

A member of St Philip's found how the Bible has power to change you...

A little over a year ago the Spirit impressed on me to read through part of Galatians 5, as expressed in my book "Letters from John, Paul, and Peter", every day, so that He could get a principle down firmly into my spirit. And later He said to add a verse from Romans, and another from 1 Peter.

After some months of doing this, I decided to tweak the text and personalise it, so that now it is a face-to-face dialogue between me and God (Daddy Jesus Spirit).

Going through this daily, for over a year, I have found that battles that I've fought for forty years, and failed to win, because I tried to fight them in my own strength and in my own way, that these battles have now pretty much been won, since the concept that victory is not by my own strength or ability or planning, but simply by submitting to the Holy Spirit's quiet voice, listening to Him and trusting Him that His way is always best, no matter how much I think I know better, that this concept has finally become a lived reality in my life. Thank You Daddy. Thank You Jesus. Thank You Spirit !

So here is the help...

But I say, Through the instrumentality of the Spirit habitually order your manner of life, and you will in no wise execute the passionate desire of the evil nature,

The absence of the law's restraining me does not mean that I will now fall into sin. It is true that my evil nature has not been eradicated, but its power over me has been broken and I need not obey it anymore. It is there, constantly attempting to control me, as it did before salvation wrought its work in my being, but by following Your leading, Spirit, I will never act on the impulses of my fallen nature, but will be able to resist and conquer them. I must learn to say "No" to sin by Your power, Holy Spirit, so that I cooperate with You in Your work of sanctifying my life, since You are always there to give me victory over that nature of mine as I trust You to do that. I must choose to yield to You rather than to obey my evil nature. So I continue to govern my life by Your inward impulses, Holy Spirit, subjecting myself to You as You minister to my spiritual needs.

for the evil nature constantly has a strong desire to suppress the Spirit, and the Spirit constantly has a strong desire to suppress the evil nature. And these are entrenched in an attitude of mutual opposition to one another so that you may not do the things that you desire to do.

My evil nature and You, Spirit, are antagonistic towards each other. When my flesh presses hard on me with its evil behests, You, Holy Spirit, Who are there to oppose my flesh, will give me victory over it so that I will not sin. When You, Spirit, place a course of conduct on my heart, my flesh opposes You, Spirit, in an effort to prevent me from obeying You. The choice of which course of action I take lies with me. I must develop the habit of keeping my eyes fixed on You, Jesus, and of maintaining my trust in You, Holy Spirit. The more I say "No" to sin, the easier it will be, until it becomes a habit. The more I say "Yes" to You, Jesus, the easier it will be, until it becomes a habit. If I obey my evil nature it is because I choose to, but You, Holy Spirit, have given me a new nature, the divine nature, so that its sweet influences are constantly permeating the activities of my will as I keep myself yielded to You, Spirit, allowing You to keep on suppressing the activities of my evil nature and any control which it might attempt to exert over me.

But if you are being led by the Spirit you are not under law.

If I try to live a Christian life but go about it the wrong way, I will fail. God (Daddy Jesus Spirit), You have installed in me the spiritual machinery that allows You, Spirit, to minister inwardly to me, so I must not throw a spanner of self-dependence into Your mechanical setup in me, rendering it ineffective. The right way for me to live is in being free from statutes and from my sinful nature, a faith way, with a dependence on You, Spirit. So I will be led by You, Spirit. Then I will not live my life on the principle of legalism, since being led by You, Spirit, and attempting to obey the law are methods of living that are diametrically opposed to one another. The flesh and the law are closely allied, in that the law provokes the flesh to more sin, so both, in this alliance, should be renounced. The law finds nothing to condemn in the life of a Spirit-led believer, since every wrong desire of their evil nature is suppressed by You, Spirit, so that they fulfil the law. Such is the blessed moral freedom of the Spirit-led believer, the law having no power to censure, condemn, or punish.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law.

