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Self-Control

Wyatt Sawyer

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(Series: The Fruit of the Spirit.)

(1.)

SELF - CONTROL

1. INVITATION FIRST !!! Immediately after I close the message, we will sing the Inv. song
2. *Galatians 5:22-26. Subject: Self-Control.
3. Ill. Likely, my best and most-effective LESSON in "Self-Control" came largely through ACCIDENT and mostly by IGNORANCE. ** Buffalo, Texas.
4. After studying Galatians 5 thoroughly, I am convinced that THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-theme deals with God's goal for our life: The Father wishes to make us a "masterpiece" in His kingdom. Proof text: Matt. 5:48 - Perfect. Complete. Mature and or a Spiritual-Finished-Product. EXAMPLE: If the One-talent man in Matt. 25 had gained one talent in his Stewardship -that's the best he could do with what he had!!! He would have been generously rewarded as the 2 & 5-talent men. Well done! Perfect. what was required!
The point is: "Use what you've got to the fullest for the Lord - or Seek first the Kingdom of God, (and that's the Lord's church) and your life will be a MASTER PIECE!!!"
5. Paul says in Gal. 5:23 "SELF-MASTERY" is the Key to earthly-success and eternal-salvation
6. SELF-CONTROL is not A PRI O RI! It is not INNATE or INBORN. To the contrary, it is something each of us must cultivate through education and training. Need proof ??
a. Prov. 22:15 - Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.... but rod of C.
b. Prov. 19:18 - Chasten thy son while there is hope..... spank or discipline...
c. Prov. 23:13 - Withhold NOT correction from thy child: for if you punish him he shall not die! Vs. 14: Thou shalt spank him with the rod and shall deliver his soul from Hell.&(Prov. ^{29:15}!) tonight's
(Even Jesus LEARNED obedience through the things which He suffered..... lesson !!!)
7. QUESTION: How common is self-control in our Society today?
Ill. ANS. Best addressed by Tim Cannon of Keller, Tex. in his letter to the editor (S-T) May 10, 1994. * READ.....
8. A GREAT TRUTH: There is no such thing a True-Self-Control. * Jer. 10:23.....
Suggestion: Control of Self in Righteousness is more God-control or Christ-control.. -
"Christ in us the Hope of glory...." Col. 1:27. Example:
- Ill. JOHN J. COLLIGAN of Endwell, N. Y., Highly-educated University professor. Lost his 21 year old son in Colo. in a random shooting by a frivolous young woman. A useless, senseless and needless homicide !!!! *.....
- 9. QUESTION: Have YOU that state of self-control yet? Or, have you been grappling with it all your life, as I have? And....are you still struggling with it like I am????
10. GREAT STATEMENT: "The Fruit of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit's fullest-expression of the God of Heaven. It is the finest likeness of the Creator found on earth. PERMIT ME TO ILLUSTRATE THIS SPIRITUAL GENIUS of "Self-Control"

Re: Forgiving the Unforgivable !!

Parody: (* THE GOOD SAMARITAN....self-control.)

SELF-CONTROL

a sort of Parody!

I. INTRODUCTION.....

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - SELF-CONTROL.

Taken from
(Luke 10:25-37)

READING:

One day an expert on Moses' Laws came to test Jesus' orthodoxy in religion by asking Him this question: "Teacher, what does a man need to do to live forever?"

Jesus replied, "What does Moses' Law say about it?"

The attorney replied, "That you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you must love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself."

"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do THIS and you shall live forever!!!"

The Lawyer, wanting to justify his lack of love and concern for certain peoples in the land, asked, "Which neighbors?"

The Lord responded with this illustration: *alone*

"A foolish and independent Jew too often journeyed from Jerusalem to Jericho to service his accounts there. This trip, he was mugged on the way by thugs and beaten half to death. Before leaving *the man* him dying on the roadside, they stripped his money-bag and his clothing, leaving him writhing in pain and slowly bleeding to death.

Very shortly after the murderers left, A Jewish Priest happened by. He had finished his courses of burning incense and praying on behalf of the people at the temple, and was hurrying home to his wife and children; as he had been away from home several days.

The Priest was a most-sensitive man. He was his village-Activist, advocating strict-discipline in the home, peace and harmony and law and order.

He saw a body some distance ahead as he was coming down the hill. Blood was everywhere. He was startled. Part of the man's scalp was draped over his left ear. His eyes were blood-shot. His skin was turning purple.

The Priest's immediate inclination was to rush to the man, feel his pulse, and see if there was anything that could be done for him. Then he saw the bone/protruding from the Merchant's right arm. Enough! A deep gnawing-pain welled up inside his stomach. His muscles began to

wrench and convulse. He had never seen the human body mangled like this. He began to tremble all over. He almost fainted.

