

Related Verses

Judg. 6:12

12 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him and said to him, Jehovah is with you, valiant warrior.

Rev. 2:7

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Isa. 50:4-5

4 The Lord Jehovah has given me The tongue of the instructed, That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear To hear as an instructed one.

5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn back.

Exo.21:6

6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Phil. 2:5-9

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,

7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;

8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

James 1:19

19 You know this, my beloved brothers; but let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Related Reading

The intrinsic significance of...Judges [6:1—8:32] is...first, the secret of Gideon’s success and then the secret of his failure.

Gideon, a marvelous judge who was called by Jehovah in a very particular way, was successful because of four things. First, he listened carefully to the word of God, something that was rare among the children of Israel at that time. Second, Gideon obeyed God’s word and acted on it. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 23)

Although our angle and position may be right, we still may not have the proper ear to hear. Revelation 1 emphasizes seeing and chapters 2 and 3 emphasize hearing. In spiritual things, seeing depends on hearing. The writer of Revelation first heard the voice (1:10) and then saw the vision (1:12). If our ears are dull and cannot hear, then we cannot see (Isa. 6:9-10). The Jews would not hear the word of the Lord, so they could not see what the Lord was doing according to the new testament (Matt. 13:15; Acts 28:27). The Lord always wants to open our ears to hear His voice (Job 33:14-16; Isa. 50:4-5; Exo. 21:6) that we may see things according to His economy. The dull ears need to be circumcised (Jer. 6:10; Acts 7:51). The sinners’ ears need to be cleansed with the redeeming blood and anointed with the Spirit (Lev. 14:14, 17, 28). To serve the Lord as priests, we must have our ears cleansed with the redeeming blood (Exo. 29:20; Lev. 8:23-24). According to Revelation, as the Spirit is speaking to the churches, we all need an opened, circumcised, cleansed, and anointed ear to hear the Spirit’s speaking. (Rev. 2:7, footnote 1)

Hebrews 5:8 tells us that the Lord’s obedience was learned through suffering...True submission is found when there is still obedience in spite of suffering. A man’s usefulness is not in whether he has suffered, but in whether he has learned obedience in suffering. Only those who are obedient to God are useful. If the heart is not softened, the suffering will not go away. Our way is the way of manifold sufferings. A man who yearns after ease and enjoyment is of no use. We must all learn to be obedient in sufferings. When the Lord came to the earth, He did not bring obedience with Him; rather, He learned it through sufferings. (*CWWN*, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” p. 146)

[The law’s righteous requirement is] not consciously kept by us through our outward endeavoring but spontaneously and unconsciously fulfilled in us by the inward working of the Spirit of life. The Spirit of life is the Spirit of Christ, and Christ corresponds with the law of God. This Spirit within us spontaneously fulfills all the righteous requirements of the law through us when we walk according to Him. (Rom. 8:4, footnote 1)

There are two aspects of the law—the aspect of the letter and the aspect of the Spirit. “The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Cor. 3:6). If our attitude in coming to

the law is to care only for the commandments in letters, we will have the law in the aspect of the killing letter. However, if we take every part of the law—all the commandments, ordinances, statutes, precepts, and judgments—as the word breathed out by the God whom we love, we will have the law in the aspect of the life-giving Spirit.

The function of the law also has two aspects. On the negative side, the law exposes man’s sin (Rom. 3:20b; 7:7b) and subdues sinners before God (Rom. 3:19). It also guards God’s chosen people in its custody that they might be conducted to Christ (Gal. 3:23-24). On the positive side, as God’s living testimony, the law functions to minister the living God to His seekers (Psa. 119:2, 88), and as God’s living word, the law functions to dispense God Himself as life and light into those who love the law (vv. 25, 116, 130). (Psa. 119:50, footnote 1)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Judges*, msg. 5; *CWWN*, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” ch. 5; *CWWL*, 1985, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord’s Present Move,” chs. 2, 6

Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 9 – Sections: Escaping from His Uncle Laban; Facing the Trouble of Laban’s Pursuing and Overtaking Him

Related Verses

Judg. 6:25-26, 34

25 And that night Jehovah said to him, Take your father’s bull, that is, the second bull, seven years old; and tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.