Rather, I use my freedom from law to live a life motivated by divine love. In contrast to the works of the flesh and in direct opposition to them, the fruit of my Spirit-led life is a well-rounded complete Christian life with all these elements present in unity; self-sacrificial love that puts others' interests ahead of my own, spiritual joy, heart peace and tranquility of mind at being bound together with You, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit), through Your blood, Jesus, steadfastness of soul and patient endurance under provocation without anger or thought of revenge, a gentle benign nature, being ruled by and aiming at all that is good, a continuing loyalty to You, Jesus, and the believers, a mild and gentle disposition, having a mastery of my own desires and impulses. My life comprising these qualities fully meets the demands of Your laws, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit).

And they who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the evil nature with its dispositions and cravings once for all.

When I put my faith in You, Jesus, as Saviour, I crucified my old nature with its affections and lusts, in that I received the actualised benefits of my identification with You, Jesus my Saviour, in Your death on the Cross, these benefits only being potential at the time You, Jesus my Saviour, were crucified. In particular, the breaking of the power of my sinful nature over my life was procured by You, Jesus my Saviour, at the Cross, and as I now yield to You, Spirit, that victory over my sinful nature is made actual and operative in my life, You, Spirit, now also ministering the freedom from that nature's control in Your producing Your fruit in my life. Beyond this initial putting to death of my sinful nature by You, Jesus my Saviour, I then decide to count myself as having died to that nature by continually saying, "No" to sin, "No" to the evil innate forces resident in my evil nature, and "No" to those forces that reach out from that nature trying to find expression in the gratification of its evil desires.

In view of the fact that we are being sustained in spiritual life by the Spirit, by means of the Spirit let us go on ordering our conduct.

Since I have a new life principle operating in my being, I now walk by You, Spirit, in a right and straight path, under the guidance, impulses, and energy of the divine life that is resident in me. I will to live the highest type of Christian life, so Your grace, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit), will make that possible for me. I desire to live a Christ-like life, I depend on You, Holy Spirit, to enable that life, and I step out on faith and live that life. This will bring all the infinite resources of grace to my aid, and all the activities of You, Spirit, will be put in operation on my behalf.

Brethren, if, however, a man be overtaken in a sin,...

Previously I found that sin was creeping into my life. I was surprised by this since I was not conscious of harbouring any sinful desire. This was the result of not knowing or acknowledging Your delivering power, Holy Spirit. I needed to depend on You and not on self-effort to obey the New Testament ethics. I made myself an easy prey to the Tempter of men's souls and he was wreaking havoc in my life. I found that I was overtaken by a sin before being aware that I had done wrong. I was lapsing rather than walking straight, doing wrong because I was not availing myself of Your appointed method, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit), of living the Christian life, even though I wholeheartedly desired to do what is right. I lapsed because I was helpless to prevent it, which helplessness was self-imposed since I knew that I had failed before as a Christian when living under law but had subsequently found the way of victory, which Spirit-led way of victory I was now turning my back on with the resulting failure I then experienced.

...but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.

I need to be transfigured, so that my inner glory is visible to the world. I change my outward expression from the one I had before I was saved by the gradual conforming of my mind and mental processes more and more to that of the new spiritual world into which I have been introduced and in which I now live and move, the divine image having been created in me, to the end that I am renewed and renovated and completely changed for the better so that I can now be a fellow-worker with You, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit). This conforming is accomplished through Your indwelling ministry, Holy Spirit, in that when I definitely and intelligently and habitually yield to You, You put sin out of my life and produce Your own fruit in me. Then I can put my life to an approval test; that it conforms to Your Word, God (Daddy Jesus Spirit), as I obey the Word and feel the perfect, finished Word saturating and controlling my life, and so pass that test.

For adequate has been the time that is now past and done with for you to have carried to its ultimate conclusion the counsel of the pagans [the unsaved],...

The time has passed by and is closed and fully accomplished for practicing the things that I used to do before I was saved. I died with You, Jesus, and have been raised to newness of life, meaning that things that are not in accord with the Gospel have passed away for me, whether habits, associations, places, or amusements. All these things, being the desires of the world, are forbidden in the new life I am now living as a Christian.

And I finish with a daily declaration, as inspired by the following verse (*John 7:18*):

...he who is seeking the glory of the One Who sent him, and who is eager for that One's honour, this one is true, and unrighteousness in him is not.

And that declaration is...

My desire is to bring glory to You, Jesus, in all that I think, in all that I believe, in all that I say, in all that I do, and in all that I am.