

Just A Minute with Scripture

You're Filthy!

In the old 'Mary Poppins' movie, Bert worked as a chimney sweep and was told: "You're Filthy!" He laughed and said, "Oh, it's just clean soot!" While humorous, God cares about how we live. A saint's unclean walk is contrary to who we are in Christ and it grieves the Spirit. *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (II Cor. 7:1) We are to respond to His will in grace, living consistently by what we learn, growing from a babe to a spiritual adult.

Once we are justified and trust the blood of Christ, we have a fixed, righteous, and at-one position in Christ. Yet, until we mature and make godly decisions, our walk can remain carnal, manifesting "...filthiness of the flesh and spirit." *Romans 7:5* gives us clarity: *"For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death."* As a justified individual, we can still choose to live after the flesh, bringing forth *"fruit unto death."* Thankfully, this work will burn away. (*I Corinthians 3:11-15.*)

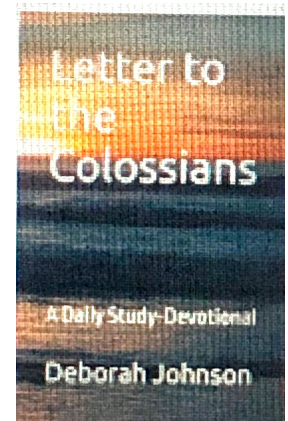
God has taken us out from under the Law so we no longer 'have' to live filthy: *"But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of the spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."* (*Romans 7:6*) We can decide to walk in grace and in line with who we are, that is, a new creation in *"newness of the spirit."* Then we will have rewards for the works that abide the fire (*I Cor 3:14*), and be able to *"...perfect holiness in the fear of God."*

This article can bring awareness about your walk. Are you still filthy in your flesh and spirit in some areas of your life? You can make new choices, allowing God to *"perfect holiness"* in you. Live as God's beloved son and daughter, allowing insights and convictions to bring new thinking and decisions. A walk of faith embraces the Word to grow.

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***Order our Daily Study-Devotional, "Letter to the Colossians" on Amazon!**



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NEW!



Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

The letter to the *Galatians* makes a great devotional to think about content and then focus on application for your own life. Do you put yourself or others under the law? Think on these passages to make them personal in your own life:

Verses for the Month: *Galatians 3:11-12: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them."*

1. Read the above passages several times and think on the main points. Describe. How can this be applied?

2. How does *Galatians 3:10* help you gain clarity to understand vs. 11-12?

3. What does this phrase mean: "it is evident?" How was it "evident" to the Galatians? Is it clear to you?

4. How is someone today "justified" in God's sight? Was it different in Israel's program, i.e. Abraham and David? Who is our example of faith in Romans 4? How is faith defined?

5. Explain: "The just shall live by faith." Paul used this phrase in *Romans 1*. Can you find it?

6. When we try to keep the law, vs. 12 states "the law is not of faith." Explain. Do you "live by faith?"

"...perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Corinthians 7:1)

Questions & Answers

With Deborah

Question 1: When my wife walks in the flesh, how can I respond godly?

Obviously, this isn't easy. Our flesh naturally wants to react emotionally, especially when we feel injured. Our job is to trust God. Before engaging, remove yourself from the situation to think/pray. Allow this time to bring verses to mind. Prepare how to respond by faith: "Be kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:10,21)

Question 2: How can I forgive my husband when I feel so angry?

Study and think about related verses. View him as Christ does: All his sin is already paid for and forgiven. Focus on and love his 'inner man,' not his flesh and sin. (Your flesh is just as vile, which is humbling to recall.) Pray, confirming your love to/for him and for ways you're thankful. Christ will enable you to forgive. (Eph. 3:16-21)

God Works Even When Trouble is All Around

Last month's article addressed that sometimes we feel God takes way too long to respond to our prayers and seems slow in His response. Paul had a different view: "For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. **Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us...**" (II Cor. 7:5-6) Sometimes God's help isn't what 'we want or expect.' The problems of life are not taken away, because they're designed to teach. (Rom. 8:28) In this case, Paul was comforted to empower him to endure.

Also, consider for a moment that 'you' may be the problem. Are you devoting time to what God instructs? We are to read and meditate upon what God is saying in the Word and then apply it. If you are not doing this, you may be resisting God's answer. There is a sowing and reaping to our decisions. How can God help us if we continue to do things 'our way?' Humble yourself. Open the Word to listen to God.

