

Booklet N° 7 - Biblical Truth - ON SANCTIFICATION

<< Your life is hidden with Christ in God >> (Colossians 3:3)

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Become a christian by faith in Christ-Jesus a new life has began to blossom in you. You now know how to live your life in order to be pleasing to God. Nevertheless you're sometimes faced with failures or powerlessness to put into practice certain biblical instructions.

<< I would love to change but find out that i can't ... >>.

This language formulated by sincere christians translate the human weakness in spite of the willingness to do right.

<< I have the will, but not the power to do good. >> the apostle wrote in Romans 7:18.

The new life in Christ-Jesus can not be lived by human will alone. The power to live as a true christian is given by christ alone through his Spirit, for it is his Holy-Spirit in us which enables us to be transformed into the image of him that we desire.

This new life, with all the potential of the divine energy, has it's secret in this spirirtual fact of which we must be aware :

**<< YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN IN GOD
WITH CHRIST-JESUS >> (Colossians 3:3)**

<< YOUR >> LIFE

Each of us possess an intimate life, that belongs to us, the inner man with all its secrets concerns, failures, fears, hopes and satisfactions known only to ourself.

This small word << YOUR >> indicate at the same time the privilege and the individual responsibility.

<< YOUR LIFE >>, that which concerns you alone and of which you need to seriously consider how it is lived for :

- << **Each one** will certainly give an account to God >> Romans 14: 12.

- << **Each one** will receive **the reward according to how he or she labors.** >>

1 Corinthians 3: 9.

The christian life is not always externalized . It sometimes keep its secrets that none can penetrate.

Those around us do not have the knowledge of all that is going on in the heart... John 3:8.

Jesus-Christ is our daily companion. He is present at any given moment with us, according to his promise :

<< **I AM WITH YOU EVERYDAY** >>. Matthew 28:20.

He knows all that is in man.

He has introduced us into the presence of God by << the new and living way > he inaugurated by his redemptive sacrifice at calvary. Hebrews 10: 19/20

Henceforth, by Him, you are in communion with God and are called to **walk in the light** as God is in the light. 1 John 1:7.

**<< YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN
WITH CHRIST >>**

What an amazing grace to know that Jesus is with us, is the FAITHFUL FRIEND, always ready to plead for us before God the Father! He is our defender (1 John 2: 1) and is always interceding for us. Romans 8 :34.

Sometimes the christian dare not confide for fear of being misunderstood, judged, or condemned and so isolate himself. Struggling alone.

While in reality, solitude does not exist anymore for he or she is << with Christ. >>

Your life is now << **HIDDEN WITH CHRIST** >>.

Christ-Jesus has laid a spiritual principle of which depends the constant maintenace in us of a blue-blue sky, of a peaceful and serene heart.

<< Remain in me >>

and

<< I will remain in you >> John 15 : 4.

This spiritual alliance is available to all christians in all circumstances, whether in trials or in joy, at the beginning of the christian walk or during the times of failure or discouragement, that follows even after years of walking with Christ.

Respecting the free-will or liberty of man , the Lord asked that he takes the first step towards Him :

<< Remain in me >>

The Christ will never impose on man . But is always dispose to receive us to himself. In this spiritual position freely and willing decided by the christian and taken by faith, Christ respond by a promise :

<< I will remain in you >>

He assured us the continuity of His presence. Doubt is not permitted. Isn't it marvelous to know that Christ << **remains** in us ...! >>

To help us know his thought, Jesus added :

No branche can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in ME. >> John 15:4.

By this example, he stresses the necessity of a permanent union with HIM to bear fruit.

By saying : << if he remains attached >>, He specifies that this position must be constant and not sporadic. Is the condition demanded by the Lord to live a sanctified life.

For us to understand that we depend upon HIM, Jesus said :

<< I AM THE VINE and you are the branches >>.

He used simple illustrations to show that he is the **unique vine** and by consequence the only means offered to man to live in harmony with God.

He demonstrated in a categorical way our dependance upon HIM : << **Without me, you can do nothing.**>> He said in, John 15 :5.

All efforts without Him is dommed to failure.

The new life is of Him, is maintain by Him, it florisheth and groweth up by Him alone.

<< Without me >>, He said. << Without being attached to me >>, only, you are powerless to resist sin.

This **warning** is adressed to those who thought that by mere human efforts, good-will and interllect only without attaching to the vine, could live. The branches are of no worth without the vine, it is only good for making a fire.

It is an encouragement to count on Him!

<< With ME >>, it is possible...

<< With Christ >>, that is the secret of the strenght that will permit's us to live a joyful and victorious life.

Our life is **hidden with Christ in God** >>.

It is << hidden >>. It is a permanent position . The apostle Paul expresses this truth in other words by using the verb << ROOTED>> and << FOUNDED >>. Colossians 2 :7.

<< If you make the teaching of Christ a reality in your life, you can assert to this biblical truth: << Christ lives in me >> which perfectly correspond to: << My life is hidden with Christ >> ,

<< He remains in me >> .

By the presence of Christ in you, he is reflected in your life. His life in you transforms your life into his likeness and to your suprise you will find yourself daily reflecting his image.

