

Die To Self and Live for God

Luke 9:23-25 Dying to self requires a deliberate plan and disciplined actions.

Matthew 16:21-27 Only a spiritually discerning eye could decipher Peter's words as self-centered and not love- or God-centered.

Ephesians 2:1-3 People are motivated by their own selfish concerns. We learn early on in life if we do the right thing, we benefit. We eat all our food in order to get the treat. We learned to go on the potty because we received applause or rewards. At school, we get certificates of achievements, rewards, and grades for our actions. As adults with our vocation, if we do well, we will receive better pay, vacation time, and, most of all, positions with more prestige. When our egos are stroked, we respond and do more to satisfy our employer. **The inner machinery of all civilization is the manipulation of man's activity based upon his self-interest.** Yet, the holy and right way is living from a God-centered core.

Ephesians 2:2 and 3 Satan keeps control over the people of the world by the complete and constant manipulation of our egos. He knows that individual self-interest is the actual motive of all conscious action. The interest we have in others is only through the reflection of self. For the believer, God implants a new will in us, the will of God in Christ Jesus. The great paradigm shift is we now have a choice between our own will and the will of Christ that lives within us. The new will causes us to have genuine godlike concern for our fellow man.

Jas 3:13-18 Selfish ambition is earthly, natural, demonic, and every evil thing.

Trying to stop thinking about self all the time is like trying not to focus on anxiety – it gets worse and worse. We cannot stop focusing on self, but we can focus on God and others.

God is always present with us because He is omnipresent – in every location and in every location all the time.

Psalms 139:1-16, 23 and 24 Yahweh is always with us; we must learn to acknowledge His presence.

“YAHWEH” MEANS EXISTING ONE, ETERNAL ONE.

Jeremiah 23:23 and 24 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD [Yahweh], "and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?" declares the LORD [Yahweh]. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD [Yahweh].

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

John 14:15-23 Christ is in us (Col 1:27). Christ is in you.

1Corinthians 2:16 We have the mind of Christ – his thoughts, morals, desires, and motives. We now have the full potential to live and be like him.

John 8:28 and 29

Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught me. And He who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

Christ always lived with God in the now, and since we have the mind of Christ, we too can do the same. Jesus always did that which pleased God.

We can turn our lives over to the one who lives within us by quiet, persistent practice day by day. Turning our attention away from self and the world to Him with prayer, inward worship, and surrender is our goal. We can develop and establish mental habits of inward orientation. A steady, inner, secret turning to God is possible. We can begin right now by turning within ourselves and telling God we love Him and asking Him to help us grasp the concept under consideration.

STOP THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF!

When you realize you are self-focused, claim Jesus' command to die to yourself. Turn your mind to Him, and ask what is Your will? What do you want me to think about, and what do you want me to do?

Psalms 47 Be still and know I am God.

If we can learn to acknowledge and serve God with our inward orientation, then our outward activity becomes much less important. Then our service can always be unto Christ and not unto me. Ephesians 6:5-9; Col 3:16 and 17

Phil. 2:3-11

Phil. 2:13 For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Romans 12:1-3 We are told how "not to think," how we "ought to think," and "to think soberly." Prideful and egotistical thinking is unsound thinking. "Sober" or sound thinking is according to the measure of faith God has graciously dealt us. We must remain humble and not think more highly than we ought to think: "...what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?" (I Corinthians 4:7).

Fellowship with God also includes a recognition of others in His family and loving behavior toward them. We are all members of one body and have a responsibility to love one another (I John 4:7). Just as we have many parts to our physical bodies, so does the body of Christ. We are all a part of it, and each of us is needed to make it complete. We each have different work or services to perform.

12:5 – Each member of Christ's body is significant. No other can take our place. No one else can do that which we can do because each is unique. God says that the function we render in the body is unparalleled and absolutely needed. To think differently is to contradict God's Word. We may not feel

important or needed, but feelings are not the criteria for truth. Feelings should never be our standard for living.

I Corinthians 12:14-25 The section shows the relationship and interdependence of the members of the body of Christ, again by using the example of the human body.

Romans 12: 6-16 As unique members of the body of Christ, we each have a distinct function. God has already given us this ability to serve by His grace and expects us now to get busy serving.

When we focus on acknowledging God in all we do and serving our fellow man, we are much less concerned about self.

Depression, sadness, guilt, condemnation, regrets, concern how others think about you, appearances, perception, and so on are about you. Change your thinking!

The two great commandments are stipulated on dying to self.