Mustering the strength left within him, he staggered on by the hideous scene. He could barely keep his balance. He was almost out of control of himself. He had never thought of such a thing as being confronted by such a challenge. His ~~own~~ impulse was to run. Run as fast as he could stagger down the hill. This he did -----successfully ----- being half in and half out of his mind. He went on by. Phinehas, the priest, failed his challenge, having never disciplined himself in the spirit to serve God and man - regardless of the cost.

10 MIN. later a Jewish Temple-assistant walked upon the dying man. This Levite had also finished his course at the temple, helping the Priests with the animal sacrifices, preparing the Shew-Bread weekly and keeping an amply supply of incense available. He was walking briskly along the way contemplating and exulting about the new house he was building for his family in Jericho. He was more day-dreaming than anything. He was measuring the rafters and beams in his head in prospect of finishing his dwelling before having to return to Jerusalem for his next tour of duty.

He came upon the wounded-man ^{quite} unexpectedly. His mind was 21 miles away from the site. Suddenly, he was jolted into a paralytic state. / He quit breathing. His mouth flopped open fully. Aghast, he blinked his eyes as though he was seeing an ^aaberration. This couldn't be! But, his eye-blinking and winking only cleared the corneas and he saw more and more of what his mind fiercely struggled to deny. Here was a man/splattered with blood. Riverlets of blood ran from various open wounds to puddles in the dust. The flesh was turning a gray-black. The stub of his arm-bone pointed up at him like an accusing or beckoning finger.

The Levite went ~~numb~~ numb. He couldn't think---what to do! He had no first-aid equipment. His cloak and all the dirty-clothes in his bag were filthy from service in the temple. He had never pre-thought such an emergency.

The smell of the body drifted up into his nostrils. He turned white!

Laban, the Levite, looked up the hill. Then he looked down the hill. No one was in sight. No one had seen him come to this scene... No one would know if he left it. So he left it. He was ~~so~~ confused. The ^{injured} man was gasping so weakly. It was so far from the Inn down the road. And they wouldn't have

enough medication there for such advanced injuries, if he could get him to the Inn alive. Laban, the Levite, abruptly lengthened his stride away from the corpse--/or was it? He had never been challenged like this before and he left the scene in terrible inner-termoil. What's a Levite to do? He's not a leader!!!

Before Laban's shadow left the scene, a despised Samaritan-trader happened upon the crest of the hill. He saw a figure fading into the distance ---- seemingly in something of a hurry. Something seemed strange. But.....he saw strange things all over Palestine in his travels.

Shortly, Shem, the Samaritan, came upon the bloody scene. Instantly! Instinctively, he fell to his knees beside the gasping man. He felt his throat. There was the faintest of throbs in the arteries and veins. Pity and Compassion and Fear seized him. Maybe he was too late! "Oh God", he prayed, "Don't let it be too late. What of this man's wife at home and his kids? What will they do without him?"

The Samaritan had only a little wine left in his bottle. He first poured ^{some} in the man's parched throat. Then, sparingly, he poured wine into wound after wound until the ^{wine} ^{skin} was dry. Almost without ^{Samaritan} thinking, the ~~man~~ was cutting strips out of his cloak and he tied all of the wounds up to save what blood there was left in this ashen-white body. He hoisted the Jew upon his donkey and pushed and shoved and strapped the animal down the hill to the distant Inn.

Upon their arrival at the Inn the Samaritan began barking orders, as a man ~~stood~~ beside himself. "Heat some water, someone!!!" "Get me some clean towels -- anybody." "Innkeeper - which room can I have ---NOW! RIGHT NOW!! HURRY!!!".

Everybody at the Inn scrambled as receiving orders from King! The wounded man was soon in a room; wrapped in warm, clean garments. Hot broth was pulling blood back into his lips. He swallowed a little and then went into a long, deep sleep.

Shem did not leave Jacob, the Jew's, bedside all night. He ate no supper, but he never missed it. He slept a little, holding his to Jacob's hand---monitoring the faint heart-beats until sunrise.

^{the Samaritan,} Shem had a most-important appointment in Jericho that day. He had to hurry along! So his final arrangements with the Inn-Keeper (Jethro, by name) were rapidly made. He handed Jethro a hundred dollar bill and implored him to care

for Jacob until he too, could be on his way. "With the deal I've got today," he said, "I can amply reward you, if you need to spend more, than this. Now be generous! Give this man the best you can. But for the grace of God that man in the bed could be me."

Shem left the Inn, heavy-hearted about the possible future of Jacob, but he hurried on, leaving him in the hands of a Loving Lord Who is never too busy to aid His children in distress.

As Shem journeyed hurriedly along he got to thinking and talking to himself. "What have I done?", he asked himself. "How did I do THAT?" Many ideas rolled inside his brain. Then, the pieces began to come together and connect.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6: "Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and all thy soul and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart!"