<< We with unvieled faces all reflect the lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory >> (2 Corinthians 3 :18) It is to this life that we are being invited to by the grace of God.

<< **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ , he or she does not belong to Christ.** >> **Romans 8 : 9.**

<< My taste have changed since i met Jesus, a young woman of 19 yrs old testified. I use to love watching films, listening to a certain kind of music, and had a taste for nouvels that I wouldn't now recommend to anyone. All this activities i still practice but with an entirely different and healty taste. My greatest joy is now found in praising the Lord.

Her transformation is daily being done by the regenerative action of the Spirit of Christ in her.

THE SANCTIFIED LIFE

Becoming like Jesus-Christ, << Having the same mind as Him >>, is simply marvellous.

This may seem to us an utopia, when we consider our imperfections and weakness, but the Messiah declared that by HIM this is possible.

The Bible is not a moral book.

It contains the Good News, that of redemption that is found in the person of Christ-Jesus, the release from << the power of sin >>, of reconciliation with God and of liberty

In spite of the biblical assertions of salvation by Grace, some christians have a misconception of what a sanctify life should depend on, they thought, is the result of their efforts.

- << Am i really saved ? >>

An anxious christian one day asked me this question. She was converted some years ago and still did not consider herself sanctified enough to see the LORD. She had been living in the fear of having lost her salvation because of certain bad habits that she could not do away with that , in spite of her faith in Christ-Jesus. Attributing salvation uniquely to works will inevitably lead to a state of insatisfaction, doubt and fear. Because we can never by our own righteousness gain entrance into his presence.

- << Will i be taken away at the Lord's second coming? >>

This fear of being left behind at the Lord's coming i have heard many a times christians express this concern, brought about by the misinterpretation of this biblical text :

<< Without holiness no one will see God >> Hebrews 12 :14.

Now to avoid confusion and hold-on firmly to your salvation, your faith require an unwavering biblical foundation.

A wrong doctrine or misinterpretation can lead to lossing one's joy and salvation.

There is no doubt whatsoever as to our salvation. THERE IS NO HALF MEASURE SALVATION, there are no two sort of salvation one by grace and the other by sanctification.

The apostle John clearly said :

<< I write these things to you who believe in the Name of the Son of God **so that you MAY KNOW** that you have eternal life. >> John 15 :13 .

To KNOW that **YOU** have eternal life **by faith** in Jesus, is the base of an authentic christian life.

The visible **evidence** of eternal life here in this present world is **the new life**.

<< It is **by grace** that you are saved, through faith ... **not by works** so that no man can boast.

For we are **HIS WORKMANSHIP**, created in Christ-Jesus **TO do good works**, which God had prepare indavance for us to do.>> Ephesians 2: 8.

We are save to do all kinds of good works with the help of Christ our Lord and clearly not saved by the good works that can not erase sins.

Thus there cannot be any confusion between conversion and sanctification.

- **Conversion**, is :

- the new birth to a spiritual life, lead by the Holy-Spirit through faith in Christ-Jesus.
- entrance by the narrow way that leads to eternal life .

- **Sanctification**, is :

- the continuity, the progression into the new life,
- the daily transformation into the image of Christ-Jesus. 1 Corinthians 3 :16.
- faithully walking in the narrow way with perseverance and the constant presence of Christ and of the Holy-Spirit.

It is also important to know the signification of this words :

Sanctify - Sanctification - Holiness.

Though this three words are originated from the greek AGIOS meaning << sacred >>

<< saint >>,<< or holy unto the Lord >> they differ from each other :

HGIAZO << MAKE HOLY >>. It is translated as **sanctify**.

AGIOSMOS translated **SANCTIFICATION** in the sence of PURIFICATION.

AGIOSUNE is translated **HOLINESS, ABSOLUTE PURITY**.

SANCTIFY

The fundamental and biblical sence of the verb **SANCTIFY** concerns at first salvation. It is the setting apart, of the usual, a consecration for a divine service, a separation from a sinful world to serve God. The separation from all that is unclean, that is sin, is render possible by Jesus -Christ :

<< We are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus-Christ.>> Hebrews 10 : 10.

A surgeon sterilize all his instruments with precaution before surgery.

A good house wife makes sure that her utensiles for the preparation of food is kept apart from those of .other usage.

To set us apart for Him, God sent his Son as a redemptive sacrifice for our sins, and << the blood of his Son purifice us from all sin. >> 1 John 1 :7.

God sees us as pure in Christ. He does not remember our sins no more. Hebrews 10 :17

By the sacrifice of the Christ we have become a vase of honor having our place in the << House of God >>.

<< Jesus, so as to SANCTIFY the people by his blood suffered outside the city gate.>> Hebrews 13 : 12.

The apostle Paul asserted, without any ambiguity :

<< You were washed, **YOU WERE SANCTIFIED**, you were justified by the Name of the Lord Jesus-Christ and by the Spirit of our God.>> 1 Corinthians 6 :11.

This grace is not to come, but a present reality : << YOU WERE sanctified. >>

The fact of been sanctified, that is to say purified by faith in the sacrifice of the person of Christ-Jesus does not autorise the believer that is freed from his or her sinful past to live in a manner that dishonor's God.

