... Sadly, there are MANY people who call themselves Christians, but they long for and love the “Twilight Zone” of life, where darkness and light are mixed...!



“The twilight I longed for...

The TWILIGHT ZONE

“...has become a **HORROR** to me” (Isaiah 21:1-4)

TWILIGHT Developed...

Twilight never stays twilight; it always leads to deeper darkness, unless arrested by God's Light. I read in Isaiah 21:1-4 that “The twilight I longed for (I desired; I looked forward to with pleasure; I loved)... has become a **HORROR** to me (NIV), has been turned into **FEAR** and **TREMBLING** for me” (Ampl)... This is what Twilight Christianity leads to...!!! Twilight “romance” can lead to pregnancy and ruin and AIDS! Twilight standards can lead to terrible sins and destruction and demonic bondage! Twilight emotions and entanglements can lead to gross sins and HELL...! See Proverbs 7:9-27. It is NOT worth it!

TWILIGHT Destroyed!

Twilight Christianity can and must be destroyed in my life. Twilight sentimentality, twilight emotions, twilight standards, twilight thoughts, twilight words, twilight deeds, twilight looks, twilight music, twilight sms messages, twilight “vibes,” twilight “Christianity,” everything of twilight in me **MUST** be destroyed by coming to God's Light, walking in the Light (1 John 1:7,9), accepting God's Light, loving God's Light, and receiving God's Light. His Light can and does dispel ALL darkness and all twilight... Praise the Lord!

“They that wait upon the Lord...”



“...shall renew their strength” Is 40:31