

WHO'S ON THE LORD'S SIDE? Pt.2

Exodus 32:26-27, 29 KJV

²⁶ Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **WHO'S ON THE LORD'S SIDE?** *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. ²⁷ And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, **PUT EVERY MAN HIS SWORD BY HIS SIDE,** *and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.* ²⁹ For Moses had said, **CONSECRATE YOURSELVES TODAY TO THE LORD,** even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

We have been using this passage in Exodus as a starting point for our discussion on *consecration* (or dedication). The commands given by Moses are a picture of the things necessary in order to dedicate ourselves to God. There were two commands given by Moses in this passage. First, he commands that they separate themselves from those who were committing evil (idolatry). (We spoke to you last week about the need to separate ourselves from unbelievers and those who are actively committing sin.)

Second, in order to complete this act of consecration (dedication), Moses commands that they “take up their sword”. Now, the act of “taking up the sword” is a metaphor for taking up the *word of God*.

Ephesians 6:17 KJV

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT,** which is the **WORD OF GOD:**

Moreover, we are to use the *sword* (word of God) in the same way the Levites were to use their sword—to put to death (kill) those who were guilty of sin. Now, this does NOT mean that we are to execute judgment upon anyone we find that is guilty of sinning against God. Just like their “swords” were a metaphor, the men that they put to death are also a metaphor. The “man” that we must put to death is the *old man* or the *flesh*!

Romans 8:13 KJV

¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do **MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY,** ye shall live.

The ‘man’ that is most responsible and guilty for the sin that is committed in our life is the flesh. And unless we “mortify” (put to death) the flesh or our old man, we will “die” or come under the judgment of God. Moreover, we accomplish this with the sword of the Spirit or the word of God!

We must learn that it's not enough to simply 'separate' from sin (or sinful people). We must also cleanse ourselves of sin!

2 Corinthians 6:17; 7:1 KJV

^{6:17} Wherefore come out from among them, and **BE YE SEPARATE**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ^{7:1} 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.

Notice that after Paul tells the Corinthians to 'separate' themselves from non-believers, he tells them to "cleanse [themselves] from all filthiness of the FLESH and SPIRIT."

2 Corinthians 7:1 Message Bible

¹ ...let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both **WITHIN** and **WITHOUT**. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.

If we truly want to make ourselves 'fit' (consecrated) for the service of God, then we must cleanse or sanctify ourselves from those things that defile us from within and without. Moreover, we accomplish this with God's word (His promises)!

If you want to be *cleansed* from the defilement of sin, you must utilize the word of God.

Ephesians 5:25–26 KJV

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he **MIGHT** sanctify and **CLEANSE IT WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD**,

I highlighted the word "might" because it suggests that this *cleansing* is not automatic. In fact, no promise of God, including the promise of sanctification, is automatic. You must *believe* in order to receive the promises of God!

Hebrews 4:1–2 KJV

¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a **PROMISE** being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, **NOT BEING MIXED WITH FAITH** in them that heard *it*.

Although the gospel has the POWER to save, it takes *faith* to unlock this power!

Romans 1:16 KJV

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **POWER OF GOD** unto salvation **TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH**; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

You must believe the gospel in order to access the power that is in the gospel. What is the gospel? The gospel is this—you are set free from sin and its power because of what Christ has done for you on the cross. Moreover, those who believe this shall be saved (set free from sin). And a sign that someone believes the gospel is they will change how they *speak*!

2 Corinthians 4:13 KJV

¹³ We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Someone who truly believes will say what the word says. Therefore, if a person says that they *can't* abandon their sinful behavior or stop sinning, then it's no surprise why they *can't*. The reason they *can't* is because they are not *believing* the gospel.

The power to overcoming sin is **ONLY** given to believers. And a sign that a person is not believing can be seen by the fact that their speech does not agree with the word. The Bible doesn't teach us to say we *can't*. The Bible teaches us to say we **CAN**!

Philippians 4:13 KJV

¹³ **I CAN DO ALL THINGS** through Christ which strengtheneth me.

This brings me to another point, if we're going to change what we have (or can do), then we must change how we speak. If we're going to change the way we speak, then we must change the way we believe. Finally, if we want to change the way believe, then we must change the way we think. In fact, the first step to change is changing the way we think (even before we change what we believe).

Romans 12:2 KJV

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Notice that our transformation is initiated by the *renewing of our minds*. Having one's mind renewed is synonymous with changing the way one thinks. Renewing the mind is about slowly changing the way one thinks.

Romans 6:11–12 KJV

¹¹ Likewise **RECKON** ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² **LET NOT SIN THEREFORE REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY**, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

If you're tired of sin having free reign in your body, you must learn to "reckon" yourself dead to sin. The word *reckon* means *to think* or to consider. Simply changing the way you think of yourself will go a long way to breaking sin's power over your life.

This ability to think of ourselves the way the Bible commands us to think of ourselves is, first of all, a product of GRACE.

2 Corinthians 3:5 KJV

⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to **THINK** any thing as of ourselves; but **OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD**;

In addition to being a product of grace, thinking of ourselves the way God (the Bible) expects us to think of ourselves also takes time. It doesn't happen immediately. We LEARN to do it over time.

1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV

¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I **THOUGHT** as a child: but when I became a man, **I PUT AWAY CHILDISH THINGS**.

The word "thought" in this verse is the same as the word as "reckon" in [Romans 6:11](#). Moreover, Paul admits that not only his ability to "think" has changed over time, but also his ability to also speak and understand has changed over time. As with most things, he has gotten better at it over time!