<< Do not use your liberty as a pretext to give-in to sinful desires >>, the apostle Paul said in his letter to the christians of Galatia to remind them **that grace does not tolerate nor compromise with sin.**

On the contrary, the christian is << set aside >> to serve God, is effectivly called to be holy, not to be saved, but because HE IS SAVED

SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS

<< To those who were sanctified in Christ-Jesus, **called to be holy** >>. 1 Corinthians 1:2.

There is in this text :

- an acomplished fact : those who WERE sanctified.
- a fact yet to be accomplished : called TO BE holy.

If we are called to BE holy, it is evident that we are yet to attain absolute holiness required by the Father. This is an exhortation for us to **continually separate ourselves** from all that is displeasing to God and continue in the practice of all that is pleasant so as to glorify Him.

It is the constant action of purification, called (AGIOSMOS) the journeying towards the goal, towards a state or position called holiness (AGIOSUNE).

<< YOU WILL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY >>.

God said in his word, 1 Peter 1: 16.

If God ordred that we be holy, then this is possible when and if we are (tired) in communion with the Christ, as the branche is to the vine.

<< Offer your body in salvery to righteousness, in order that you **may become all the more holy.** >> Romans 6 : 19.

To arrive at the state of holiness to which we are call to, suppose a progresive and constant walk that demand perseverance.

The more the christian progresses in his walk through the narrow road of faith, the more he or she is transformed to the image of Christ-Jesus who lives in and conducts the believer.

Therefore a christian cannot remain in a static attitude of satisfaction.

With Christ he is **called to be** holy to live victoriously not to give in to his or her weakness till the coming of the Lord's coming. 2 Thess. 2: 13.

<< Let him who is holy continue to be holy. >> Revelation 22 :11.

Because we think ourselves to be holy or compare to others does not make us holy before God, that is why the invitation to continue in holiness. And the more we draw nearer to God the clearer we see into ourselves.

Sanctification is not the application of a moral regulations, imposed by man an outward appearance of holiness that consists of do's and don'ts. (Colossians 2 : 20-22)

Nevertheless, the Bible exhorts us to :

<< Purify ourselves from everything that contaminates the body and spirit >> 2 Corinthians 7 : 1. << Purify your hearts you double-minded. >> James 4 : 8.

When Jesus purified the leper, it meant at the same time the disappearance of the disease and the possibility for the leper to reintegrate the society. That is why they were declared << Purified >> and not just healed. In the same way Jesus purifies our hearts by his sacrifice and permits us to freely enter into the presence of God. << By Jesus we have, each one of us access to the Father, by the same spirit. Ephesians 2: 8.

To remain in the presence of God demands the maintenance of a purified life.

<< Let us draw nearer...with hearts purified from all bad conscience. >> Hebrews 10 :22.

Jesus warned those who invoke his Name, without sincerity :

<< Not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven. >> Matthew 7 : 21-23.

What then is to be done to accomplish the will of God ?

The will of my Father, Jesus said, is that whoever looks to the Son and believes in Him shall obtain eternal life >> John 6 : 40.

It is also written:

<< GOD'S WILL IS, your sanctification. >> 1 Thessalonians 4 : 3.

This will is a call to be Pure:

- << is that you should avoid uncleanness >> 1Thes. 4: 3.

- << God has not called us to be impure. >> 1 Thess. 4 : 7

It is the responsibility of each one of us. God wants << **Your** >> sanctification. It's your personal conduct that God is interested in.

While studying the word of God << you have learned what conduct you should adopt to please God >> 1 Thessalonians 4 : 1. Having now learned it should be **put into practice** <<

what God demand of you >>, << that which is good, and pleasing and perfect. >> Romans 12 : 2.

We ask and urge you in Name of the Lord Jesus to continue to walk **in progression** of the instructions you have received. 1 Thess. 4:1

Sanctification is not a passive attitude, while waiting for the Lord. Sanctification demand's of the believer a strong desire to obey biblical instructions given to us God's living church. 1 Timothy 3: 15.

<< Grace be to God, who has granted that, though you used to be slaves to sin, now whole-**heartedly obeyed** the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. Romans 6: 17.

The will of the believer to desire what God demand's of his faith, which put into action through Christ will result in the sanctification of the believer.

Not only does God demands that we be holy, but He also offers to sanctify us wholly if we allow Him to work holiness in us, the believer who so desires will be made holy and set aside to serve his Lord and Master.

YOUR WHOLE BEING

<< May God HIMESLF, the God of of peace sanctify you through and through. May your **whole spirit soul and body**, be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus-Christ ! The One who calls you, is faithful and **He will do it.** >> 1 Thess. 5:23-24.

God loves man in it's entirety and He wants to bless him in the three dimensions that compose human beings:

THE SPIRIT -THE SOUL - THE BODY

THE SPIRIT

By the spirit we are conscience of the Divine, of eternity.

<< The Holy-Spirit testify with **our spirit** that we are children of God.>> Romans 8:16.

Those who do not believe do not have this testimony. They are spiritually dead, without contact with God.

Those who belongs to Christ have in them the **person** of the Holy-Spirit, that is to say the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8: 8.

The Spirit of God lives in the believer (Rom. 8:11).

<< **His manifestation** is visible in each of us. >> 1 Corinthians 12:7.

