

A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
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VICTORY OVER SELF!

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This article was suggested to me through a message by A.B. Simpson, written about 100 years ago. No Christian is going to go anywhere spiritually until he gets victory over the **Self-life!** And sad to say, the truth is, not too many get the victory. The **Self-life** has many forms: the first being **Self-Will**. Until this giant of evil is slain there will be no true spirituality. It is the sin of Satan - Isaiah 14, etc. It is all too prevalent among the people of God. I must have my own way, or else... **Self-Indulgence** is the gratification of self! Eating, drinking, dress and other desires are not wrong in themselves. But I am not to eat, drink, dress, etc. just to gratify my fleshly desires. God says, "**Whether therefore ye eat and drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" All is to be done to this end, that is, to please God, not myself. See Colossians 3:17. **Self-Seeking** is another common sin among God's people. In this case, self is really served though ostensibly one is serving God. Love "...**seeketh not her own...**" The believer's goal is to "...**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...**" Though rarely recognized, **Self-Pity** is one of the most common and worst of the Self sins. This is a most debilitating sin, it feeds on itself. There are many cases in the Bible; one example is poor Asaph, Psalm 73. Of course, if you don't join in the pity party, you are not loving. **Self-Confidence** is relying on one's own wisdom, strength or ability though lip service may be given to God. One can see this in Peter's boasting he would not deny the Lord. Such individuals have to fall, like Peter, before they come to the end of self! This is nothing more than laboring in the flesh. Unfortunately, there is too much of this in the Lord's work. **Self-Importance** has its share of followers. True humility is not necessarily thinking meanly of oneself, but not thinking of ourselves at all. One outstanding example is Diotrephes. I remember many years ago a lady who always came to service late and strutted down the center aisle, getting what she supposed was proper attention.

Self-Vindication, a most common sin, is quick to stand up for its own rights and usually seeks to avenge its wrongs. There is a proper time to defend one's actions or situation, but these are few. Mostly, this is condemned in Scripture and is contrary to the spirit of Christ. It is said of Him: "**He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**" And "**When he was reviled, he reviled not again.**" Another **Self-Sin** seen among God's people is **Sensitiveness**. Dr. Simpson said, "*I have seen Christians who had been all bright and radiant for a time, but something touched them that was offensive, uncongenial, humbling and they became like Egyptian mummies.*" The Bible says, "**Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.**" **Self-Love** is really the root of all forms of the **Self-Life**. How often I have heard, "The Church isn't loving." What this person really means is that the people don't appreciate me, they do not love me as they should. Dr. Simpson said, "*Love that terminates in ourselves is selfish and degrading.*" Read I Corinthians 13; true love is outgoing. We are to love others - even if they don't love us!

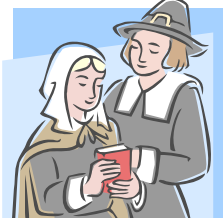
Self-Motives are to be strenuously refused. Only in the Spirit can we do this. The flesh (**Self-Life**) cannot please God - see Romans 8:8. The old man in each of us wants some credit, some glory, some recognition. (*Cont'd p. 3*)

Thanksgiving Service

This is always one of the most inspiring services we have all year. *Join us and make it a real Thanksgiving to God.* After all, that's what it was in the beginning! Just how grateful are we to God for His salvation and multiplied blessings?

Thursday, November 25th — 8:00 pm

We will have a good **Gospel Song Service**, a time for **Testimonies** and a **Special Message**. If you're having guests in for dinner, invite them to come along. **Let's put the Lord first!**



2005 MONTHLY APPOINTMENT CALENDARS.

We have some beautiful Scripture Text monthly appointment calendars (9" x 12") in the Bookstore. They are only \$7.00 postpaid. We also have packets (12 per packet) of very colorful all purpose cards (no message - you write what you want). Also only \$7. pp. I doubt if you can get similar products near this price. Both of these would make excellent gifts.

THE DISTANCE IS WORTH THE DIFFERENCE

From time to time we hear, it's too far to come to your Church. Would it be too far to go to work (many commute 50 miles or more)? Would it be too far to go to a ballgame? Would it be too far to go for something you really wanted to do? The plain truth is, people do what they want to do! If your heart is really in something, you will find a way to do it.

CORNERSTONE DISTINCTIVES

KJV ONLY!

