

reconcile our failure with our past “experience”. 1 John 1.9 is always needed, and as we confess any sin we must simply re-take our place, “crucified with Christ,” and ask to be drawn into closer fellowship with Him and kept by the power of His life in us continually.

XIII. What about growth?

It is only as we apprehend our union with Christ in His death, according to Rom 6.3-6, that there can be real “growth in grace”, for it is the divine life which is to grow as the earth life is continually reckoned crucified.

1. Let us beware of testifying, “I am dead,” for it is drawing attention to ourselves, and is “I” in a subtle form! We may speak of the Lord and all that He is, but it is for Him to bear witness to what He has done for us. Let us welcome also every criticism - kind and unkind - so that we may learn to know ourselves, and seek deeper deliverance. By this means the outward life will soon be brought into conformity to the inner life, and discrepancy between lip and life be avoided. Beware of dogmatizing over spiritual truths. Let God bear witness, and then we need never assert anything about ourselves. 1 Cor. 8.2 is always true!

2. Let us never seek “experiences”, but leave ourselves in the hand of God for Him to do as it pleases Him, leading us in any path that He may choose.

3. Let us take care lest we get out of soul-rest in seeking further blessing. God cannot work whilst we are anxious, even about our spiritual experience. Let us take Him at His Word, and leave the fulfillment of it to Him.

4. Let us never judge God’s Word by our experience, for the Word of God is true whatever our experience may be.

5. We should not seek “consciousness” of death with Christ. “The words are a contradiction in terms. If we had literally passed out of this

world into the next we should not feel dead. We should only be conscious of a new, wonderful life. Our consciousness of death would be negative, the old bonds would be unable to fetter us.”

6. We must beware of having faith in our “reckoning”, rather than in the God Who undertakes to make the reckoning true!

7. Let us beware also of “trying to grasp” the truth of God, for this is usually mental effort; and hinders the Holy Spirit from doing His work. Yield to the Holy Spirit, and He will make the truth grasp us.

8. The Lord has never promised that we shall be able to look within, and say to our own satisfaction that “self” is gone. Whilst we really believe God’s Word that we have died with Christ, and count upon Christ as the Living One to manifest His life through us, others will see that it is true, whilst we are occupied with Christ.

9. When the Holy Spirit has applied the death of Christ experimentally, and brought the soul into real emancipation, it remains to be a momentary attitude maintained by abiding in Him. There need be no effort to “abide” if we count upon the Holy Spirit to keep us abiding unconsciously.

10. When we step out upon God’s Word, we must take heed that we do not look within to see if the work is done, and watch the “operation of God” (Col. 2.12). As we rest on His Word, the work is being wrought in the depths of our being by the mighty inward Operator. If we begin to question, “have I died with Christ or have I not?” He has to wait until He can get us to look away from ourselves, and rest upon the Word again.

11. Let us be prepared that the adversary will dispute every inch of ground. The devil is NOT dead, for when we hide in Christ upon the Cross, he seems more alive than ever, but let the Living Christ who dwells within guard us from

all his subtleties, then it will be victory all the way, for he is a defeated foe.

12. Remember it is vain to ask God to set us free from ourselves if we retain one single thing that ministers to the self-life. An honest desire to let Christ entirely possess us, and a practical committing to the Cross of all that is revealed, will bring full deliverance. Let us remember, too, that God’s dealing with us, He will allow a “trail” to remain until we cease to writhe under it. We may as well say, “Yes, Lord,” at the first!

13. Finally, the “end of the Lord” is LIFE - life out of death. “*if we have become united with Him by the likeness of His death, we shall be also by the likeness of His resurrection*” (Rom. 6.5).

XIV. Let us trust Him to do His work whilst we yield to His dealings. Trust Him implicitly, and obey promptly.

Heavenly Father May you take these words that I have read, and cause me to understand them enough to allow your Holy Spirit to do what is necessary in me to allow Jesus to live in me as my life to please you every moment of the rest of my life. I do trust you Father, I receive you as Lord Jesus, and I submit to you O Holy Spirit. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

From the Book: “DYING TO LIVE”

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THE WAY OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN & SELF

I. “Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into His death?” (Rom. 6:3)

How to get free from the bondage of sin and self is the greatest question in many hearts. Such a freedom looks impossible, but “*the things that are impossible with man are possible with God.*” (Matt. 19:26)

The Word of God says: “*One died, for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they which live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto Him.*” (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

When we first came to Christ with the guilt and burden of our sins, deliverance looked just as impossible, but as we took God at His word, the Holy Spirit bore witness, and proved to us that He could do what seemed the “impossible” thing.

II. Let us go back to that first stage of deliverance and see how it was done.

A. We were convicted of sin.

B. We struggled to get peace, and looked inward for relief, but all in vain.

C. At the point of despair we were shown that deliverance had to come from some power outside of ourselves.

D. At last we looked away to Christ and saw Him on Calvary’s Cross bearing our sins in His own body on the tree.

E. We ceased from struggling, and resting

on His finished work of atonement, found peace through the blood of His Cross. The Holy Spirit applied the power of the blood and we had “*no more conscience of sins*” (Heb. 10::2) The “impossible” thing was done. Justified by faith we know we were at peace with God. (Romans 5:1)

F. New life from God was imparted to us by the Holy Ghost, and He bore witness with our spirit that we were children of God. (Romans 8:16)

III. How clearly these steps are repeated in another stage, as God leads us on to know deliverance from the bondage of self and sin.