When the Holy-Spirit is manifested in us by the speaking of tongues, there is a relationship with God. It is written that << He that speaks in tongue speaks to God, he utters myteries with his spirit. 1Cor.14: 2.

THE SOUL

Is man's conscience .

Our inner man with it's intelligence, emotion, will, and character.

Jesus-Christ highlighted on the VALUE OF THE SOUL, by this words :

<< Of what good will it be to a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul? >>

Matthew 16 :26.

It is the soul that Jesus came to save.

The soul continue's to exist after death. The body is a perishable material. While the soul belongs to the spiritual. It can be lost or saved, remain in darkness or enter into the light which is Christ.

THE BODY

By the body we are conscience of the visible material. It could be an instrument by which we do good or evil. And so, << the tongue is a small member in the body, yet no man is able to tame it. By it we bless the Lord our Father, and by the same tongue we curse man made in the image of God. James 3 : 5 -9.

Unfortunately the body deteriorate and makes suffer. We consecrate lots of time to feed, cloth, heal and in keeping it clean... We have invented various ways to make it fonction to it's very best and drive it as fast as it can go, by bicycle, moto, boat, car, train, plane...

To heal the body when ill, doctors, pharmacist , hospitals and to shelter it houses, caravans etc...

The Christ has taught us that evil is not originated from the human body, but in his soul.

<< Therefore it is not what goes into the body that make a man unclean... for it is out of the heart that comes evil thoughts, murder,adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false tesimony, slander... >> Matt. 15 : 11 -20.

The conflit between the desire to please God and the disfonctional physical sense, allimented by evil thoughts,is part of the struggle between the spirit and the body (flesh) .

<< Walk according to the Spirit and you will not accomplish the desires of the body >> .
Galathians 5 : 16.

Freedom from slavery to the << body >> is the possiblity that is given by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ-Jesus. Romans 8 : 2.

<< If by the Spirit you put to death the desires of the body, you will live >> Ro. 8 : 23. We understand that it is of course here question of the wicked actions of the body.

God himself sanctified our entire being and HE demand that we be sanctified. There is no contradiction as some like to point out, for this is possible only if man is willing. God will not sanctify us against our will. He respect our free will.

THE WILL OF THE CHRISTIAN

THE DESPOILMENT

The first aspect of the christian walk is despoilment. Before sowing a gardener, will surely prepare the soil, weeding, digging trenches and enriching the soil for best result.

<< Hate what is evil, cling to what is good. >> Romans 12 : 9;

<< You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires. >> Ephesians 4 : 22.

Normally the christian can distinguish between good and evil having trained himself by the Word of life. (Hebrews 5 :14) without needing anyone to tell him : << do not do this or that >>. But sometimes, having discernment is not enough, that is why biblical instructions are like << road signs >> indicating which way we are or not to take.

Concerning our language :

- << Give up **lying** >> Ephesians 4 : 25 ; Leviticus 6 : 1-7.
- << Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of you mouth >> Ephesians 4 : 29 .
- << **Do not slander one another** >> James 4 : 11.
- << From the same mouth praise and cursing, **this should not be so my brothers and sisters!** >> James 3 : 10.
- << Give up **backbiting** , and all **dishonest talk** let such not be heard amongs you. >> Colossians 3 : 8.

At our place of work :

- << No one should wrong his brother or **take advantage** of him in business dealings.>> 1 Thessalonians 4: 6.
- << He who has been stealing, must **steal no longer.** >> Ephesians 4 : 28.

Concerning our conduct :

- << Do not get **drunk** on wine, which leads to debauchery. >> Ephesians 5 : 18.
- << Rid yourselves of all such things as: **anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language** >> Colossians 3 : 8.
- << Put to death, **sexual immorality, evil desires and greed** .>> Colossians 3 : 5.
- << Keep your life free from the **love of money**. >> Hebrews 13 : 5.
- << Love not the **world, neither the things of the world**. >> John 2 : 15.
- << Do not **conform** any longer to the pattern of this world. >> Romans 12 : 2.

This list could be lengthened. All the instructions are contained in the New Testament. But to know all these instructions does not transform the heart of man in spite of his will to do good and reject evil.

The law with all its obligations has not been able to change man, it has simply highlighted man's incapacity to observe the law without the help of God.

But today, under grace, the despoilment of all that is evil is made possible in Christ-Jesus.

SELF - DENIAL

Despoilment, does not just simply concern the abandon of bad habits, passions, or evil in all its forms.

The Christ went farther.

<< If anyone would come after me, he said, he must deny himself. >> Matthew 16 : 24.

Firstly, he invited to follow, HIM.

Secondly, he laid his condition : self-denial.

Dissociating the two is impossible. His exigence might seem frightening at first. We should recall that he is available to help us live in conformation to his desire.

He demands our consentment to renounce our way of living, **our** conception of life, to live in conformity to his.

He knew that two powerful enemies lie in man. The one is called PRIDE the other EGOISM. To **give-up** our << ME >>, is to be willing to live-up a fight to overcome them. The Christ promises us that with HIM, this is possible . John 15 : 5.

PRIDE THE ENEMY

The English tzigane evangelist SIMITH warned against these three forms of pride : racial pride, that of social position, and that of self.

