



LIVING A CHRISTLIKE LIFE

INTRODUCTION

- I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE, I WANT WHAT HE/SHE HAS, INDIFFERENT
- BOB HOEKSTRA SAYS, "THE LAW OF GOD IS NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE "BE BETTER." IT IS DEMANDING THAT WE "BE HOLY," AS HOLY AS GOD. THE LAW IS NOT IMPLYING THAT WE "BE NICER." IT IS REQUIRING THAT WE "BE LOVING," AS LOVING AS CHRIST. THE LAW IS NOT PROPOSING THAT WE "TRY HARDER." IT IS INSISTING THAT WE "BE PERFECT," AS PERFECT AS OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."
- "ANYONE WHO DESIRES TO APPROACH A HOLY AND PERFECT GOD MUST HAVE A MORE EFFECTIVE EXPECTATION THAN ONE'S BEST PERSONAL PERFORMANCE, MEASURED BY GOD'S HOLY LAW. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO GET TO KNOW GOD, TO WALK WITH HIM, TO LIVE WITH HIM THROUGH TIME AND ETERNITY, MUST FIND A BETTER HOPE THAN THE LAW OF GOD."
- ONLY IN CHRIST CAN WE REACH THE GOAL GOD HAS FOR US

MORE INTRO

- ADRIAN ROGERS SAID: “SOME PEOPLE THINK YOU CAN LOSE YOUR SALVATION ONCE YOU HAVE IT. I HAVE ONE TRUTH THAT WILL DISPEL THAT IDEA. WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN LOSE YOUR SALVATION DEPENDS UPON HOW YOU GOT IT.
- IF YOU WERE SAVED BY YOUR GOOD WORKS, THEN YOU CAN LOSE YOUR SALVATION BY YOUR BAD WORKS. BUT GOD’S WORD IS VERY CLEAR ON THIS POINT. TITUS 3:5 SAYS, “NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY HE SAVED US, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION, AND RENEWING OF THE HOLY GHOST.”
- HOW IS SOMEONE SAVED? BY GRACE. AND IF IT IS BY GRACE, THEN YOU’RE KEPT BY GRACE. SALVATION IS NOT ROOTED IN THE MERIT OF MAN, BUT IN THE MERCY OF GOD.”

STILL MORE INTRO

- BOB HOEKSTRA ADDS, “VOWS AND PLEDGES OF PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT OFFER NO HOPE. ASKING OTHERS HOW TO STRIVE MORE EARNESTLY PROVIDES NO ASSISTANCE. **ONLY FAITH** SUPPLIES THE NECESSARY REMEDY. *“A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW **BUT BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.**”* TRUSTING IN OUR OWN BEST EFFORTS LEAVES US GUILTY BEFORE GOD. TRUSTING IN CHRIST'S PERFECT WORK ON THE CROSS MAKES US JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD. *“THE JUST SHALL LIVE **BY FAITH.**”*”
- ADRIAN ROGERS, “FAITH IS GETTING A WORD FROM GOD AND ACTING UPON IT. YOU SEE, YOU CAN GET A WORD FROM GOD AND BELIEVE THAT WORD. THAT IS BELIEF. BUT WHEN YOU ACT UPON IT, THAT IS FAITH. FAITH IS BELIEF WITH LEGS ON IT.”

CALLED TO HOLY LIVING

- **BE HOLY IN ALL YOU DO**

- [1PE 1:13-19 KJV] 13 WHEREFORE GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND, BE SOBER, AND HOPE TO THE END FOR THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT UNTO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST; 14 AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN, NOT FASHIONING YOURSELVES ACCORDING TO THE FORMER LUSTS IN YOUR IGNORANCE: 15 BUT AS HE WHICH HATH CALLED YOU IS HOLY, SO BE YE HOLY IN ALL MANNER OF CONVERSATION; 16 BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN, BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY. 17 AND IF YE CALL ON THE FATHER, WHO WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS JUDGE ACCORDING TO EVERY MAN'S WORK, PASS THE TIME OF YOUR SOJOURNING [HERE] IN FEAR: 18 FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YE WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, [AS] SILVER AND GOLD, FROM YOUR VAIN CONVERSATION [RECEIVED] BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS; 19 BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT:

