

New Believer Lesson- Setting Standards of Conducts

Now that we have been changed by our new relationship with Christ there are many things that must take place in our lives!

Your standards of living are now different because your life is now hidden with Christ in God!!

You now have a moral standard of Goodness and excellence called Growing in Grace!

- A. your present behavior should be different now that your under the control of the of God's Spirit, your thoughts, emotions, your words should all be reflected in and out of that new relationship with God's Spirit. When you gave your heart to Jesus you yielded your life and allowed God to take his place of ownership in your life.
- B. When we are living for God, and obeying his Word we learn that the old patterns of living are now wrong and we need to be lead by the Spirit in our daily ways
- C. We must go from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God, in all our ways.
- D. Moral excellence means that you live free from deliberate sinful habits or actions that affect your new life in Christ
- E. You now have a new way of dealing with temptation- God's Word is key in dealing with the old ways and the new temptations that come your way. We must work at memorizing God's word to overcome our temptations and thoughts that cause us to stumble.
We must learn to break the chains the enemy the devil tries to bind us with. He will try to rob, steal and destroy us as well steer us the right way and we must be ready.
We must learn to put on the full armor of God to overcome all the fiery arrows the devil throws at us!

Dealing with the Old Self

- A. Since we committed our Lives to Christ we are new Creatures in Christ Jesus
2 Corinthians 5:17-says "therefore if any man is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation"....NIV
We must understand that though we have a new nature the old one still exists and must be controlled. Old habits must be broken by choice of our Will.
We must surrender control of those things that we held before to God and his Holy Spirit

Old ways include:

- a. Unforgiveness
- b. Hate
- c. Lies
- d. Anger
- e. Unbelief
- f. Unfaithfulness

Remember:

The earlier in your new life you deal with old habits and ways the easier it becomes to get old habits and sins under control, and under the Blood of Christ. As we grow in our relationship with Christ we learn to listen to his voice, we learn communication skills that teach us to be more and more like Christ

In **2 Corinthians 7:1-2** it says since we have God's promises...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit perfecting holiness out of reverence for Christ...NIV

Purity: by definition it means that we become more and more like Christ and less and less like our old selves. We begin to walk, talk, act and think in purity like our Lord and Savior!!

Learn this lesson early- if we get rid of the old man, or women...meaning our old ways. Selfishness, pride, unbelief, lovelessness, jealousy, etc...we must replace them with the fruit of Christ' Spirit!!

When we lived in the darkness we thought like a person living in the darkness, but now we are children of the light, we must put off old ways.

*"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature". **Romans 13:11-14***

The Fruit of Spirit we are to live by is:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law- **Galatians 5:22**

Questions:

1. How should we offer our bodies unto God? **Romans 12:1-2**
2. The Bible teaches us not to yield ourselves to what according to **Romans 6:19?**

If you are now thinking that there are things that you might want to get rid of in your life and you know are not right for a new believer make a list privately right now, show it to no one!!! now ask God to help you one by one to get rid of these things that were in your old life before you knew Christ.

Now make a list of the things that you know are right and you want to see in your life with Christ:

Example... "I want to love my enemies, my neighbour that wronged me or tried to harm me..."

Read the following verses and see if they are challenging you to change, from the things that you used to do to do things that are righteousness now that you are alive in Christ and want to please him!!!

Colossians 3:1-11 - which talks about having our focus on things above, about putting the death the Old things that used to well up in our lives

Romans 6:1-8 - talks about putting off that old self, sin and ways because we are in Christ we must put to death the old ways habits and lifestyles. We died with Christ, died with him means that we put to death the old ways; they were washed away in our acceptance of Christ As Savior they were buried in his death and as new creatures in Christ Jesus we were raised to new life, or made alive in Christ because of what he did having lived and died and our life was raised up in him; this is how we were made alive in Christ.

Temptation- Should we worry about it?

It is necessary that we learn how to deal with Temptation early in our walk with Christ!!

How do we, who are redeemed, washed by the blood of Christ, deal with temptations that come our way as we walk with our Lord!!

Have you ever heard someone say: "no one knows what I go through or could possibly understand all that has happened to me, I reject the idea of a literal "Devil" it's not real"!!!

Temptation is enticement to Sin: it's not something we conjure up or by some idea learn that there is evil matter in the universe we must overcome it..the Devil is real and we will prove it in this section!!

It has been said well that Hell is enlarging because people refuse to believe in Hell and the Devil...

The Old Testament often speaks of an angel that God threw out of heaven and mentions the Devil's evil trinity in the Book of Revelation, and we must be sure about what we read for the Bible clearly illustrates many verses that prove the existence of evil and the devil..

Verses that prove the existence of Satan;

In 2 Corinthians 11:14, Paul writes about false apostles:

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of **light**.

And **in Luke 10:18-19**, at the return of the 70 as they comment on their success, Jesus says:

And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like **lightning** from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you."

Luke 10:19 -clearly here we see Jesus showing a picture of Satan falling from heaven... and which is intended to show that the end has come for the devils dominion...

Things the Bible says about Satan and his power and what we need to overcome!

