

Living Free from the Carnal Nature

*Video of Gandalf setting Theodon free and putting his sword back in his hand.

Colossians 3:5-10 NIV

- I. A traitor in your midst.
 - a. Wormtongue must be exposed and dealt with before Theodon can be who he is called to be. Not just darkness out there, darkness in your midst.
 - b. Who is the traitor in your midst? He has many names in Scripture – the flesh, the old self, the old man, sin in you, the natural man, and the earthly nature.
 - i. Romans 7:17-18 NIV “As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”
 - ii. Romans 8:6-8 NKJ “For to be ^[a]carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷Because the ^[b]carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
 - iii. Galatians 5:16-17 NIV “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever^[a] you want.”
 - iv. 1Corinthians 2:14 NKJ “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”
 - c. He’s a deceiver. Jeremiah 17:9 NASB “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”
 - i. He will kiss you and turn on you. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But ^[a]deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.” He justifies sin and leads you slowly to your death. (Prov. 16:2; 14:12)
 - ii. He will say anything to stay in charge. Proverbs 31:30 “Charm is deceitful...” He will tell you you’re right and everyone else is wrong. He will seem like your protector by making you suspicious of everyone else. He seems loving, but he is a user – he uses other people even when he appears loving – I may need to use you so I going to be charming. *I’m the Boss
 - iii. He may be religious but only for his own purposes. 2Tim. 3:5 NIV “...having a form of godliness but denying its power.” He is happy to be religious but doesn’t love God, serve God or even believe in God. God is one more person to use – religion without

godliness. 1Corinthians 2:14 He mocks the things of God as being foolish.

- II. Christ's supremacy over the carnal nature.
 - a. Romans 6:6-11 NIV "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." *Jesus became human like the first Adam so he could die in his place and begin a new race. (1Cor. 15:45) *The traitor was killed on the cross. Salvation is not a minor adjustment – it requires a new life on different standing.
 - b. Only Jesus can defeat the carnal nature. Romans 7:24-25 NIV "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" *Religious behaviors and disciplines will not conquer – they will be like the groundhog game. *My mom's smoking habit.

- III. How can we live free of the carnal nature?
 - a. Acknowledge its presence. *We didn't lose the old hard drive when God put the new hard drive in us – if you access it, the darkness can become very great. *Olivet
 - b. Believe.
 - i. That you are dead to it in Christ. Romans 6:11 NIV "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." *Watchman Nee – two truths.
 - ii. That God wants you to win through Christ. Romans 5:17 NIV "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!" *You a king and a priest – pick up your sword and deal with Wormtongue. You may have been victimized but you are not a victim!
 - c. Choose.
 - i. To not feed him. Rom. 6:12 NIV "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires." *Stop exposing yourself to that which is destroying you!

- ii. To not wear him. Col. 3:9 NIV “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.” The old self is in your closet but you don’t have to wear him – next week!
- iii. To ignore him. Galatians 5:16 NIV “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” *As long as you are on this earth you will have the desires of the flesh pop up on your screen – just delete it the way you would kill a mosquito that lands on your arm.

Prayer for salvation and then for sanctification before communion.