

Building Solid Foundations

Keeping our Freshness in the Lord

This passage is a summary conclusion to all the Law that Moses brought and taught to Israel:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between **prosperity and disaster**, between **life and death**. I have commanded you today to **love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, laws, and regulations by walking in his ways.**

*If you do this, you will live and become a great nation, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. But **if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen**, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that **you will certainly be destroyed**. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.*

*Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live! **Choose to love the LORD your God and to obey him and commit yourself to him, for he is your life. Then you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.***

**What holds us back?
Sin is our biggest concern**

1 Corinthians 11:30 *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death*

One thing we know for sure about sin is that sin always ends in something dying.

Proverbs 5:21-23 For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his incredible folly.

We are All Under the Direct Assault of Satan

John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

James 4:1-6 *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure** that war in your members? You **lust** and do not have. You **murder and covet and cannot obtain**. You **fight and war**. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

Believers in Jesus have the responsibility to fight against evil, immorality, and corruption.

Ephesians 6:12-14 *For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the **evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world**, against those mighty **powers of darkness** who rule this world, and against **wicked spirits** in the heavenly realms. Use every piece of **God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil**, so that after the battle **you will still be standing firm**.*

We are All in this Together

Matthew 5:45...for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust...

BUT there is Amazing Hope!

1 Corinthians 15:21–24 *Death came into the world because of what one man did, and it is **because of what this other man has done** that now there is the resurrection from the dead. **Everyone dies** because all of us are related to Adam, ...and **wherever there is sin, death results. But all who are related to Christ will rise again...***

Secret Sin Drains Us of Strength

Psalm 32:3–5 there was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration. All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day until I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, I will confess them to the Lord. And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Self Sufficiency Weighs Us Down

Proverbs 10:8 *The wise man is glad to be instructed, but a self-sufficient fool falls flat on his face.*

Proverbs 10:13-14

Ask the Holy Spirit for Insight

Are the events caused by:

- [1]** personal sin
- [2]** an ongoing pattern of unwise behavior
- [3]** satanic warfare (evil)
- [4]** the lack of wisdom or godlessness
- [5]** life in a world that deals with self-centeredness

Romans 8:26-27 *In the same way, **the Spirit helps us** in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.***

Act on our insight by doing the following:

Confess Sin: Appropriate God's sanctifying power by confessing sin, cleansing, walking in the light of God's Word with sensitivity to the Holy Spirit (1 John 1:6, 7, 9).

Change behavior: Fully define the pattern of behavior; uncover the “traps”—situations, persons, places which usually precede the behavior. Submit yourself to God; practice the new behavior (Romans 12:1, 2; Hebrews 12:1; James 4:7, 8).

Fight evil: Put on the armor of God, learn to wield the weapons of warfare. Ask for the anointing of the Spirit, be fervent in prayer in the understanding and in the Spirit. Ask others to stand with you (Ephesians 6:10–18; Luke 11:3, 13; Romans 8:26, 27).

Confront with confidence: Submit yourself to God, pray for wisdom and healing. Lovingly confront the one in authority with the Word of God. Seek God for proper balance in following those in authority (1 Peter 5:5; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 4:2; 1 Corinthians 5:11).

Seek to worship the Lord: Know that even the righteous are touched by power of the Holy Spirit and that God experiences our pain. Ask for deliverance and comfort from God. Hold onto your faith. Allow others to comfort you (Job 2:11–13; Psalms 22:1–5, 12–18; Hebrews 4:14–16).

Worship is vital to the defeat of the enemies of God and for maintaining peace for your own soul.

Romans 12:1 *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice** — the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?*

Some of Us Need to Fall in Love with Jesus

Mark 12:29-30 *And you shall love the LORD your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, with ALL your mind, and with ALL your strength.*

He Created Us for the Purpose of Loving Him

Revelation 4:12 *You (God) created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and **were created.***

Here are the top twenty ways to stay fresh with the Lord:

- Consistently maintain closeness with Jesus
- Know and be known by Jesus
- Love and be loved by Jesus
- Talk to Him every day – pray
- Read His Word every day –integrate and apply
- Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Have a supportive small group of people around you
- Ask for help; be assertive in getting help
- Be quick to forgive; be quick to ask for forgiveness
- Share Jesus with others

- Serve and love one another
- Work hard for the Lord
- Let the joy of the Lord fill your heart and mind
- Maintain an healthy attitude
- Never forget whose you are; children of the Most High God
- Learn to take minute vacations in the Lord's presence
- Never give up on the Lord or yourself
- God is always faithful; Be faithful in your walk with the Lord
- Honor God is all you do, say and think
- Respect the Lord and one another