- racial pride :

By nature we are more or less attached to our nationality, or race,(which is nonsense, for there is only one human race !) the color of our skin or our tribe. We are proud, and consider ourselves as superior to those who are not of the same color of skin. This very destructive enemy is the origin of racism and quarrels between men that has and sadly still is the cause of deep loss, pain and sorrow.

This cannot be so in the heart of Christ disciples. Admittedly we are inclined to love people who are from the same origin, tribe or family of color of skin, the renoucement of self will not permit us to humiliate or despise the other. Since love does not seek to dominate the other!

- The pride of desiring the first place :

Always desiring the first place, running after honors is another form of pride that could lead a person to become tyrannical rather than a servant. Let the one that seeks the first place be the servant of all, and the Lord adds : << For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.. >> Mark 10 : 42 - 25 ; John 3: 29.

- The pride of appearance :

Being showy, desiring to be the center of attraction, boasting about one's wealth or poverty in false humility, being puffed up about the gift of God . Everything is relative, it all depends on who we compare ourselves to. Galatians 6: 4.

And so, subtly, pride is aroused in us and if we are not vigilant ,it becomes master over us. Jesus-Christ asks us to get rid of pride by replacing it with humility for << God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. >> 1 Peter 5 : 5.

Having experienced victory himself the apostle Paul who knew how intoxicating it is said : << It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me. >> Galatians 2 : 20.

- EGOISM The enemy :

In our modern world, where we need to work so hard so as to earn a living, most people thinks of their own interest , there is very little room for the weak in our society, solidarity suffers from this attitude, even in the christian community.

Selfishness will isolate man and render him greedy.

The Bible reminds us to live a life of self-abnegation in the service of others and of our Lord Jesus-Christ :

<< Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others. >>
Philippians 2 : 4.

<< Everyone is looking out for his own interest, not those of Christ-Jesus. >>
Philippians 2 : 21.

Be self-denied, put to death in you all form of pride and selffishness, seem impossible to do. We are conscience of our incapacity to control and master the evil that so easily beset us.

The only power that can free us from ourselves and render us victorious over the inclinations of our hearts is that of Christ. Without which, we are doom to failure.

<< Without me, you can do nothing >> , Jesus said. (John 15 : 5.

PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN

The new life in Christ, is understandable by death and resurrection. Death to the << old man >> , which is to say an abnegation to the vain way we use to live, to the willful practice of sin, and give way to the resurrection of the << New man >> in alliance with Christ to live a sanctified life.

And after the wild living and the squandering the prodigal son, is now come to his senses ready to gladly do his Fathers will. Luke 15 : 11- 32.

For weeding a garden is not enough to obtain healthy flowers and vegetables. Once the ground is weeded out , dugged and trenched, the prepared soil is now ready for the new grains to be sown. So it is with the transformation of man to the image of Christ.

At his death to sin , the christian receive in his soul, by the Holy-Spirit, a new life to the glory of God.

<< He put on the new man which is being renewed in the knowledge, of the image of his creator.>> Colossians 3 : 10. ; Ephessians 4 : 21,24.

<< He now walks in the newness of life >> Romans 6 : 4.

<< The old has gone, the new has come . >> 2 Corinthians 5 : 17.

But still remains a question : The << old things >> are they really over with ? Those things we call pride, jealousy, gossip, selfishness, shameful language, attitude or willfulness and all kinds of uncleanness... have to disappear !

The christians of colosse had, before their conversion numerous vices that the apostle Paul brought forth in his letter adressed to them. He reminded them that : << you use to FORMALY walk in these sins, but NOW, he added, ride yourselves of ALL such things, as these : anger, rage, malice, sander and filthy language from your lips. >> Colossians 3 : 7-8.

Let us now be honest with ourselves. Are we still living in the sins of the past ?

Having become a << NEW CREATURE >> 2 Corinthians 5 : 17. the christian now start practicing the good things in the list which concerns mostly his or her relationship with others :

Colossians 3 3 :12. << Clothe yourselves with **compassion and kindness.** >>

Ephessians 4 : 32. << Be **kind** towards each other, commpassionat, forgiving one another juste as God forgave you in Christ.

Romans 12 : 10. << Be **devoted** to one another in brotherly love. >>

Galatians 6 : 2. << Carry each **other's burderns** and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. >>

1 Peter 5: 5. << All of you, clothe youselves with **humility** >>

Galatians 6 : 10. << **Do good to all people**, especialy to those who belongs to the family of believers. >>

The practice of this new life is possible with the help of Christ for **He did not come to burdern man with precepts, but to communicate LIFE.** << Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness. >> John 8 : 12.

The result of this life, **is Love.**

This life, he gave by the Holy-Spirit.

For his work to be made possible in us, we need to be willing to let him act in us, for he will not act indepenent of our will, not without us, but with us.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

<< The teaching on the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is good news among's others : Christ remaining in us will bring to completion the work that we could never be able to accomplish by our own power. **Being constant in our walk** with Christ will transform the weakest of us into his image ; and men will start seeing in us a little of his magnificent self-controle, of his divine balance in every circumstances, that has always been the divine signature of the Son of Man. This inner power is from Christ. >>

Donald GEE.