Honestly and regularly reflect on what you are doing. Do you minimally respond to what God teaches, cry out to God for intervention, and then become angry with Him? This thinking path accuses God to excuse yourself. Maybe this is a wake-up call. God has already given you all things in His Son: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) How will you proceed to perfect holiness (a holy walk) in your life?



Realizing Our Need

Sometimes we are oblivious as to the reason we repeatedly go through similar challenges over and over. The flesh and this world can be blinding: *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”* (1 John 2:16) Basically, we are stuck. The record keeps repeating until we get it. God put in place a sowing and reaping law to help us.

Fortunately, as we stay in the Word, the Holy Spirit can teach us what we need to know. Though the difficulties sometimes seem overwhelming, we just need time and perspective: *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”* (II Cor. 4:17) As we focus on eternity and begin to realize these temporal things will pass in a moment, we are humbled. We need to open our eyes and listen to Scripture more carefully. God is the one who will empower and enable us to learn and grow through life encounters.

How long will it take for us to realize God our Father is there for us and we need His help? Until ‘we’ stop trying to do things ourselves, we will struggle much more than needed. We are doing life solo and in our own effort, rather than tapping in to all the resources we have been given. Once we acknowledge the Most High God and His power and wisdom are living within us, then we can rest and see our need: the manifold wisdom of God. *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”* (Ephesians 3:20)

A Former Slave

By Melinda Weidman

Once I was a slave to sin
Wickedness reigned, without any end.

For in my sin, I was as good as dead.
With darkness in my heart, evil in my head.

For we are all sinners, not a single one good
Knowing what is right, but not doing as we should.

Sometimes trying but always falling short,
The day of judgement is coming, and it’s in God’s court.

No one can keep the commands, no one can obey
Even if we try, our sin leads us astray.

But there is a Hope, Jesus is his name
God knew we needed a Savior, and for our sake he came.

His life was a sacrifice, so we could be set free
His blood was shed for sinners, both you and me.

He is God’s gift to us, and came to this earth
So that we may have a new life, be given a new birth.

Our faith makes us righteous, it’s in faith alone
There’s a room for each of us, in his eternal home.

Through God’s grace and mercy, and his steadfast love
We praise our King Jesus, that no other name is above.

Thank God for Jesus, now I am no longer a slave
For he came and died for me, and my life he did save.

He was resurrected and lives again, he defeated death
And I will sing of his glory until my very last breath.

I worship you always Lord, in all that I say and do
Until you call me home, Jesus my faith is in you.

What is Godly Sorrow?

We all can remember being a kid and having to say, “Sorr-rry.” And, most often, it was NOT “godly sorrow,” but a fleshly response, fearing punishment. Actually it reflects worldly sorrow, basically, trying to look good. This response is often motivated to meet the standard of our ‘parent’s law,’ a form of legalism. It is a ‘work’ of the flesh and not genuine remorse, nor a heart manifesting godly love with a change of mind: *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (II Cor. 7:10)* Worldly sorrow is a fruit of fleshly effort. This type of work burns away at the Judgment, producing a functional death to our spiritual life in this area of our walk.

I Corinthians was full of correction, yet *II Corinthians* 7:7,9 relayed that Titus observed something new in the believers at Corinth. The saints earnestly desired to respond to correction and change their mind (repent) about what they were doing to please God, not their flesh. Paul relayed Titus’ findings: *“...he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more...Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance...”*

Godly sorrow is a transformed mind and heart, showing the work of Christ the Word in the inner man, as seen in Corinth: *“For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.” (II Cor. 7:11)* They became aware of their ungodly behavior and attitude, desiring to be accepted of God. The response included applying the Word, which cleared them of wrong doing and improper thinking. They saw sin for what it was, feared God, and cleansed themselves *“...from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.” (II Cor. 7:1)*

Think about what you can learn from this teaching in your own life!



A GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY

Join us to make a new goal in 2023 to read through the Bible this year. A reading schedule can help, so find one online. Let us know how you're doing or if you need help or motivation!

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Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Feel free to call if you have questions about any articles.

You Are Dearly Loved!

God gave His only Son to die on the cross to pay for all your sin. *Romans 3:23* says, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* That’s a problem!

God’s desire is that you believe the Lord Jesus’ cross work, then you’ll be saved from His judgment against sin. He loves you as the Creator, always desiring your best. Choose to believe and then grow. Find a study partner to discuss the Word.