

We are now, rightly so, teaching a lot on the need to allow Christ to live in us, instead of living for Christ. We are also truthfully teaching the need to claim what Christ has given us; but we are not teaching and are forgetting about the need for repentance and forsaking the world and sin. The Holy Spirit cannot work in us and change us if we continue to live in spiritual adultery against Christ.

We need to die to ourselves before Christ can live in and through us. We need to repent and BELIEVE, so that we might be free and be saved. We need to take up our cross and deny ourselves daily, not just sit back and hope we will somehow be changed one-day and live a life of freedom in Christ. For he who is in Christ is a new creation, the OLD things have passed AWAY; behold, NEW things have come. The old things need to pass away; we can't continue to live in them. We need to lay aside ALL encumbrances and the sin, which so easily entangles us. We have to lose our lives for His sake and His gospel in order to save them. We need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind and humble ourselves before the presence of the Lord and cry out to him; for He opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble and the broken and contrite of spirit he will look unto to. God delights in these things, not sacrifices.

He desires our bodies as living sacrifices, which is our reasonable act of worship. If we truly love Him we will keep His commandments. We need to come back to the first fruits and ask God to forgive us of our rebellion against Him and His word and ask Him to change us. Belief in God requires change, and if we do not desire change then we are liars. For if we say we love Him and do not obey or keep His commandments then we are liars and the truth (Jesus) is not in us. We must walk in the Spirit and overcome the deeds of the flesh. We must live in the victory that was won over 2000 years ago. Paul says, "But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." We are called to be a separate and peculiar people. We are not to be friends with the world, for this is hatred towards God. If we are dying daily we are partakers of the death of Jesus Christ and the world will be crucified to us and we will be partakers of His resurrection life. Then, and only then, will we have no condemnation, because we will be living in the Spirit. The Spirit is directly opposed to the flesh. The two are at constant war with each other.

We must run with endurance the race that is set before us, and run in such a manner that we may obtain the prize. For it is through many trials and tribulations that we must enter the kingdom of God. But take refuge in the Rock of our salvation because the battle belongs to the Lord. It is by His grace that we shall be set free from and through Him are all good things. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers of darkness. Our weapons are not earthly, but spiritual. We need to take up the full armour of God and understand that it is not by might or by power, but by the Spirit says the Lord. The Lord's Word is not flesh but Spirit. It is sharper than a two edged sword and can cut to the heart and soul. Jesus did not come to bring peace to this world, but a sword. I am reminded of what Paul said in Romans, "O what a wretched man I am! Who will set me free from the body (sinful nature) of this death? Thanks be to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord!" Just like Paul we need to realize that we are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God and we need to be saved from our bodies (flesh). We need to remember that it is only by faith through God's grace that we can know the Truth. And the Truth WILL set us free IF we come to the cross with an open heart and true humility.

Amen.