<< **The fruit of the Spirit, is love.** >>

Galatians 5 : 22.

It is not our fruit, but that of the Holy-Spirit.

This fruit is the base of our sanctification, the motor that drives the christian.

1 John 4: 8.

The universal law of God is love, for :

<< GOD IS LOVE >>

An expert in the law, tested Jesus with this question :

<< Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law ? >>

Jesus replied : << Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind . This the first and greatest commandment the second is like it : Love your neighbor as yourself, of this two commandment **depend ALL THE LAW and the prophets** >> Matthew 22 : 6-39.

The apostle Paul reminded in his letter :

<< **He who loves his fellowman fulfilled the law.**>> Indeed, the commandments : do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not covet and whatever other commandment there may be, are summoned up in this one word :

<< **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.** >> Love does no harm to its neighbor, therefore love is the **FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW.** >> Romans 13 : 8-9.

To be sanctified, is to **LOVE GOD and ONE'S NEIGHBOR.**

If i speak ill, of my neighbor, murder, steal , bear false witness against him or her in what way then am i practicing love ?

Many people thought : << I hurt no one >> they esteem themselves to be good people who don't need repentance.

Love of course is much more than that :

We know the story told by Jesus about a man who was robbed and left wounded half dead, by the roadside, on his way to Jerico from Jerusalem. The man was stripped of all he had on him. A Priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the wounded man, passed by on the other side without stopping to help so did the Levite, you might say, they did nothing wrong. They just left him to his suffering without casting another glance. But a Samaritan, as he traveled , came along where the man was ; he took pity on him. He bandaged his wounds , pouring an oil and wine. Then he put him on his donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The Samaritan practiced love according to God .

In 1940 , the German army invaded France. At Reims , while the enemy troops approached, workers of the Department of civil engineering were repairing the channel. Ernest the deep-sea diver was under water while two other men were on the bridge maneuvering the pump which transmitted him air. When suddenly they were under attack as planes flew over the town and rained down their murderous bombs. The men stopped pumping and went under cover leaving Ernest under water, risking asphyxiation. My father happened to observe the

scene , and being an authentic christian having an unshakable faith in the Lord, did not hesitate before coming to the aide of the diver regardless of the bombs exploding around him, he earnestly thanked God for his protection as he started pumping with all his strenght with this divine promise in mind :

<< A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right side , yet will no harm befall you >> . God protected him. And because of his courage, and love for his neighbor my father saved Ernest from death.

To do good is to love.

<< Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. >> James 4 : 17.

<< **Sin** is the TRANSGRESSION of the law of love . >> 1 John 3 : 4.

<< **Love** is the ACCOMPLISHMENT of the law . >> Romans 13 : 9.

It is easy to deduct that the absence of love is sin. Often there are attitude revealing this absence of love as specified by the apostle Paul in Romans 14: 13-15.

<< Make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way... if your brother is distressed because of what you eat, **you are no longer acting in love...** >>

LOVE is the summary of sanctification.

LOVE is a life time progression. It is the life of the church . The absence of love in the christian community will disabled and weaken her.

The word << LOVE >> or << CHARITY >> is translated from the greek << AGAPE >> , meaning :

1. the love of God towards man ,
2. the love of man towards God ,
3. the love , even towards our enemy .

LOVE is the greatest thing (1 Corinthians 13 : 13) . Not suprising then that the apostle Paul consecrated a whole chapter. He specify what love is and is not , what it does and does not, then he invited us to strive for it .

1 Corinthians 13 : 4, 8 ; 14 : 1.

It is easy to love those who loves us , who are kind to us , those of our family, our tribe or nationality. But the Messiah is taken us much more farher .

<< If you love only those who loves you, what reward will you get ? he added . Are not even the tax collectors doing that ? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than the others ? Are not the pagans doing that ? >> Matthew 5 : 44 - 47.

LOVE , FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, goes beyond human capacity of love.

The Messiah specified :

<< I tell you the truth :

Love your enemies, bless those who curse you ,
do **good** to those who hate you,

pray for those who persecute and mistreat you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5 : 44.

<< I am not asking you to forgive once , but seventy-seven times >> ,Jesus said to Peter.
Matt. 18 : 21, 22.

This seem IMPOSSIBLE to put to practice.

Still, if Jesus ask us to, it is because WITH HIM it is practicable.

I have heard numerous testimonies of christians who forgave their enemies . I shall cite only the example of Alfredo.

During a battle, his father was killed and Alfredo sworn to avenge his father's murderer. A few years later he gave his life to Christ , then became a preacher of the Gospel. It happens that one day he was invited by a church at Madrid, then came the moment he got on the platform to preach the Word , in came the man who had hunted his father's murderer , those in the congregation who knew about the sad story, held their breath, astonished and wondered what the preacher will do. With apparent calmness Alfredo , Bible in hand , addressed in the presence of all the congregation, his father's murderer saying : << Long ago i sworn that if ever i come across you, i will surly kill you. Today here am i before you, not with a revolver in my hand, but the Word of God. I forgive you and pray that you be blessed .>>

It is the Holy-Spirit who << poured out his love into our hearts >> Romans 5 : 15.

It is impossible to bear this fruit of the Spirit without the communion with Christ-Jesus.

