

Motivation of the Heart to Live and Serve God

Next week we will focus on 'How to Live' and after that, 'How to Die':

Phil 1:21 **For to me to live is Christ,** and to die is gain.

We will begin this study by looking at the instructions God gave His people Israel preparing them for **living** in the Promised Land.

God strictly commanded them to be careful with His word
not to say MORE and not to say LESS than what HE said:

Deut 4:1-2 Now therefore **hearken** (that is, listen and obey), O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, **for to do them, that ye may live,** and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

2 **Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**

God graciously reminded His people Israel

both of His provision by providing for their daily needs

and the reason it took so long for them to reach their destination:

Deut 8:1-3 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.**

3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; **that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.**

Jesus repeated the same truth man's 'life' is to be lived by GOD's word:

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written,** That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. (also Matt 4:4)

God's people needed to be submissive (humble) in yielding to HIS law

to be pure to receive His blessing and not to do whatever they wanted:

Deut 12:8-9 Ye shall **not** do after all the things that we do here this day,
every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.

9 For ye are not as yet come to the **rest** and to the **inheritance**,
which the LORD your God giveth you.

Man cannot 'make up his own rules' by which to live. He should listen
to advice from godly people, who teach wisdom from GOD's word:

Prov 12:15 **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:
but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.**

God's principles span over ALL AGES seniors or elders, 'baby-boomers',
middle-aged, young adults, teenagers, and they even apply to children:

Prov 20:11 **Even a child is known by his doings,
whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.**

Morality (the principles of right and wrong) CANNOT be based upon
what a person THINKS or FEELS. It MUST be founded upon GOD's word:

Prov 21:2 **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes:
but the LORD pondereth the hearts.**

God repeatedly used the analogy of a tree, to show a visible difference:

Jer 17:7-10 **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD,
and whose hope the LORD is.**

8 For **he shall be as a tree** planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out
her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf
shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall
cease from yielding fruit.

9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:
who can know it?**

10 **I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every
man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.**

We need to examine the **scriptural contrast** between the righteous and the ungodly then analyze **how we live** with what GOD's word says:

Psa 1:1-6 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (Faith establishes the law of God - Rom 3:31)

3 And **he shall be like a tree** planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 **The ungodly are not so:**

but are like the **chaff** which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore **the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the **righteous:** but the way of the **ungodly** shall perish.

God looks on the heart (1 Sam 16:7), which man cannot see

but **man's words and his works reveal what is inside his heart:**

Luke 6:43-49 For **a good tree** bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth **a corrupt tree** bring forth good fruit.

44 For **every tree is known by his own fruit.** For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for **of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

46 And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?** (Let us take 'personal inventory' are we guilty of living like this?)

47 Whosoever **cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them,** I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock (Christ is the Rock - 1 Cor 10:4, and the foundation - 1 Cor 3:10-11): and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and **could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.**

49 But he that **heareth, and doeth not,** is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it **fell;** and the **ruin** of that house was **great.**

In **Matt 15:10-15**, Jesus taught a parable to the multitude that offended the Pharisees, but He explained it to His disciples, upon Peter's request:

Matt 15:18-20 But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.**

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

'O Be Careful' is the name of a children's Bible song that teaches principles of conscience for godly living. Every child should know it.

Some of the words and verses go like this,

'O be careful little eyes what you see,
O be careful little eyes what you see,
For the Father up above is looking down in love,
So be careful little eyes what you see.

.... 'O be careful little ears what you hear,

.... 'O be careful little hands what you do,

.... 'O be careful little feet where you go,

.... 'O be careful little mouth what you say,

.... 'O be careful little mind what you think,

.... 'O be careful little heart what you love,'

If we would always meditate, like 'speak in our mind', or 'think about' God's law, then we would have more control of our thoughts, mouth, and actions:

Psa 141:3-4 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth;
keep the door of my lips.

4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing,
to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity:
and let me not eat of their dainties.