Romans 13:12- Armor of light...weapons of light

James 1:17- Teaches us to fight the good fight

I Corinthians 4:5 -teaches us to bring to light what is hidden

Job 1:6-7- A Spirit being named as Satan... came to present himself before God

Matthew 4: 1-10- Jesus was lead into the desert and tempted by Satan 40 days and nights

I Chron 21:1- Bibles says Devil Provoked David to take a census

Matt 12:26- Talks about a kingdom that is divided against itself..called the kingdom of Satan

If Satan does not exist, then how come the Bible is very explicit stating that Satan has a kingdom here in this verse...realistically only a fool would say there is no evil or Satan...

Mark 4:15- talks of Satan snatching away the word from the hearts of those that don't protect it

Luke 22:31-32 speaks of Satan trying to sift... [or put through a great trial] Simon but the Lord prayed that his faith would not fail...NIV

Romans 16:20- says the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet..

I Peter 5:8 Your enemy the devil prowls around you like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

Revelation 20:2 -says ...'he seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil'...

Revelation 20:7-8 "...when the 100 years had ended Satan was loosed out of his prison"

Revelation 20:10 "...the devil that deceived the nations was cast into the lake of fire and Brimstone

I Corinthians 2:11 Paul says ..."In order that Satan might not outwit us for we are not unaware of his schemes"... - speaking about forgiving your brother from the heart...

Dealing with Temptation

How do we overcome temptation? Can we or should we be ready for action?

Temptation is Enticement to Sin!!

1. Temptation itself is not sin; Jesus himself was tempted and did not sin
2. Jesus never promised to take away your temptation; he just said he would help you overcome it **Read John 4:4**
3. When you are tempted God promised he would provide a way out so you can stand up under it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**
4. Memorize the Word and keep it hidden in your heart **Psalms 119:11**

Do you know that Satan loves to fake us into defeat we need to know that disobedience can far outweighs our praying- we must commit everything to the Lord in Prayer!!

Notes

1. We need to endure trials and temptation to grow
2. Often growth comes out of suffering; no real growth comes without suffering
3. No temptation is overcome without endurance **Ps-103**-praise God no matter what

Book of James- talks about **persevering**- he teaches that God uses trials to perfect our faith:

1. through trials he strengthens our faith and tests it-God does not let temptations and trials come to rob your faith or to see if you have faith but to strengthen it
2. James says that God **never tempts anyone he tests- but does not tempt**

God cannot be tempted and after all if he did how could we mere humans resist... He tests us according to our faith and only to add faith!!

- a. perseverance is the result of the process of testing **James 1:12**
- b. maturity is the goal and the end result and factor that changes us

Finally let us learn the Stages of Sin so we are prepared to recognize them as they come:

Stages of Sin according to James 1:13-15

1. Curiosity stage V- 13

-Here the devil uses things to lure by your own past and bad desires and you get caught, he watches you and knows your weaknesses and the patterns he has used to get us before - he hates us yet we give in allowing him ground in our lives

Question-what has the Devils ever done for you-that you listen to him---????????

2. Enticement stage...- v-14

Hardness of Heart is the most dangerous thing, and guarding against it can be the key to dealing with Temptation- by now the battlefield is the mind, during this stage, justifying begins, old sins creep in and we begin telling ourselves God doesn't know he's forgotten

1. Are you careful what you watch
2. Do you listen to anything any music that comes your way?
3. Who do you associate with?
4. Who are your friends and contacts are they all people of the light?—**after all—your friends make you Or break you**

3. Birth Stage-v- 15a

This is the stage of the so called secret sins, hidden practices begin, and rationalizations accepting sin as not so bad...

Practicing this means eventual death spiritually guaranteed Rom **6:23** Sin at this stage begins to take serious root...

4. Sin Maturity Stage v-15b

Satan wants you to mature in sin to grow and grow and to become totally defeated And live a defeated Christian life in Christ fruitless, quiet and without a witness or being one.

REMEMBER – IF THERE IS SIN IN THE CAMP THERE IS NO VICTORY NO SUCCESS

Luke 10:19—Jesus give us all authority over the Devil!!

Remember-you are what you believe you are!! You are who you are because of Christ. When the Devil tells you otherwise –tell him you've already won you just have believe it!!

5. The Death Stage v-15c

There is a Realization by this time you've become trapped and have no escape—so now what?

Sin has a way of trapping us, we feel we have failed but we must not go beyond the boundaries of God's word or we end up alone, failing and our conscience becomes seared...

So how do we become free, and what are the steps to freedom:

1. We need to **resist** the devil
2. We must quickly **renounce** participation in any demonic schemes,
3. We need to **confess** yours sins
4. We must **forgive** as God forgave you

Conclusion:

SO WHAT CAN WE DO!

1. Recognize sin and Satan's plan – learn a counter attack –using the Word and prayer
2. You can't win alone-in your own strength-must have the armor of God-**Ephesians 6**
3. We must at any cost- flee the appearance of evil. **Rom 12:3** do not conform
4. Practice righteous living, enjoy Christ and live by the fruit of the Spirit
learn the results living obediently –as well learn to reject disobedience