Sanctification is essentially manifested in the practice of brotherly love and not only in external apperance of holiness .

I have travelled to over 34 nations . And met christians who practice their faith in different manners from mine , but always founded on biblical texts . But the most remarkable is the brotherly love that unite us.

In India, christians remove their shoes before entering the church or any prayer place.
Exodus 3 : 5.

In Calabria , in the south of Italy, brethren do not wear tie to church for to them it is a sign of worldliness . 1 John 2 : 15 ; Romans 12 : 2.

At Sao Paulo, in Bresil, there is at the entrance of the church , a pile of white lace scarfs . Sisters are to make use of to cover their heads before entering the church or before prayer, which is then left behind on the way out at the end of worship.

1 Corinthians 16 : 6 , 10.

In the united - States, as in all Anglo-saxon contries, the drinking of wine is prohibited .
Ephessians 5 : 18.

All this attitudes and habits only expresses the desire to please God.

Above all that, the most important and greatest thing is LOVE , as the apostle Paul pointed-out : << If i do not have LOVE , I AM NOTHING >> 1 Corinthians 13 : 2.

Jesus did not blame the pharisees for spending their time in the synagouque , for giving tithes , nor for practicing all the requirements of the Jewish law, but for the fact that they have neglected the essential THE LAW OF LOVE and the compassion of God in their relationship towards others. HE blamed them as to the wickedness of their hearts : << You give God a tenth of your revenues... but you neglecte justice and the love of God . >> Luke 11 : 42.

Go to church , give your tithes , whorship God , sing parises to him , take part in the Lord's supper all this are recommended by the Word of God , but we must not forget that EVERYDAY , OUR TESTIMONIES must be constructed IN BROTHERLY LOVE . If you have not attain to the balance between love and service , humbly ask God for the grace you need to change and put His Word to practice .

Our relationship with God must above all be based on LOVE .

But << if anyone says : << I love God , but hate his brother, he is a liar... >> for spiritual truth is << he that does not love his brother whom he sees cannot love God , whom he does not see . >> 1 John 4 : 20-21.

After Jesus's ressurection he appeared to Peter and restored him , after which the Lord asked him thrice this questions : << Peter AGAPAS ME ? >> << DO YOU LOVE ME >> That is the question ! Jesus wanted during this very important conversation, with repented Peter, for him to understand that his love for Him will determine his future faithfulness and constance in his walk with the Lord .

The more we love the Lord the more we are attached to Him, the easier it becomes to please Him .

<< Beloved, let us love one another, for GOD IS LOVE and whoever loves is born of God and knows God . >> 1 John 4 : 7.

The key to living joyfully the new life in Christ is the practicing of love for Him and for the brethrens.

<< Walk in love as by the example of Christ , who so loved us >> Ephessians 5 2.

BE CAREFUL OF FALSE REASONING

<< Let us put the Word to practice , and not allow ourselves to be lead astray by false reasoning, for if anyone listens to the Word of God and does not put it into practice, is like a man who looks at his face in the mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediatly forgets what he he looks like . >> James 1 : 22 , 23.

Not facing up to who we really are , will lead us to hide from reality by using arguments disapproved by the Lord . It is dangerous to make-light the gravity of our sins by estimating certain fault and practices excusable , with time we will end up silencing the voice of the Holy-Spirit in us. And remain without conviction of guilt.

<< Some christians live this way, why can't i also ? >> Such reflection - and many others reflect a state of heart that is not yet willing to surrender to the Master, but are looking to excuse evil.

By tolerating sin in our life, we are in danger of backsliding , thereby lossing our life !

<< Some have rejected the good conscience that faithful walking, produce and so have SHIPWRECKED their faith . 1 Timothy 1 : 19.

The Bible warns against straying away from the truth :

<< Dear children REMAIN IN HIM so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming . >> 1 John 2 : 28.

TEMPTATIONS

We are not speared from temptations, as long as we are in the world , where we are constantly faced with the difficulties of living and are confronted with increasing injustice .

To closter ourselves is not the solution to avoid temptations .

Jesus prayed for his disciples and said in his priestly prayer :

<< Father ... my prayer is not that you take them out of the world , but that you protect them from the evil one . >> John 17 : 15.

The Lord himself was tempted << like us in everyway, yet without sin. >> Hebrews 4 : 15.

Temptation is not sin , but we sin when we give-in to it . That is why the Lord said :

<< Watch and pray so that you do not fall into temptation , for the spirit is willing but the body is weak . >> Mark 14 : 38.

When Adam and Eve were seduced , they did not call upon God to help them resist the diabolic proposition of the devil and so they succumbeb to sin .

The Messiah often isolated himself to pray , at Gethsemane, at the cross . Sometimes he went up on the mountain to pray to his Father .

He is the example to follow. Let us find the strength we need to live a victorious life over sin in prayer, and in communion with the Lord.

One day, a newly converted brother was provoked by an old comrade of his, who did his best to get him into a fight. He felt a strong desire to retaliate. And said within himself << Lord give me just five minutes to teach him a lesson. >> But knew that would not be right, just then he realised how much the Lord had changed him! And that it takes a strong man to resist violence.

When we are in communion with the Lord, then we can say :
<< I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength >>. Philippians 4 : 3.

