

BECOMING A SERVANT OF GOD~

In Paul's letter to the church of Thessalonica Paul praised the new converts in their perseverance and encouraged them in their trials. To give instruction on Godly living.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless not the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 5:23

The word *Sanctify*, means to be set apart for the use of God. After limiting himself to mankind by his words, "Let them have dominion over all the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28

The word wholly— meaning entire person, we are triune beings meaning we are spirit soul and body. Three in one in nature in the image of God as he is one.

God's spirit comes to make us whole, when we have been depleted spiritually, our souls are in despair and our bodies show the manifestation of these conditions outwardly.

Prayer- Lord create in me a clean heart and renew in me a right spirit. take everything that displeases you away and sanctify my heart, for use in your service.

Discussion Points:

Our souls are the only thing we really possess in this life.

- *How can we preserve our spirits?*
- *What comforts you when your spirit is wounded?*
- *Can you identify a thirst(s) from your soul or your life that drives you to the same place?*

Picture your soul as an infant child. What do you do when it cries, hungers, thirsts, is wounded or feels abandoned?

David said in Psalm 43:5

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

David talked to his soul and asked it a question:

then he told his soul who to do and what he chose to do (For I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God).

We can courage ourselves through belief in the word of God.

Prayer - I thank you that I am your be-loved daughter. I thank you for your will that I may prosper and be in good health, even as my soul prospers. Lord help my soul to prosper, show me how to punch the thirsts that drive me away from you.

BODY BUILDING~

The body is a temporary house that contains our spirit man (The real you)

This body brings its own set of desires and sinful nature. God's word says we are to recognize and put to death (spiritual death) the earthly nature.

Paul understood the fight between the spirit and the flesh he encouraged the church of Corinth. He also exposed the reality that holding a position in the church or ministering to others does not exempt us from falling from grace. As we minister to others virtue leaves our bodies and that life has to be replenished. When we give of ourselves spiritually we can become depleted and need to go back to the source of our strength which is God. Here is a helpful suggestion he made that we can use in time of need.

I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1Corinthians 9:27

Although we are spiritual beings the nature of flesh and blood desires sin, Paul understood the struggle and gave a key principle in defeating a life of struggle and failure. Walking in the spirit disables the flesh, how do we walk in the spirit? We monitor what goes into our ear gates, eye gates and minds, identify areas where you are weak and remove any known attachments to that area. This could mean removing yourself from certain surroundings or people. If your weakness is being alone or single, romance novels, movies, pornography are not wise choices.

Prayer- Father help me and give me strength to remove anything from my life that causes me to sin, fail or displease you. Purify my motives and sanctify my heart and mind and fill the empty places with your spirit.

OUR EARTHLY NATURE~

These belong to our sinful nature: Sexual immorality, from the Greek por-neia` general term for all unlawful sexual relations between unmarried individuals, homosexuality and bestiality and prostitution.

Impurity; The quality or condition of being impure degraded corrupt etc.

Lust; Having a very strong sexual desire for someone (not to be confused with the sexual desire of love)

Evil Desires; Or fascination with doing or watching others commit bad, wrong or evil.

Greed; which is idolatry

Other desires of our sinful nature are”

Anger, rage, malice, lying, slander, and filthy language from our lips

God through the shed blood of his son Jesus Christ paid the ransom of the debt of sin so we would no longer live under the burden and of sin.

The judgment of sin has been removed but the influence of sin remains, when God sets us free from sin we no longer have to live in the ways of the old man of sin.

It is impossible to remain the same when the Holy Spirit is present in your life.

This is the lust found in 2 Samuel 13-20

In this story Amnon the son of David falls in love with his Tamar half-sister who shares the same mother as his brother Absalom. He became obsessed with the idea of her and became emotionally ill. He was advised by his uncle Jonadab to pretend he was sick and request his father send his sister to care for him. The bible states he watched her, then requested she serve his food to him to draw her near. When she came near he raped her, she being defiled asked him afterwards to do the right thing according to their custom by asking for her hand in marriage.

He not only refused to do this honor to her and her family he became angry and rejected and forced her out of his house in shame and humiliation.

These actions are not the actions of love but of lust. This lust pretends to be love until it has been satisfied then the true motive of hatred, greed, selfishness and disrespect surface.

Note: Never mistake these characteristics for love

Prayer - Father give me the gift of discernment to know evil from good and good from evil. Remove the scales of deception from my eyes and expose every evil intention of the devil.

10 Ways to recognize if you are in lust and not love

- 1 Desperation
- 2 Obsession
- 3 Desire causes physical illness (love sick)

- 4 Willing to pretend or lie
- 5 Sexually Aroused by visuals only
- 6 Opportunists
- 7 Followed by the same degree of hate once satisfied
- 8 Void of compassion
- 9 Void of consideration for the other person's feelings
- 10 Selfishly motivated