Leviticus 18:18: "but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. I am the Lord." "You shall keep My statutes!" Vs. 19.

Shem smiled to himself as he mused over how hard his father and the Rabbi had worked in their Samaritan village to teach him the way of the Lord. Then he laughed. I don't guess the Jews have a curb on the Religious-Market, as much as they think they do!!!

* * *

- 30 -

Then Jesus looked squarely at the Lawyer...., and everyone else standing around, and asked, "Which of these three travelers had CONTROL of himself? CONTROL of his situation? Which REALLY had "Self - Control?"

The lawyer was trapped in his own folly. He could be honest and save face, or he could hedge and lose the confidence of the people. So he said, "The one who showed pity - obviously!! "

Jesus again faced the attorney, as well as the entire crowd, and said loudly, " You and All of You let God, My Father, into your hearts / and Go let Him control your SELF."

Quote
Tim Cannon

Keller,
Lapas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worth

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INSIGHT

"The most important lesson
is self-discipline. Regret-
tably, this is a non-word in
today's world."

Tim Cannon
Keller

3T-5-10-94

In this country, with open warfare on the streets of our cities, we are afraid to venture out after dark. Our judicial system cannot muster the courage or integrity to address this problem with any resolution. Yet we want to tell another country how it should treat our errant citizens. Singapore caning.

Singapore crime statistics are enlightening compared with those of a city of its size in this country. Maybe, just maybe, we would learn something if we came down out of our ivory tower and determined the cause and effect.

~~There are~~ There are people who understand the cause-and-effect relationship between misbehavior and punishment. The youngest of children can be taught social responsibilities and behavior. Prov. 22:15.

I can recall my own experience in learning this lesson. My loving father, while out in the woodshed administering a little bit of needed direction to my behavior, told me that the pain inflicted on my rear hurt him more than it hurt me. Of course, my immediate thought was not in alignment with that reasoning. It occurred to me much later in life, when I was correcting and disciplining my own children.

The most important lesson is self-discipline. Regrettably, that is a non-word in today's world. We all could do very well to reinstate it in our everyday lives.

TIM CANNON

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Tonight: 3!

Self-Control # 1356 (1)

1. Gal. 5:16-26. Context.

2. Spirit of the Spirit deals with God's Goal for our life: The Father wishes to make each of us - A MASTERPIECE!
Proof text: Matt. 5:48. Perfect; Complete; mature; Finished-Product.

3. Paul says in Gal. 5:23 - Self-mastery is the key to earthly-success and eternal-salvation.

4. How complex is Self-control? What "really" is it? And, how does one attain it?

5. Self-control seems to have a few Bros. + sisters and a number of related - cousins: Temperance, forbearance, Patience, Self-restraint, Long-tempered + spirit-control, + self-disciplined.

6. It's good to simply + clarify things as much as possible.
a. Can follow the Texas Rangers mode: they call the Ball Park in Arlington: "THE BALL PARK". Confuses no one!

no confusion with:
Stadium
arena
field
Colosseum
not Circus
Maximus!

So, I'm going to follow suit and call "Self-control" the /: Control of self (Positive + righteous use of one's inner-spiritual power).

8. How common is / or is-not Self-control in our Society?

Quote: * Ans: Tim Cannon - Keller, Texas.

SKIP!

searching this subject I
recently drew my latest "Quotation
Book from the top shelf in my home
office. It: "Respectfully Quoted,"
a product of the Congressional
Research Service of the U.S. ^{Library of Congress}.
Involves research on various
words, sentences + thoughts requested
by the U.S. Congress; Senators + House of
Rep. members.

Word: "Self-control" NOT listed. not once.

Word: "Temperance" used once: Sen. Morris
Shepherd said on Sept. 25, 1930 - "Congress
has as much chance of "repealing"
the 18th amendment (prohibiting the
free sale + use of alcohol in America)
as a humming bird flying to the
planet Mars with the Washington
Monument tied to its tail.

Quote: "This country is FOR Temperance
and Prohibition!"

Words: Self: used a lot. Self-importance: many times!

Self-pity: a lot! also: Selfish,

self-seeking + self-realization!
used many times!

10. Great thought: ^{These are} No such thing as "real" ⁽³⁾ human-SELF-control! "Control for righteousness sake is God-control" in us or Christ-control within us.

Man, left alone, seldom, if ever, exercises much control of himself. Jer. 20:23. The way of man is not in himself.

article: Forgiving the Un-forgivable: Case in point: Story of John J. Colligan: Endwell, N.Y. Had his 21 yr. old son killed in Colo. by a frivolous young-woman - a senseless - useless killing!

→ 11. Question: Have you that state of Self-control yet? Or, have you grappled with it forever and are still struggling with it - like I am?

13. Great Statement: The Fruit of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit's full - expression of God! This is our finest LIKENESS of God - our Apr. Father in Heaven.