But when we allow ourselves to drift away from the Lord, we fall, we backslide, and return to the bad habits we had forsaken, to that which we have vomited, to the very practice that we are now ashamed of.

HOW TO OVERCOME THE TEMPTER

The schemes of the devil are not to be underestimated.
He is the enemy of our soul and he is looking for ways to turn us away from the way of life and to entail us in a life of constant relapses into sin.

That is why the Holy-Spirit invites us with insistence to resist :

<< Put on the full armour of God, that so that you may STAND FIRM against the schemes of the devil. >> Ephesians 6 : 11.

<< Resist the devil and he will flee from you. >> 1 Peter 5 : 9.

Oppose him with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Say << It is written ... as Jesus firmly did when the devil came to tempt him in the desert.

The battle we are engaged in with Christ is spiritual, of which victory has been acquired in advance.

<< Take heart for I have overcome the world >> says the Lord. John 16 : 33.

When faced with discouragement, anxiety, paralysing doubts, wicked critiques, or the seduction of riches or revolt due to poverty and all kinds of temptations that tries to draw us away from Christ, simply have faith in the power of God and let us say as David when he faced Goliath :

<< The battle is the LORD's >> 1 Samuel 17 : 47.

Do not be impressed by the enemy of your soul, do not allow yourselves to be troubled before him, do not allow him to make you shrink back in fright for << CHRIST IN YOU is greater than the devil >> Philippians 1 : 28.

<< Do not give the devil a foothold >> Eph. 4 : 27.

<< Do not allow yourselves to be overcome by evil. >> Romans 12 : 21.

WHAT TO DO AFTER SUCCOMBING ?

And if your brother or sister succumbed, do not point fingers at him, but put to practice the Bible's counsel :

<< If someone is caught in a sin, you who is spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted. >> Galatians 6 : 1.

<< My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this : whoever turns a sinner from the error of his ways will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins. >> James 5 : 20.

If you, yourself have wandered from the Lord or if you have succumbed to temptation, simply humble yourself under the mighty hand of your Father. Do not hide from the light, but confess your sins to him in true repentance, and the Lord will restore you in communion with him. Remember that he is your advocate before the Father. I John 2 : 1.

Anew invite the Lord to live in you. Do not leave outside while he's knocking at the door of your heart waiting to commune with you. Revelation 3 : 20. Firmly make all effort to keep your LIFE HIDDEN IN CHRIST IN GOD.

**<< IF A MAN CLEANSE HIMSELF, HE SHALL
BE A VASE OF HONOR, SANCTIFIED
USEFUL TO HIS MASTER, PREPARED TO
DO ALL KINDS OF GOOD WORKS. >>**

2 Timothy 2 :21.

THE TRIUMPHANT LIFE

To know what is evil and the willingness not to do it, does not give us the power to overcome. But we know that it is possible to get out of the rut of sin and keep on walking in the narrow road by the strength of Jesus-Christ our Lord.

How many times have we not heard this words :

<< I cannot help myself ! >> This confession of weakness is sometimes used to justify habits or passions that we are not really willing to give-up.

Let us not deceive our ourselves for << Everyone who sins is a slave to sin. >> John 8 : 34.
And << A man is slave to whatever has mastered over him. >> 1 Peter 2: 19.

But if there be a stronghold in our life we can be confident that the God who has called us to eternal life in Christ-Jesus, will never forsake us: << Let us then approach him with confidence, so as to find grace to help in our times of need. >>
Hebrews 6 : 16. If we hold on to HIM, no matter the stronghold in time the Lord will grant us deliverance. 2 Corinthians 1 : 10.

Stand your ground by faith in Christ. None but Him CAN set you free from all kinds of sins. Has he not said :

<< IF THE SON SET YOU FREE YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED. >> John 8 : 34, 36.
He does not grant a false freedom nor an appearance of freedom. He set **FREE** !

A life of victory is available to all even to the very weak.

We know that Christ desire is to uphold us by his strength. For that, he is asking us to live in communion with Him, to remain permanently in his presence, not to wander away from Him, to keep **OUR LIFE HIDDEN WITH HIM IN GOD.**
HIS PRESENCE IN US AND WITH US IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TREASURE.
THAT WE HAVE and that can never be taken from us.

He walks with us EVERYDAY (Matt. 28) , not as a spectator of our faults or moments of weakness, in order to condemn us, but to **REACH OUT HIS HAND**, and deliver us to lead us out of the way that inevitably leads to death, to free us from every stronghold and those sins that easily beset us, and help us become fruitful.

SANCTIFICATION is neither difficult nor impossible when we are in communion with the Christ and entrust ourselves to HIM. We should be able to say with the apostle Paul:

<< I am more than **CONQUEROR** through him who loves me. >> Romans 8: 38.

<< **God always leads me to TRIUMPHAL procession in Christ. >> 2 Corinthians 2 : 14.**
That << YOUR Life hidden in Christ with God >> might now be sanctified, and triumphant over the power of sin, and that you may be << Strengthen with Power through his Spirit in your inner being. >> Ephesians 3 : 16.

<< To him who is ABLE TO DO, immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ-Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever ! Amen. >>
Ephesian 3 :21-23.

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