

Discovering Your Biggest Problem

In a world that constantly tells us to "love ourselves" and "believe in ourselves," there's a radical biblical truth that challenges this popular wisdom. The greatest obstacle to experiencing God's answers and blessings in our lives isn't external circumstances or other people - it's us.

God Is Still Calling Out to Us

Just as God called out to Adam in the Garden after he had sinned and was hiding, God continues to call out to us today. He's not forcing His way into our lives, but rather inviting us to come to Him. The Bible tells us that wisdom cries out in the streets, calling to all who will listen. God wants to sit down with us, dine with us, and give us the answers we desperately need.

The problem is that most people aren't listening for God's voice because they're too busy looking to themselves for answers.

What Does It Mean to Be a "Lover of Self"?

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul warns that in the last days, "perilous times will come" and the primary reason is that "men will be lovers of themselves." This isn't just about vanity or narcissism - it's about trusting in ourselves as our primary source of answers and solutions.

When we love ourselves too much, several destructive patterns emerge:

- We become boasters and proud
- We lose self-control
- We become unforgiving and critical of others
- We betray relationships over trivial matters
- We become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Why Self-Love Leads to Problems

The root issue is that when we love ourselves excessively, we naturally look to ourselves for answers. But here's the biblical reality: God has the answers, and we have the problems. When the one with the problems keeps looking to themselves for solutions, stress and failure are inevitable.

This pattern started with Adam and Eve. Adam wanted what he wanted, regardless of what God wanted for him. When everything fell apart, he blamed others rather than taking responsibility. This set the precedent for all humanity - we trust ourselves too much and blame others when things go wrong.

The Self-Control Problem

Ironically, the more we love ourselves, the less self-control we actually have. When you're in love with yourself, it becomes nearly impossible to deny yourself anything. You want to give yourself everything you desire, which often prevents you from doing what's necessary to actually achieve your goals.

Most people spend their days doing what they're forced to do rather than what they want to do, because they lack the self-control to make the sacrifices necessary for the life they truly desire.

What Does It Mean to "Hate Your Life"?

Jesus said something shocking in John 12:25: "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." This doesn't mean we should walk around insulting ourselves or being depressed.

To "hate your life" in the biblical sense means:

- Not trusting in yourself
- Not looking to yourself for answers
- Not having confidence in your own flesh
- Recognizing that apart from God, you can do nothing

How Do We Overcome the Devil?

Revelation 12:11 gives us the formula for overcoming Satan: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

Notice that last part - they overcame because they didn't love their lives. The enemy's greatest weapon against us is getting us to trust in ourselves rather than God. When we stop loving ourselves in the worldly sense and start trusting completely in God, we become unstoppable.

Practical Steps to Trust God Instead of Self

Stop Speaking Your Own Opinions

Instead of always sharing what you think about situations, ask "What does God say about this?" Go to His Word for answers rather than relying on your own understanding.

Become a Helpless Receiver

Recognize that you can't earn anything from God or twist His arm to get what you want. You're simply a receiver of His grace and goodness. Even your faith to believe comes from Him.

Let Jesus Be Your Defense Attorney

Instead of defending yourself or trying to justify your actions, let Jesus intercede for you. He never loses a case, and He's already taken the accuser's place in the heavenly courtroom.

Flow with the Holy Spirit

Like getting in a river and letting it carry you downstream, learn to rest in the Holy Spirit's guidance rather than trying to control everything yourself.

Life Application

This week, practice getting over yourself by implementing these three challenges:

Before making any significant decision, ask "What does God's Word say about this?" instead of immediately trusting your first instinct.

When facing problems, resist the urge to immediately start strategizing solutions. Instead, spend time in prayer asking God for His wisdom and direction.

When you catch yourself complaining about others or circumstances, pause and ask yourself: "How might I be contributing to this problem?"

Questions for Self-Reflection:

- In what areas of my life am I still trusting in myself rather than God?
- How has my self-love created stress or problems in my relationships?
- What would change in my life if I truly believed that God has all the answers and I have the problems?
- Am I more focused on defending myself or letting God defend me?

The greatest deliverance you can experience is being delivered from yourself. When you stop being your own primary source of answers and start looking to God, you'll discover that life becomes much easier, more peaceful, and far more blessed than you ever imagined possible.

Quotes

1. "God is the answer; I am the problem."
2. "The primary source of my problems is me. If I can get out of the way, God can step in."

3. "God has the answers, and we have the problems. When the one with the problems keeps looking to themselves for solutions, stress and failure are inevitable."
4. "People trust themselves far too much. They look to themselves far too often."
5. "The more we love ourselves, the less self-control we have."
6. "Learning to love yourself is one of the greatest lies. No one has to learn that—you come out of the womb and it's already all about you."
7. "Learning to love yourself is one of the devil's greatest strategies for dominating a person's life."
8. "If you truly understood how much trouble you cause yourself, you'd stop trusting yourself so much."
9. "Jesus is not a supplement to my life. I gave my life to Him, so it's no longer mine—it's His."
10. "Don't just speak your own thoughts and opinions. What is God saying? What does His Word say about it?"
11. "I don't even listen to my own opinion—so why would I live by someone else's?"
12. "The greatest deliverance you can ever experience is deliverance from yourself."
13. "When you're in love with yourself, self-control becomes difficult, because you want to give yourself everything self desires."
14. "Every time you put someone else down, you're really lifting yourself up."
15. "To truly hate your life is to stop believing in yourself and start trusting in God."

Verses

1. 2 Timothy 3
2. John 12:25
3. Proverbs 3:5-6
4. Galatians 3:13
5. John 17:3
6. Romans 12:3
7. Revelation 12:10-11
8. 1 Corinthians 13

Summary

The greatest obstacle to experiencing God's blessings isn't external circumstances or other people - it's us. In a culture that promotes self-love, the Bible reveals that excessive self-love leads to trusting ourselves for answers instead of God. When we love ourselves too much, we lose self-control, become unforgiving, and create stress by looking to ourselves for solutions when God has the answers. True freedom comes from hating our life in the biblical sense - not trusting in ourselves but recognizing our complete dependence on God. By stopping our reliance on personal opinions, becoming helpless receivers of God's grace, and flowing with the Holy Spirit, we can overcome the enemy and experience the peace that comes from trusting God instead of ourselves.