26 And build an altar to Jehovah your God upon the top of this stronghold in the ordered manner. Then take that second bull, and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you will cut down.

34 And the Spirit of Jehovah clothed Gideon; and he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called up behind him.

Dan. 11:32b

32b But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

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Acts 13:52

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim. 4:1-2

1 I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching.

Eph. 5:18-20

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

19 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

20 Giving thanks at all times for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father,

1 Cor. 2:12

12 But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;

Related Reading

[The third factor of Gideon’s success was that] he tore down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah (Judg. 6:25-28). This touched God’s heart. In the degradation of Israel, God hated the idols to the uttermost. God as the genuine Husband regarded all the idols as men with whom His wife Israel had committed harlotry. Fourth, by tearing down the altar of Baal and cutting down the Asherah that belonged to his father, Gideon sacrificed his relationship with his father and his enjoyment of society. Because of what he had done, the men of the city of Ophrah contended with him and even wanted to kill him (vv. 28-30). For Gideon to do such a thing for God required that he sacrifice his own interests, and his sacrifice was a strong factor of his success. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 23)

As a result of these four factors, Gideon received a reward: the economical Spirit came upon him (Judg. 6:34). Hence, he became powerful and with only three hundred men defeated two princes and two kings (7:25; 8:10-12). With Gideon we have a picture of a man who lived in

union with God, a God-man, to fulfill God’s word and to carry out God’s economy. (Judg. 6:27, footnote 1)

After one has consecrated himself in his heart, he still needs to tear down the idols as an outward testimony. We need to be aware of ourselves, our family, and those with whom we have contact. Anything that occupies equal standing with God should be torn down. Only those who have seen God know what an idol is. Only those who have seen the Angel of God, who is the Lord, know that anything besides the Lord is an idol. Only after one has seen the Angel of God will he realize that the wooden image is not God.

After having passed through these four steps, the Holy Spirit came upon Gideon. The filling of the Holy Spirit does not come as a result of prayer for power. When a man stands in the proper condition, the Holy Spirit will come upon him. (*CWWN*, vol. 11, p. 772)

[One] point of the up-to-date way to practice the Lord’s present move is to be filled..., not with culture, religion, or education but with the Spirit, who is the ultimate consummation of the processed Triune God. We need to be filled with such a Spirit inwardly and outwardly, essentially and economically, for life and for work. We should remember that we are not filled once for all. What Christ has accomplished is once for all, but what we have to experience is not. Time after time, day after day, morning after morning, evening after evening, all day long, we have to experience being filled with this wonderful, all-inclusive, processed, consummated Spirit for our entire lives. Every day in the morning the first thing we have to pray is, “Lord, fill me afresh. Fill me, Lord. Fill me with Yourself as the consummated Spirit. I like to have You filling me up within and without. I want to be wrapped up and mingled with You.”

We preach the gospel and teach the truths by diving into the Word. By diving into “the gold bar” we will be enabled and equipped to preach and to teach. Whatever we are filled with inwardly is what we will utter...We have the Recovery Version of the New Testament, the Life-studies, The Conclusion of the New Testament, and the Truth Lessons...We need to get ourselves saturated, infused, filled, and soaked with all the truths contained in these writings. Then whenever we speak, we will speak the truth. (*CWWL*, 1985, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord’s Present Move,” pp. 484-486)

Further Reading: *CWWN*, vol. 11, pp. 743-753, 757-760, 770-774

Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 9 – Sections: *Facing the Trouble of Esau’s Dealing with Him; Wrestling with God; Facing the Trouble of His Daughter Dinah; Being Purified and Returning to Bethel*

Wednesday 10/20

Related Verses

Judg. 6:15

15 And he said to Him, Please, Lord, by what way can I save Israel? My clan here is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.

Acts 26:19

19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Ezek. 14:7a

7a For each and every man of the house of Israel or of the sojourners who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets his heart on his idols

Phil. 3:8-10

8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Rom. 12:1-5

1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than

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he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Related Reading

[To] enter into this victorious life...we must know the self thoroughly. We must see that the self deserves only to die....Our end is God's beginning. We cannot receive the victory of Christ if we still have hope in our self. Christ is living in us, but we have not given Him the ground to rule over us and reign within us.