'Look before you leap and think before you speak,' are words of wisdom words by which to live based on Biblical principles:

Prov 15:28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer:
but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

It would do us all well to heed God's warning, coming from the preacher:

Ecc 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Maybe you have heard it said, "God gave you 2 ears and 1 mouth therefore, listen twice as much as you speak!" GOD's word says it like this:

James 1:19-27 Wherefore, my beloved brethren,
let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and **superfluity** of naughtiness (**abundance or residue of wickedness left over, prior to conversion**), and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**
23 For **if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,** he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
25 But **whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**
26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but **deceiveth his own heart,** this man's religion is **vain** (**void, useless**).
27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and **to keep himself unspotted from the world.** (**How about that last part? Do we ignore it?**)

It is not enough to 'hear' God's word you must be motivated to 'DO' it:

Deut 30:14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart (**Paul quoted this verse in Rom 10:8**), **that thou mayest do it.**

God's people are taught of the Lord to glorify Him with **one mind** and **one mouth** (Rom 15:6). We have a unity of the Spirit, being in **one body** (Eph 4:3-6). We believe **one common faith** (Titus 1:4). We share **one hope of the resurrection of the dead unto eternal life** (Prov 14:32; Lam 3:26; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor 15:19-24; Titus 1:2, 2:13, 3:7). God put this **oneness** within us (John 17:17-22) to cause us to be holy, as He is holy (1 Thess 4:7, 1 Pet 1:15-16). Our hope motivates us to live a pure life:

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

Paul also contrasts the believing as pure with the unbelieving as defiled.

The unbelievers profess to be believers, but their works prove they are not:

Titus 1:15-16 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 **They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.**

The contrast is, and has always been between the lost who walk after the flesh and the saved who walk after the Spirit:

Ezek 11:19-21 And **I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you;** and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

20 **That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.**

21 But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Since our own heart is wicked and deceitful God gives us a NEW one
whereby we will be MOTIVATED to serve and glorify Him not ourselves:

Ezek 36:26-27 **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And **I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**

If we do NOT have an earnest desire to obey the Lord with our new heart or if we look at God's grace as a permit to sin without any conscience, then we are deceiving ourselves, and there is no evidence of true salvation. Our 'walk' **either 'after the flesh' or 'after the Spirit'** (but not together) is the manifestation of what is in our heart. The scriptures do not show them to be one and the same but, rather, mutually exclusive:

Rom 8:1-16 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, (The tendency is to stop here and rejoice because we 'say' we believe but the sentence does not stop here)

who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (The law is not 'gone' the law is not 'made void' through faith rather, it is ESTABLISHED - Rom 3:31. Christ is the end of the law - Rom 10:4 - in that, we are no longer condemned by the law because Christ died in the flesh to pay for our sin in the flesh. Now the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, who walk to please the Lord:)

4 That **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

We better 'look' at what we 'mind' the flesh or the Spirit of God:

5 For **they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

What is your mind? carnal (fleshly) or spiritual? It can't be both!

(Rom 8:) 6 For to be **carnally minded is death;**

but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace.**

7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God:**

for **it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

8 So then **they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

(**Heb 11:6** teaches that 'Without faith it is impossible to please God'. Hold your place here in Romans 8, while we reference a passage in Hebrews:)

Heb 10:38-39 Now **the just shall live by faith** (also see **Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11**): **but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;**

but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

(If you claim to be spiritual, but act and live carnal you are deceived:)

(Rom 8:) 9 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit,**
if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

(Do you live for yourself or is God glorified by your life?)

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin;
but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors,**
not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

(Which way are you living? after the flesh or through the Spirit?)

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.

14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God,**
they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

(Don't be deceived God's Spirit will not bear witness to those who are living after the flesh their end is death not life and peace:)

16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,**
that we are the children of God:

If we say one thing and do another then we deceive ourselves:

1 John 1:5-7 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

6 **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:**

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Do you have that 'blessed assurance' of which we sing? or is the 'life of faith' just lip service to you something you 'say' but don't really 'do'?

1 John 3:18-19 My little children, **let us not love in word, neither in tongue;** but **in deed and in truth.**

19 And **hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.**

Which 'fruit' is on your tree? Which water comes out of your spout?

James 3:10-12 **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.** My brethren, **these things ought not so to be.**

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

You can change your fruit from bad to good if you want to:

Rom 6:21-22 **What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.**

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, **ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.**

The bottom line is you live like who you are. You can't play 'toggle':

1 Cor 6:19-20 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**

20 **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"
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