

An Enduring Submission

MATTHEW 6:25-33; HEBREWS 12:1-2; 2 CORINTHIANS 10: 3-6

A Troubling Transition

- “As a Christian, our primary battle is not with sin, but with the natural life being transformed into the spiritual life.” Oswald Chambers
- Based on this statement above, how do we trade in worldliness for Godliness?
- In Matthew 6: 24-33, Jesus tell us where to start. He says: “You cannot be slaves to God and to money. This is why I tell you: do not worry about your life...”
- When Jesus says: “This is why I tell you: do not worry about your life...” - He is speaking to the Godly - those who submit to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and are being changed into the likeness of Christ through obedience.
- Understanding the terms: worldly and Godly:

Worldly	Godly
Desires the ways of the world.	Desires God’s Word more than the world - and its ways.
Uses problems/disagreements to demand & display their positions and rights, even if it results in bitterness and ending relationship(s).	Confronts problems/disagreements in order to bring peace, valuing the person.
Personally driven by feelings and ongoing gain for personal worth.	Faith drives personal feelings, leading to a growing display of God’s glory in their lives (Matthew 6:33).

- When Jesus says: This is why I tell you, do not worry about your life, He is addressing those who are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, entrusting all these other things to be provided for you.

How We Actually Change

- In John 16, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will come and convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. To change, we must submit to the Holy Spirit’s authority, cherishing and responding to His conviction and leading, which is seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first. This first step of submission is the first step to change.

- Over time, under the authority of the Holy Spirit, our heart begins to change through the practice of obedience (Matthew 6:22-23; Hebrews 5:7-10).
 - The result of that obedience is that the Holy Spirit bears Gospel-flavored fruit within us. Our lives have the “taste” of Christ and through our lives others can “taste and see that the Lord is good.”
 - One of those fruits: Godliness (2 Peter 1:3-10)
 - Our *Enduring Submission* to Christ’s authority results in His Godly nature changing us (Hebrews 12:1-2).
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Our Enduring Submission

- Our enduring submission is the daily road we now travel in our lives, in which we leave worldliness behind, headed for Godliness.
- This passage from Hebrews now becomes our roadmap:
- *“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him, endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God’s throne (Hebrews 12:1-2).”*
- Three take-aways from this passage:
 - Become part of a local, Bible preaching, Jesus proclaiming church.
 - See sin for what it really is...a weight and a slave driver. Get rid of it.
 - Fix your eyes on Jesus. This is done by regularly reading and obeying His Word.
- When we choose to seek Jesus and obey His Word, we no longer give authority to the sin in our lives. Though sin remains within us and wants to control us, we have to be strategic and choose the right approach and weaponry in battling sin, especially within our minds.
- This passage from 2 Corinthians is our battle plan:
- *“For though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every high-minded thing that*

is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ. And we are ready to punish any disobedience, once your obedience has been confirmed (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)."

- Let's break this passage down to gain a battle plan for sin:
- *"For though we live in the body, we do not wage war in an unspiritual way, since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly..."*
 - Weapons of this world include harbored anger, bitterness, and pride.
 - Weapons used for personal power and gain.
- *"...but {the weapons of our warfare} are powerful through God for the demolition (blowing-up) of strongholds."*
 - Strongholds: Familiar feeling/thinking in our lives that we run to when life gets difficult...anger, bitterness, pride, self-hate, and so on. These are often places we have used our entire lives for security and/or survival. We use them to defend our rights and positions.
 - This passage literally means that when we submit to the Holy Spirit and begin obeying God's word, that combination is as powerful as dynamite. When we lay the dynamite (submission and obedience) on our strongholds (anger, bitterness, self hate) we are given the power to absolutely destroy them!
- *"We demolish (blow-up) arguments and every high-minded thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to obey Christ. And we are ready to punish any disobedience, once your obedience has been confirmed."*
 - When we submit to the Holy Spirit and walk by His leading (obedience), strongholds are demolished because we share in the very heart of God by hating sin.
 - Capturing every thought to surrender to Christ while hating sin is the work of Godliness in our lives. This is our Enduring Submission.