It is easy to be humble before God, but it is very difficult to be humble before man in comparison with others. Saying, "I am the least" is easy, but saying, "I am the least in my father's house" is not easy. Saying, "My family is poor" is easy, but saying, "My family is poor in Manasseh" is not easy (Judg. 6:15). The overcomers do not see the shining on their own faces, though others may see it. All those who see the shining on their own faces through a mirror are not overcomers....The overcomers have the reality of an overcomer rather than the name of an overcomer. (CWWN, vol. 11, pp. 745, 771)

No one can work without seeing a vision, [a heavenly vision of the Lord]. If one has the vision, though he may encounter difficulties, he will still reach his goal. When we have the Lord's word, we can cross to the other side.

We need to offer up ourselves, even what we regard to be the least, to the hand of God. It does not matter whether we see ourselves as big or as small. If we do not put ourselves in the hand of God, both are equally futile. All living sacrifices that are according to God's will are acceptable to God. The overcomers were called by God.

The blowing of the trumpet (Judg. 6:34) is a call for others to join the ranks of the overcomers. Overcomers should not act independently. We should separate ourselves from the defeated ones, but we should not separate ourselves from the other overcomers.

In general all believers have financial difficulties. Perhaps this is because the things they formerly did were improper, things they now can no longer do. Or perhaps it is because of spiritual reasons, where God is behind the

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scene directing matters with some specific goal. God takes away our material possessions so that we will seek Christ that He may have the first place in all things. It is not impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God, but it is difficult. It is not impossible for him to serve the Lord, but it is difficult. Cast your treasure in the dust, and Jehovah will be your treasure (Job 22:24-25). In the wilderness God dealt with the children of Israel by stripping them of all the earthly supply of food and clothing in order that they might know God's riches. When the earthly supply stops, the heavenly supply comes. Difficulty in material supplies comes for the purpose that we may seek to have Christ take the first place in all things and learn the lessons of faith. When difficulty comes, we should believe that it is from God and rejoice. But we should not hope for difficulties to come. If we do, Satan also can cause difficulties to be added to us.

The reason we lose our parents, husband, wife, children, and relatives is that God wants us to take Christ as our satisfaction. God takes these away from us in order that we would take Christ as Lord and allow Him to have the first place in us. God has no intention to deal with us severely; His intention is only for us to take Christ as Lord. To weep before the Lord is more precious than to be happy before men. What we find in the Lord is what cannot be found in our parents, wife, and children. (CWWN, vol. 11, pp. 771-772, 748-749)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1954, vol. 1, pp. 417-418; CWWL, 1954, vol. 4, pp. 517-521

Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 9 – Sections: Taking Care of the Burial of Deborah; Suffering the Death of Rachel; Suffering His Son Reuben's Incest with His Concubine Bilhah; Suffering the Loss of His Beloved Son Joseph; Suffering the Danger of Losing Simeon and Benjamin

Thursday 10/21

Related Verses

Judg. 7:4-7, 2-3

4 Then Jehovah said to Gideon, The people are still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. And he of whom I say to you, This one shall go with you, he shall go with you. And every one of whom

I say to you, This one shall not go with you, he shall not go.

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And Jehovah said to Gideon, Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart; likewise everyone who bows down on his knees to drink.

6 And the number of those who lapped the water into their mouth with their hand was three hundred men, but the rest of the people bowed down on their knees to drink water.

7 And Jehovah said to Gideon, Through the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and I will deliver Midian into your hand. But let all the other people go, each to his own place.

2 And Jehovah said to Gideon, The people with you are too many for Me to deliver Midian into their hand; Israel might vaunt himself against Me, saying, My own hand has saved me.

3 Now then proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, Whoever is afraid and trembling should return and depart from here. And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

Exo. 33:14-16

14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

15 And he said to Him, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

16 For how then shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, are distinct from all the other people who are on the face of the earth?