We do not correct it!
Also, we preach the whole counsel of God."

PREACHING

the Book, the Blood, the Blessed Hope
- Hell as well as Heaven!

OLD-TIME GOSPEL MUSIC!

We use "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."

DRESS STANDARDS

that reflect Biblical, modest apparel for God's people.

PLEASE NOTE: If you like modern versions, only positive preaching, contemporary music, and sensual dress, we're sorry, but you won't like it here.

WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS? When Shackelton, the great explorer, was about to make what proved his last expedition to the Arctic seas, he was seated in his office with a friend. The friend said, "I am surprised at the publicity that you are giving to your new venture. It is rather unlike you." Shackelton replied, "I have a purpose in doing so. I want my colleague, Mr. Wild, to hear about my plans. He has buried himself in the heart of Africa, and has left no address, but I thought that if I broadcast the news that I was going, it might filter through to the very center of Africa. If Wild knows I am going, he will come..." At that moment, someone stood in the doorway; it was Mr. Wild. It was a dramatic moment as they gripped each other. Wild said, "I heard you were going, the news found its way to the very heart of Africa. When I knew you were going, I dropped my gun, picked up a bit of baggage and made straight for home, and here I am. What are your orders?"

Would you do that for Jesus Christ? He has given you His orders: **"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."** Would you go to the ends of the earth for Him? Would you go across the street? Will you go to your friends, work fellows? He said: **"Take up your cross and follow Me."** Can you say from the heart, Lord Jesus, "Here I am, what are your orders?" There is no limit to what God can do with such individuals! It is sad that so many professed believers in Christ (both young and old) say, *"Lord, Lord..."* but they do not totally submit to the One who died for them. He said, **"Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?"**

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Some people get lost in thought because it is strange territory to them.

Everywhere I go I am asked if the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them. -Copied

Yiddish Proverb: Don't approach a goat from the front, a horse from the back, or a fool from any side.

What makes the Dead Sea dead? Because it is always taking in and never gives out.

If you can't stand to be laughed at, you will always be a conformist.

A man doesn't look for a cheap parachute; neither should he look for a "cheap" gospel or Church.

Anyone can do the possible; add a bit of courage and zeal and some may do the phenomenal; only Christians are obliged to do the impossible.

~- A. W. Tozer

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

VICTORY OVER THE SELF LIFE. (from p. 1)

Then, we all need to beware of **Selfish Possessions**. When we see the Scriptures aright, we learn that we are but stewards and all that we have and are belongs to God. The first Christians saw this: "**Neither said any of them that ought of the things that they possessed were their own.**" What God has allowed us to have is to be held in trust for Him and His work! Though there are others, we will end with this one, **Selfish Prayers**. This is a most serious problem! Listen to the Scriptures: "...**ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**" ~James 4:2,3. The highest form of prayer is not for oneself, but for others (though we have legitimate needs and should pray for ourselves).

My Christian friend, did any of these **Self-Sins** strike you? I imagine one or more did! None of us is totally without blame in this area. One must be blind not to see that much of what is done in the name of the Lord is done in the flesh and to please the individual. God says, "**So, then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**" If you are guilty in any of these areas, get alone with God and give **YOURSELF** up to Him and His Word. The essence of the Christian life is "**not I but Christ.**" There is no real joy, nothing of real value, and nothing eternal which is done in the flesh. If you are guilty in one or more of these areas, don't sulk or get angry, that is only evidence of a serious **Self** problem. Confess your sin and ask God to help you get victory over it! Make a heartfelt commitment: "**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**" ~Galatians 2:20

APA ENDORSES HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE!

According to *Religion Today* (8/6/04), the American Psychological Association has endorsed homosexual "marriage." The APA president Diane Halpern (don't men run anything today?) said the organization will adopt a policy supporting it because, as she said, "Keeping gays from marrying puts a particular stress on them because of their sexual orientation." This is just one more evidence which shows these people do not know what it's all about. How can you possibly help someone by catering to their perverted life style?

