

VICTORY OVER SELF

The Unseen War – Part 4

September 16, 2018

The Goal: Revival...living daily with the life of Jesus being poured into our hearts and overflowing onto others.

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20 NLT

- Daily getting in a right relationship with Jesus is the key to seeing His power and victory demonstrated and overflowing in our hearts and lives.
- The life of Jesus cannot be revealed in and through us until the proud self within us is broken. As long as self is in control, God can do little with us.

At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life also may be seen in our bodies. – 2 Corinthians 4:10 GNT

- In daily experience, brokenness is our response of humility to the conviction of God.
- We are not likely to be broken except at the Cross of Jesus.

For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. – Galatians 6:14 MSG

- The only life that is ever truly victorious or pleasing to God is the life of Jesus; it is never our lives, no matter how hard we try.
- We can never be filled with His life until we are prepared for God to bring our lives constantly to death.
- Death to self means constantly letting go of *our* plans, *our* time, *our* money, *our* control, *our* agenda, and *our* solutions. This is true brokenness made manifest.
- Brokenness is only the beginning of revival since true revival is being filled to overflowing with the life of Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit.
- The filling of the Spirit is totally a work of God's grace. Our part is to simply offer Him our empty, broken selves to be filled with His life. (Water always fills the lowest place.)
- Dying to self is not a life of misery; it is the exact opposite. The more we experience death to self, the more we experience His life, peace and joy in us. This is always accompanied by a burden for the lost and a desire to see blessings in the lives of others.
- One thing prevents Jesus from filling our cups as He passes by: sin in any of its countless forms. Jesus will not fill cups already full of sin and self.
- Anything springing from self is sin: self-effort, self-sufficiency, self-seeking, self-indulgence, selfishness, self-defensiveness, self-consciousness, self-pity, sensitiveness, touchiness, resentment, fear, etc.

- If we allow Jesus to show us what is in our cups, and give it to Him, He will cleanse them with His precious blood.
- His blood not only cleanses our consciences, but also cleanses us from the very sin itself.
- Jesus not only cleans our cups; He fills them with His life and victory.
- We must learn the moment-by-moment power of Jesus' blood to cleanse us and deliver us from the things we may find most natural, satisfying or tempting (fleshly sins, irritations, pet peeves, personal resentments, fears, frustrations, etc.).
- One of the clearest signs that sin is filling my cup is the absence of Christ's peace in my heart.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.... – Colossians 3:15 NIV

- Christ's peace is to be literally "the referee" of our hearts. The absence of His peace is the divine whistle blowing to call time out for a foul so that we can stop, repent and put this issue under the Blood, so that His peace is restored in us.
- We don't lose His peace over another person's sin; only over our own sin. God wants to show us our reaction, cleanse it, and change us.
- We need a fresh hunger for fellowship with God to be restored and a fresh vision of the life and peace of Christ poured into our hearts and lives.