Psa. 110:3

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly In the day of Your warfare, In the splendor of their consecration. Your young men will be to You Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

Gal. 5:24

24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Related Reading

The selection of the three hundred in Judges 7:2-7 also stresses the sacrifice of our personal interests and enjoyment for God's purpose. When Gideon blew the trumpet to call the people to fight against the Midianites,

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thirty-two thousand responded. God said that those who were with Gideon were too many for God to deliver Midian into their hand, for Israel might have vaunted himself against God, saying, “My own hand has saved me” (v. 2). By telling Gideon that he had too many people, God was indicating that He would fight for them. First, twenty-two thousand went home because they were afraid (v. 3). Then Jehovah tested the remaining ten thousand by bringing them to the water to drink. Those who bowed down on their knees and lapped as a dog lapped were sent home (v. 5). Only the three hundred who lapped the water into their mouths with their hands were chosen by God for the battle against Midian (v. 6). Jehovah told Gideon that through the three hundred men who lapped in that way, He would save them from Midian. Like Gideon, these three hundred were willing to sacrifice in order to be used by God. (*Life-study of Judges*, pp. 23-24)

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The first selection resulted in twenty-two thousand people leaving. They left because...they wanted to glorify themselves. We are willing to give up our life but not to give up our glory. Not only do we have to overcome Satan, we have to overcome ourselves as well. God wants only those who will work for Him without boasting about it. After working for God, we should merely say, “We are unprofitable slaves” (Luke 17:10)...God cannot divide His glory between Him and us. If we still expect anything for ourselves, we will be eliminated. These ones also left...because they were fearful and afraid (Judg. 7:3)...One must not love himself but must endure suffering. The greatest suffering is not material but spiritual. Whoever wants to glorify himself and is fearful and afraid will be eliminated. Overcoming does not depend on the number of people but on knowing God.

The [second] selection...was based on a very small matter, that of drinking. A small matter always exposes what we are. In those days both the Jews and the Arabs carried their luggage on their backs when they traveled. There were two ways to drink water along the way. One was to put down the luggage and kneel, bowing down to the ground to drink with the mouth. The other was to leave the luggage on the back and drink by putting the hand to the mouth....Among the ten thousand, nine thousand and seven hundred drank with their mouths directly to the water, while three hundred drank by putting water in their

hand to the mouth. Those who drank directly with their mouths were eliminated by God. Those who drank by bringing water in their hand to the mouth were selected by God. A person who has the chance to indulge himself but who will not do so is one who has been dealt with by the cross. This kind of person can be used by God. God can only use those who are willing to be unconditionally dealt with by the cross.

The three conditions by which God selects the overcomers are: (1) being absolute for God’s glory, (2) being afraid of nothing, and (3) allowing the cross to deal with the self. One can judge for himself if he is an overcomer. God will test us, and we will be exposed as to whether or not we are overcomers. Only those who know the victory of the cross will be able to maintain the victory of the cross. (*CWWN*, vol. 11, pp. 772-774)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1986, vol. 1, “Elders’ Training, Book 7: One Accord for the Lord’s Move,” chs. 1, 6, 8; *CWWL*, 1965, vol. 3, “The Heavenly Vision,” ch. 6

Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 9 – Sections: Releasing Him from All His Sufferings; God’s Causing Him to Be Transformed and Matured; Being Transformed from a Supplanter to a Prince of God;

Friday 10/22

Related Verses

Judg. 7:13-14

13 And when Gideon came, at that moment a man was recounting a dream to his companion; and he said, I have just had a dream. There was this round loaf of barley bread tumbling through the camp of Midian. And it came to the tent and struck it, so that it fell and turned upside down. And the tent collapsed.

14 And his companion answered and said, This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel. God has delivered Midian and all the camp into his hand.

1 Cor. 10:17

17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Cor. 12:20, 24

20 But now the members are many, but the body one.

24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked,

John 12:24

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Rom. 12:1-3

1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Judg. 6:16

16 And Jehovah said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you will strike the Midianites as one man.

Judg. 7:15

15 And when Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, Arise, for Jehovah has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.

Related Reading

According to Judges 7:9 through 15, Gideon heard the account of a dream in the camp of Midian. [In verses 13-14] one of the Midianites recounted a dream to his companion....His companion responded by saying that this was nothing else than the sword of Gideon and that God had delivered Midian and all the camp into Gideon’s hand. When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he worshipped, returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for Jehovah has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand” (v. 15).

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies and put trumpets into their hands, as well as empty pitchers, with torches inside the pitchers (v. 16). They blew the trumpets and shattered the pitchers. Then, holding the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands, they cried out, “A sword for Jehovah and

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for Gideon!” (vv. 19-20). Then the whole camp of the Midianites ran off, and they shouted and fled. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 29)

God gave Gideon three hundred men and made them one body. Individual victory is not proper. Gideon and those three hundred men moved together and acted in one accord. All of their flesh was cut off, so they could be one. This is the oneness in the Spirit and a living in the Body. (*CWWN*, vol. 11, p. 774)

A barley loaf...is a loaf of the resurrected Christ who can never be limited....You say that you cannot meet the situation. This is right. You surely cannot. But there is One who can—the One who is the barley. A barley loaf is within you; a little bit of the resurrected Christ is in you—that is good enough. (*CWWL*, 1961-1962, vol. 4, “The All-inclusive Christ,” p. 236)

Paul’s thought of the church being one bread [1 Cor. 10:17] was not his own invention; rather, it was taken from the Old Testament. The meal offering in Leviticus 2:4 consisted of cakes made of fine flour mingled with oil. Every part of the flour was mixed, or mingled, with the oil. That is blending. Paul tells us that the church is a bread, a cake, made of fine flour....John 12:24 says that Christ is the one grain of wheat who fell into the earth and died and grew up in resurrection to produce many grains, which are we, His believers. We are the many grains so that we may be ground into fine flour for making the cake, the bread, of the church. Here we can see the thought of blending in the Bible.

[First Corinthians 12:24] says clearly that God has blended all the believers together. But where is the blending in the recovery? We may think that the coordination in the church is the reality of the blending. However, I must tell you that even the coordination in the church is not the reality of the Body of Christ.

To be in the reality of the Body of Christ, we need to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ. We do have some good coordination in the local churches. However, I would ask, “Is this kind of coordination carried out by the natural life or in resurrection?” To be in resurrection means that our natural life is crucified, and then the God-created part of our being is uplifted in resurrection to be one with Christ in resurrection.

It is common today that in the local churches what we can see is mostly the “church” in its meetings, activities,

works, and services. But we cannot see much of the reality of the Body of Christ in resurrection, that is, in the Spirit, in the pneumatic Christ, and in the consummated God. (*CWWL*, 1994-1997, vol. 1, “The Practical Points concerning Blending,” pp. 112-113)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1961-1962, vol. 4, “The All-inclusive Christ,” chs. 5-6; *CWWL*, 1994-1997, vol. 1, “The Practical Points concerning Blending,” chs. 2-4

Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 9 – Sections: Being Matured to Bless All People Whom He Contacted; Causing Him, with Joseph, to Go through a Long Period of Suffering; and to Be Exalted as the Sovereign Ruler; Going through a Long Period of Suffering; Being Exalted as the Sovereign Ruler

Saturday 10/23

Related Verses

Rom. 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God’s kindness is leading you to repentance?

Gal. 5:16

16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Judg. 8:23

23 But Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. Jehovah will rule over you.

Rom. 8:4

4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

1 Sam. 16:7

7 But Jehovah said to Samuel, Do not regard his appearance and the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For it is not how man sees that matters; for man looks on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looks on the heart.

1 Chron. 28:9

9 And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father, and serve Him with your whole heart and with a willing soul, for Jehovah searches all the hearts and understands every imagination of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He

will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you away forever.

1 Chron. 29:17

17 I know also, O my God, that You try the heart and take pleasure in uprightness. I, in the uprightness of my heart, have offered willingly all these things; and now I have seen with joy Your people, who are present here, offering willingly to You.

Psa. 33:12

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah, The people whom He has chosen as His own possession.

Gal. 5:25

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Col. 3:5

5 Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry;

Related Reading

After his great success—the greatest success in all the cycles of Israel’s history recorded in Judges—Gideon had a terrible failure. The secret of his failure comprises three factors. First, Gideon was not kind. He killed those countrymen who did not support him (Judg. 8:16-17), breaking the sixth commandment of God (Exo. 20:13). Second, he indulged in the lust of the flesh, not exercising any restriction over his fleshly lust. This is indicated by Judges 8:30, which tells us that Gideon had seventy sons, “for he had many wives.” In addition, his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son (v. 31). By this Gideon broke the seventh commandment (Exo. 20:14). Third, although he did a good thing in refusing to rule over the people (Judg. 8:22-23), he coveted the spoil of his people, and they surrendered it to him (v. 24). (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 24)

