

The 'Self' We Mustn't Trust

Worksheet 5: **October 1, 2015**—*spiritual warfare*

Agreeably, the One we all must trust is God, but for each one of us, the 'self' we mustn't trust is different. The commonality of 'self', however, puts every one of us on level ground: We have all sinned; we have all fallen short, and we have all gone our own way, and 'self' was in the middle of it all—we must not trust it!

We must give up self-serving:

Self-aggrandizing self-love, self-effort, self-absorption and selfish-ambition.

And we must take up the Spirit-directed 'self' activity described below:

Self-denial and self-distrust,

Remembering that there are no self-made Christians!

—07-10—jmoore

There is an enemy to our choosing God's will, God's way, and God's Word.
Our conflict is with 'self' — when it listens to Satan.

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 90:12

Ecclesiastes 7:28d-29

Isaiah 30:21

Psalm 34:7

Hebrews 12:2

Scripture to Memorize:

2 Corinthians 10:18 *"For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."*

Prayer Requests and Praises:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. Look at the very partial 'self'-list below, and place an **X** in front of the descriptions that you struggle with—positively or negatively. Then **place a cross beside the one** that is a "Fruit of the Spirit"—Scripture exhorts us to practice.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-absorb | <input type="checkbox"/> self-deceive | <input type="checkbox"/> self-image |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-advance | <input type="checkbox"/> self-delude | <input type="checkbox"/> self-important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-analyze | <input type="checkbox"/> self-denial | <input type="checkbox"/> self-indulgent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-appoint | <input type="checkbox"/> self-destruct | <input type="checkbox"/> self-inflict |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-assert | <input type="checkbox"/> self-educate | <input type="checkbox"/> self-pity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-assure | <input type="checkbox"/> self-employ | <input type="checkbox"/> self-reliant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-condemn | <input type="checkbox"/> self-esteem | <input type="checkbox"/> self-satisfied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-confident | <input type="checkbox"/> self-explain | <input type="checkbox"/> self-sufficient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-control | <input type="checkbox"/> self-help | <input type="checkbox"/> self-willed |

2. Remember from our first lesson on agape', that the opposite of love is not hate but **selfishness**. Read **Matthew 16:24** where Jesus tells us what it will take to be his disciple and fill in the missing two words.

*"If anyone would come after me, he must _____
_____ and take up his cross and follow me."*

"We are in confining quarters, indeed, when we are enclosed in self... Our aim should be to die to the flattering delights of self love. Our aim should be, not greatness, but humility. We must learn to love personal obscurity and contempt, so that our only concern is to glorify God."

—Bishop Fenelon

Recommended Reading:

- Let Go*, Fenelon
The Handwriting on the Wall, David Jeremiah

Not "I" But Christ!

Psalm 51:10-12 *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

Hold your heart open to the searchlight of the Holy Spirit. He will enable you, by confession and faith, to bring your 'self'-life to the death. Then let His Word renew, refine and restore. Psalm 139:23-24 *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord,
Oh, to be lost in Thee;
Oh, that it might be no more I,
But Christ that lives in me.

—Author Unknown

Some erroneous 'self'–serving lies perpetuated by professing Christians:

- We don't have to speak the Gospel if we are living it.
But Scripture in **Proverbs 11:30** "*He that winneth souls is wise.*"
- We don't have to go to church to be a Christian.
But Scripture in **Hebrews 10:25** "*Let us **not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*"
- We don't have to worry about sinning after salvation; we're already forgiven.
But Scripture in **2 Corinthians 5:10** "*For we (believers) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*"
- We don't have to do anything in spiritual warfare; it's between God and Satan.
But Scripture in **Ephesians 6:14-18** exhorts us to put on the armor of God—to stand firm. **1 Corinthians 16:13a** "*Be on your guard: stand firm in the faith....*"
- A good sign that we are doing things right, is that there is no opposition.
But Scripture in **1 Corinthians 16:9** "*...because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and **there are many who oppose me.***" **2 Timothy 3:12** "*In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.***"
- We can tell if we're a good leader by how many are following us.
But Scripture about Jesus' leadership and the few that followed him. **Matthew 7:13-14** "*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and **only a few find it.***"
- We do not have to agree with others in the church, but hold to our own view:
But Scripture in **1 Corinthians 1:10** "*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that all of you agree with one another** so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*"
- We don't have to rid God's house of evil doers, because we're to be kind.
But Scripture in 1 Corinthians 5:1c-2, 5 "*A man has his father's wife. ²And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and **have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?** ...**hand this man over to Satan**, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.*"

- (1) Are you ever conscious of a secret spirit of pride,
an exalted feeling in view of your success or position,
because of your good training and appearance,
because of your natural gifts and abilities,
an important, independent spirit,
stiffness and preciseness?
- (2) Are you ever conscious of love of human praise,
a secret fondness to be noticed,
love of supremacy,
drawing attention to self in conversation,
a swelling out of self when you have had a free time in speaking or praying?
- (3) Are you ever conscious of the stirrings of anger or impatience which, worst of all, you call
nervousness or holy indignation,
a touchy, sensitive spirit,
a disposition which dislikes being contradicted,
a desire to throw sharp, heated words at another?
- (4) Are you ever conscious of self-will,
a stubborn, unteachable spirit,
an arguing, talkative spirit,
harsh, sarcastic expressions,
an unyielding, headstrong disposition,
a driving, commanding spirit,
a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed,
a peevish, fretful spirit,
a disposition that loves to be coaxed and humored?
- (5) Are you ever conscious of a jealous disposition,
a secret spirit of envy shut up in your heart,
an unpleasant sensation in view of the great prosperity and success of another,
a disposition to speak of the faults and failings, rather than the gifts and virtues, of those more
talented and appreciated than yourself?
- (6) Are you ever conscious of a dishonest, deceitful disposition,
the evading and covering of the truth,
the covering up of your real faults,
the leaving of a better impression of yourself than is strictly true,
false humility,
exaggeration,
straining the truth?
- (7) Are you ever conscious of unbelief,
a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition,
lack of quietness and confidence in God,
lack of faith and trust in God,
a disposition to worry and complain in the midst of pain, poverty or at the dispensations of divine
providence,
an over-anxious feeling about whether everything will come out alright?
- (8) Are you ever conscious of formality and deadness,
lack of concern for lost souls,
dryness and indifference,
lack of power with God?

—from “The Traits of the Self-life” by the *Western Tract Mission*.