TRUTH - ROMAN CATHOLIC VERSION! A high-ranking Vatican official is giving Roman Catholics some leeway in supporting politicians who support abortion. *The Washington Post* reports that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's arbiter of doctrinal orthodoxy, has written to U.S. Catholic leaders when a Catholic can vote for a candidate - even when that candidate supports abortion. If a voter has other compelling reasons to vote for a pro-abortion candidate, such as agreeing with his economic policies, then such a choice is acceptable. For example, a voter may oppose John Kerry's abortion stand, but still vote for Kerry because that person supports the Democratic economic policy or his criticism of President Bush's stand on Iraq. Earlier this summer, Archbishop Burke of St. Louis said a Catholic who votes for someone like Kerry is committing a "grave sin." Burke has now clarified that remark to reflect Ratzinger's directive. - *Religion Today* (9/14/04). Ed. What duplicity and hypocrisy! The Catholic Church always finds a way to do that which is expedient. Baby murder is OK if a man's economic policy suits you! What deceit!

FALWELL'S WORSHIP LEADER LEARNS AT

LAS VEGAS. Rev. Ray Rodgers, Jr. (Lynchburg, June 27) sent us a copy of his letter to the *Forum* about Charles Billingsley (Thomas Road Baptist Church's music "worship leader") going to Las Vegas to learn from "a quintessential showman (Wayne Newton) how to make an audience - or congregation - come alive." The Wayne Newton Theater at the Stardust Hotel is one of the classrooms where singer Billingsley has sat trying to learn from Newton. He says, "I sit there with a note pad, noting how many songs he sings, where he takes a break, how long he talks between..." The article said Billingsley "loves it when the crowd is rocking." -CC (8/04). This is not surprising considering all the other compromises and worldly programs Falwell has been involved in. It only goes to prove what we have often said, compromise is a one way street, all downhill, and unless there is repentance (which is rare), it can only end in total apostasy. It's also been said, "*What you win them with is what you win them to.*" You cannot have spiritual people with a compromising, worldly program.

SIN PAYS - FOR NOW! Cardinal Law, after years of moving many known pedophile priests from parish to parish and then engaging in a massive cover-up, has been well rewarded by Pope Paul II. Law has been named the new archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, one of four major basilicas. How could this possibly be the church of Christ?

ONE THING INDISPENSABLE!

If someone were to ask me what is the most important thing we need among God's people today, I would say the power of the Holy Spirit. I am talking about those who are truly saved, churches that are Bible believing and Fundamental. We have many programs, schemes, and organization, but where is the power of God today? There is no power in the church without the working of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "**Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...**" Listen to what Charles Haddon Spurgeon said about the necessity of Spirit-filled living (and preaching). He said, "If we do not have the Spirit of God it is better to shut the churches, to nail up the doors, to put a black cross on them and say, 'God have mercy on us.' If our ministers have not the Spirit of God you had better not preach and you people had better stay at home. I think I speak not too strongly when I say that a church in the land without the Spirit of God is rather a curse than a blessing. If you have not the Spirit of God, Christian worker, remember that you stand in somebody else's way..." D.L. Moody said, "Get this power (the Holy Spirit), and you will do more good in a week than you could do without it in many years." We are told in Ephesians 5:18: "**Be ye filled with the Spirit.**" There is no such thing as being half filled or three-quarters filled! I believe it was Tozer who said something to the effect that if the Holy Spirit were secretly withdrawn from the church, there would be very few among God's people who would notice it.

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SINCERITY IS NOT ENOUGH

There is a very popular, but false, philosophy abroad in our day. It says that no matter what you believe, you will be saved as long as you are sincere. I remember seeing many years ago, a "Peanuts" cartoon. A very dejected Charlie Brown was walking along dragging his baseball bat behind him. He was saying, "Good grief; one hundred and eighty-four to nothing! How can we lose when we are so sincere?" You see, what really counts is winning! Nice, sincere people lose all the time. Sincerity cannot give you what is lacking. Sincerity cannot make you well if you are sick. Sincerity cannot turn wrong into right. Sincerity cannot erase your sins. If you are on the wrong road, sincerity cannot bring you out to the right place. God says, "**There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**" If you are ever going to be saved from your sins, you will have to be sincere - but you will also have to be right! In Matthew 7:13,14 the Bible says, there is a broad road (where everyone may do and believe as he wishes) but it leads to destruction. There is also a narrow road which leads unto life. The way to God is narrow and very specific. Jesus said, "**I am the way (road), the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.**" If salvation was by sincerity, it would mean you could save yourself. The Bible is clear: "**Not by works...which we have done but according to his mercy has he saved us...**" Be sincere, but also be right! "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**"