

Volume 6, Day 18: Interest or identification?

The imperative need spiritually is to sign the death warrant of the disposition of sin. It is essential to turn all emotional impressions and intellectual beliefs into a moral verdict against the disposition of sin. This disposition is: my claim to my right to myself. Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ." He does not say, "I have determined to imitate Jesus Christ," or, "I will try hard to follow Him." When I come to such a purposeful decision and act upon it, then all that Christ accomplished for me on the Cross is accomplished in me. That which God requires surrendered in me is all, not just some, of my rights! The free will commitment of myself to God gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to express through me the holiness of Jesus Christ.

"... nevertheless I live ..." The individuality and uniqueness of personality remains, but the mainspring, the ruling disposition, is radically altered. The same human body remains, but the old satanic right to myself is destroyed. When we do not surrender all of our rights, we commit sin as our natural spirit operates against the Holy Spirit. He has been posited there by God in faith. But we can grieve Him when we thwart His expression of God's love even if we are doing what appears to be loving and kind things for others.

"And the life which I now live in the flesh ..." not the life which I long to live, but the life I now do live in my mortal flesh, the life which men can see, "I live by the faith of the Son of God." This faith is not our faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith that the Son of God has imparted to us, "the faith of the Son of God." It is faith which has overleapt all conscious bounds, the identical faith of the Son of God. And what was the evidence of Jesus' faith in God? It was that Jesus surrendered in absolute trust of His Father all of His own rights to the will of His Father.

Do you hold back some things which you think you can handle without His assistance or do you let go of your control over your life and the lives of others. God can always be trusted to do the best thing in any and every circumstance. And as with the agony of the Garden, God's purposes may require something painful for you.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan