

Sins of Self-Rule and Self-Reliance

Of all the categories, this one may require the most discernment and revelation from God. Many believers have uncrucified areas of self that seriously hinder the flow of Christ through their lives.

This is the primary reason that we cannot find the victory that God as so clearly promised

The flesh- Galatians 5:17-20 Our human actions and thoughts when operating apart from the direct control of Christ

Dying to self- Matthew 16:24-25 One must be willing to choose to deny or die to his own wishes and completely surrender to Christ

I. Death to Self

Romans 6:6

As God sanctifies us in holiness, He will lead us through an ever deepening process of death to self and life to Him.

If we do not understand the biblical concept of surrender, it is easy to become confused by necessary times of brokenness which God allows

We might resist the very method that God uses to bring holiness and spiritual power into our lives

Discernment is the key

There are many points we must choose God's will and way over our own Isaiah 55:8

The flesh may clamor for one course of action and we know God's will to be another

Only when we choose to deny self and by faith, obey God, will we know His power

How to die to self

Saying no to thoughts, attitudes, or actions that you know are of the flesh

Saying yes to an action or spiritual service your natural flesh would reject

By trusting in His death and resurrection working through you Romans 6:3-4

This is not easy and will at times be very painful

Self dies hard and there will be temptation to give in to its pleading and compromise

The self-life cannot be improved...it must be crucified with Christ

Crucifixion is a long tedious death

The Christ who lives in you gives you the desire and the ability to die to self

Is dying to self really worth the effort?

When we refuse to die to self we lose spiritual energy and zeal.

Everything spiritual becomes an effort and temptation is difficult to resist

The results of your prayers and ministry become limited and small

You revert to living in self power rather than Christ's supernatural might

This is why so many believers are spiritually tired and lack supernatural power

Too many have pulled back from the cross and know very little about abundant life and the intimate personal relationship with Jesus so clearly promised

Denying self may involve more than just sin Hebrews 12:1

II. Spiritual Brokenness

John 12:24, Proverbs 17:3

Without the death of the outer shell, the life within cannot come forth

Many believers resist God's process of breaking their old self life

The outer shell represents the old nature and the old self

The old will greatly hinder the flow of God in our lives

How God Breaks us

1. The conviction and revelation of the Holy Spirit through Scripture

By the Word and the Holy Spirit, God opens our eyes to subtle ways self still clings

God convicts us not to condemn us but set us free

Power through brokenness

2. Circumstances of Live

God allows significant trials to bring you to the end of human strength

When natural human strength is broken, we are forced to depend on the Supernatural

Breaking brings total dependence on the life and power of Christ

Many of us resist and fight God's process

Intense heat cause impurities to rise to the top so they can be removed

Undetected pockets of sin and self surface under intense pressure

Brokenness is necessary for us to see the subtle ways self still clings to our being

Many avoid times of deep searching and cleansing before God

Most choose to coast spiritually and assume there is little left to be done in their lives

Growing as a believer involves discomfort

III. Total Reliance on God's Strength

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Galatians 2:20

Paul rejoiced in things that ended his strength so that he would have to totally depend on God

God cannot receive what we try to do for Him; only what we allow Him to do through us

Our natural strength can easily get in the way of total reliance on God

We often major on human efforts yet minor on fervent prayer and holiness

If we attempt God's work without the full cleansing and fullness of the Holy Spirit, we end up speaking to people's minds rather than their hearts

Only God's Spirit can produce eternal fruit that remains

Our focus must be more on prayer and holiness rather than methods, strategies, and programs

God needs to save us from our own strengths