A. The Spirit of God first convicts us of the bondage of sin and the loathsomeness of self-hood. (See 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

B. We struggle to conquer our sins and deliver ourselves; we cry to God, and yet victory appears more and more hopeless. The enemy taunts us, “It is not for you,” or, “There is no such thing as deliverance.” We seek to surrender more fully to do God’s will, but the more we try the more we seem to do the things contrary to our desires. The loathsomeness of sin increases, and its power seems greater, and we are put into circumstances that bring out the very worst part of us, until at last we loathe ourselves, and cry, “*Oh wretched man...who shall deliver me?*” (Romans 7:24)

C. At this point of bitter despair and darkness the Spirit of God shows us that self cannot conquer self of sin.

D. The Spirit of God then leads us again to Calvary, and throws light upon the meaning of the death of the Lord for the deliverance of all who trust in Him. He leads to the written Word, “One died for all, therefore all died” (2 Corinthians 5:14), and **we see that the Savior carried the sinner to the cross, as well as his sins**, and that we have died in Him to sin and to the old life of self. We then consent to account

ourselves crucified with Christ, and agree to live the crucified life, “*Always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake that the life also of Jesus may be manifested.*” (2 Corinthians 4:11)

E. “Planted together in the likeness of His death” (Romans 6:5), as having died with Him, we cease from our own work (efforts) and enter into rest (Hebrews 4:10), saying in dependence upon the Holy Ghost, “*I have been crucified with Christ.*” (Galatians 2:20).

F. The life of God is now imparted in fuller measure, and the Holy Spirit reveals the living Christ indwelling the soul, henceforth enabling the believer, moment by moment, to live unto Him.

IV. But I do not yet feel all this, someone says!

Nevertheless, this is the message of Calvary and the resurrection of the Christ, and we must come to the right position in the sight of God, by faith in His word ere we can prove it in experience.

V. Have we been brought by the Holy Spirit to utter despair of ourselves, and are now ready to own that in us dwelleth no good thing?

Then let us now in simple trust:

A. Look to Calvary once again, and see that the Savior did carry us in Himself to His Cross - as well as our sins (Romans 6:3; Galatians 2:20).

B. Take our place in Him on the Cross, and say that by the choice of our will we have died with Him (Col. 3:3; Galatians 2:20).

C. Then day by day, as any trace of the old “natural” life is revealed, yield it to the Cross, and reckon it crucified with Him (Romans 8:13).

D. Count upon the Living Christ in us to manifest His life continually.

VI. If we quietly thus rest upon the Word of God,

“*ye died*” (Col. 3:3), and claim the severing power of the death of Christ over every unveiling of the “old Adam” life or old bonds of sin, the Holy Spirit will at once “make to die” the “doings” of the body, and we shall walk in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

Moreover, in the hour of temptation when Satan tries to throw back upon us old sins, or workings of the old life in any form, we must, by the “word of our testimony” that we are crucified with Christ, claim the victory Christ won over Satan on the Cross, and refuse to yield to his power.

But can our death with Christ be made real to us in one moment?

We can take our place as crucified with Christ in a moment of time, but the Spirit of God must deal with the old life day by day, and we then surrender it to the Cross as it is revealed.

VII. Can “self” rise again?

A. After we have seen our death with Christ, there probably will arise fresh manifestations of “self” to be dealt with, for as the work of God deepens in us, the Holy Spirit will reveal depths we had no conception of, for we cry “let Him not spare!”

B. Sometimes the adversary may imitate “self” to make us lose our faith that we are crucified with Christ.

VIII. What are we to do when this happens?

A. Stand upon the word of the Living God, and say “It is written”. “I have been crucified with Christ” - His death is mine.

B. Hand over every trace of self - real or apparent - to the Holy Ghost for Him to deal with, and refuse to have anything to do with it.

C. Believe that God does deliver now, in the face of all appearances to the contrary, and hide in Christ on the Cross from the enemy, counting upon the shelter of the blood of Calvary.

IX. Does fellowship with the death of Christ mean no “feeling”?

The Lord has not promised to turn us into stones. In union with Christ in His death we are delivered from selfishness; from self-sensitiveness (i.e. being wounded for self), but not from sensitiveness for others. Now there will be tears for others, but none because we are hurt! However much we suffer we do not resent it and retort as we used to, but we do feel the pain and see the hand of God in all that comes to us, for our good (see Romans 8:28).

X. If we have “died”, how can we be tempted?

If Christ suffered being tempted, and was tempted in all points like as we are, we shall not cease to be tempted. Galatians 2:20 give the secret. “I” crucified, “Christ lives in me.” “I” - the selfish; “I” - nailed to His cross; “me” - the personal “me” remains - to be tempted and tried.

XI. What about “dying daily”?

If we look at the context of the passage where this sentence occurs, we shall see that it relates to Paul’s exposure of his physical life to hazard continually. It does not seem to refer to “spiritual” death at all. In 2 Cor. 4:10, we read of “*always bearing about in the body the dying of Jesus*”, and this describes the crucified life, when the Spirit of God brings us daily into deeper conformity to the death of the Lord, and which follows our apprehension of our death with Christ according to the Word of God.

XII. If I fall into sin, after taking the place of death, what then?

This is the most critical point of all. Above all things we must be honest with God, and call sin, sin, never attempting to cover it over, or to