Gideon’s indulgence in sex and his greediness for gold led to idolatry. Greediness is idolatry (Col. 3:5), and both fornication and greediness are linked to idol worship (Eph. 5:5). Even King Solomon, who began as a God-fearing and God-loving person, eventually became an idol worshipper through his many foreign wives (1 Kings 11:4). Gideon made an ephod with the gold he had taken from the people, and this ephod became an idol to the children of Israel (Judg. 8:27). As a result, Gideon’s family and the entire

The Intrinsic Significance of Gideon as God’s Valiant Warrior

Morning Watch

society of Israel were corrupted. Gideon began by tearing down the altar of Baal and its idol, but after his success he built something idolatrous. This failure canceled all his success....His failure shows us that we need to exercise strict control in dealing with the matters of sex and wealth....Any indulgence in these things will cause our enjoyment of Christ to be annulled.

The intrinsic significance of the fifth and sixth cycles of Israel’s miserable history (8:33—10:5; 10:6—12:15) consists of Israel’s forsaking God and joining herself to idols. This means that Israel divorced God, her legitimate Husband, and went after many idols.

Man’s forsaking of God began in Genesis 3....To take the tree of knowledge is actually to marry Satan and divorce God.

Gideon’s failure was due to his forsaking of God and his joining himself to Satan....When he joined himself to Satan, the issue was murder. He also indulged in the flesh, coveted, and committed idolatry. This issued in the corruption of his family and the entire society of Israel.

To go along with Satan is to enter into the ambition that was present in Satan when he fell. He wanted to ascend to the throne; he wanted to be like the Most High (Isa. 14:13-14). Hence, to forsake God and join with Satan is to enter into the intrinsic ambition within this evil one.

In family life, whenever a husband and a wife love the Lord and reject everything other than Him, their married life will be wonderful. But once a husband or wife begins to love something else in place of the Lord, their married life and family life become chaotic.

We have no right to divorce the Lord; we have no basis to forsake Him. We must take Him, love Him, honor Him, respect Him, regard Him, exalt Him, and cling to Him, rejecting Satan to the uttermost. Then we will be blessed.

If we love the Lord and hate Satan, we will be blessed....Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah.” Blessed is everyone—nation, society, group, and individual—whose Lord, Head, King, and Husband is Jehovah. (*Life-study of Judges*, pp. 24-25, 33-35)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Judges*, msgs. 6-8

Hymns, #942

1 The work is Thine, O Christ our Lord,
The cause for which we stand;
And being Thine, ’twill overcome
Its foes on every hand.
Yet grains of wheat, before they grow,
Are buried in the earth below;
All that is old doth perish there
To form a life both new and fair:
So too are we from self and sin made free.

2 Through suff’ring Thou, O Christ, didst go
Unto Thy throne above,
And ledest now the selfsame way
Those true in faith and love;
So lead us, then, though suff’rings wait,
To share Thy kingdom’s heav’nly state;
Thy death has broken Satan’s might,
And leads the faithful to the light;
Eternal light, from darkness into light.

3 Thou hast, O Savior, led the way
Through agony and death;
O give, we pray, yet more and more
Thy Spirit’s living breath!
Send messengers o’er land and sea
To bring Thy children all to Thee;
Thy name can save, Thy name makes free;
We consecrate ourselves to Thee
As servants true, as warriors brave and true.

Lord’s Day 10/24

Related Verses

Isa. 50:4-5

4 The Lord Jehovah has given me The tongue of the instructed, That I should know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me morning by morning; He awakens my ear To hear as an instructed one.

5 The Lord Jehovah has opened my ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn back.

Prov. 21:1

1 The king's heart is like streams of water in the hand of Jehovah; He turns it wherever He wishes.

2 Tim. 2:1, 3-4, 10-12, 15

1 You therefore, my child, be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus;

3 Suffer evil with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please the one who enlisted him.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the chosen ones, that they themselves also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 Faithful is the word: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us;

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.

Further Reading

Life-study of Judges, msgs. 5,
CWWN, vol. 47, “Authority and Submission,” chp. 5
CWWL, 1961-1962, vol. 4, “The All-Inclusive Christ,”
chps. 5-6