CALLED TO HOLY LIVING

- **SERVE GOD IN HOLINESS**
- [ROM 6:19-22 KJV] 19 I SPEAK AFTER THE MANNER OF MEN BECAUSE OF THE INFIRMITY OF YOUR FLESH: FOR AS YE HAVE YIELDED YOUR MEMBERS SERVANTS TO UNCLEANNESS AND TO INIQUITY UNTO INIQUITY; EVEN SO NOW YIELD YOUR MEMBERS SERVANTS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO HOLINESS. 20 FOR WHEN YE WERE THE SERVANTS OF SIN, YE WERE FREE FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS. 21 WHAT FRUIT HAD YE THEN IN THOSE THINGS WHEREOF YE ARE NOW ASHAMED? FOR THE END OF THOSE THINGS [IS] DEATH. **22 BUT NOW BEING MADE FREE FROM SIN, AND BECOME SERVANTS TO GOD, YE HAVE YOUR FRUIT UNTO HOLINESS, AND THE END EVERLASTING LIFE.**
- [2CO 7:1 KJV] 1 HAVING THEREFORE THESE PROMISES, DEARLY BELOVED, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FILTHINESS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD.

LIVING IN SANCTIFICATION

- **JESUS PRAYED FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION**

- [JHN 17:14-21 KJV] 14 I HAVE GIVEN THEM THY WORD; AND THE WORLD HATH HATED THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD. 15 I PRAY NOT THAT THOU SHOULDEST TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT THOU SHOULDEST KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL. 16 THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD. 17 SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH. 18 AS THOU HAST SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, EVEN SO HAVE I ALSO SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD. 19 AND FOR THEIR SAKES I SANCTIFY MYSELF, THAT THEY ALSO MIGHT BE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE TRUTH. 20 NEITHER PRAY I FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD; 21 THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, [ART] IN ME, AND I IN THEE, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.
- [HEB 2:10-12 KJV] 10 FOR IT BECAME HIM, FOR WHOM [ARE] ALL THINGS, AND BY WHOM [ARE] ALL THINGS, IN BRINGING MANY SONS UNTO GLORY, TO MAKE THE CAPTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS. 11 FOR BOTH HE THAT SANCTIFIETH AND THEY WHO ARE SANCTIFIED [ARE] ALL OF ONE: FOR WHICH CAUSE HE IS NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BRETHREN, 12 SAYING, I WILL DECLARE THY NAME UNTO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CHURCH WILL I SING PRAISE UNTO THEE.

LIVING IN SANCTIFICATION

- **SANCTIFICATION IS GOD'S WORK**

- [1TH 5:22-24 KJV] 22 ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL. 23 AND THE VERY GOD OF PEACE SANCTIFY YOU WHOLLY; AND [I PRAY GOD] YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE PRESERVED BLAMELESS UNTO THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. 24 FAITHFUL [IS] HE THAT CALLETH YOU, WHO ALSO WILL DO [IT].

SPIRIT-FILLED LIVING

- SPIRIT-EMPOWERED WITNESSES
- [ACT 1:8 KJV] 8 BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: AND YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDAEA, AND IN SAMARIA, AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.
- [ACT 5:32 KJV] 32 AND WE ARE HIS WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS; AND [SO IS] ALSO THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM.

SPIRIT-FILLED LIVING

- **SPIRIT-DIRECTED LIVING**

- [GAL 5:16-26 KJV] 16 [THIS] I SAY THEN, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFIL THE LUST OF THE FLESH. 17 FOR THE FLESH LUSTETH AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH: AND THESE ARE CONTRARY THE ONE TO THE OTHER: SO THAT YE CANNOT DO THE THINGS THAT YE WOULD. 18 BUT IF YE BE LED OF THE SPIRIT, YE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW. 19 NOW THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE MANIFEST, WHICH ARE [THESE]; ADULTERY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, LASCIVIOUSNESS, 20 IDOLATRY, WITCHCRAFT, HATRED, VARIANCE, EMULATIONS, WRATH, STRIFE, SEDITIONS, HERESIES, 21 ENVYINGS, MURDERS, DRUNKENNESS, REVELLINGS, AND SUCH LIKE: OF THE WHICH I TELL YOU BEFORE, AS I HAVE ALSO TOLD [YOU] IN TIME PAST, THAT THEY WHICH DO SUCH THINGS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. 22 BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, 23 MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW. 24 AND THEY THAT ARE CHRIST'S HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH THE AFFECTIONS AND LUSTS. 25 IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK IN THE SPIRIT. 26 LET US NOT BE DESIROUS OF VAIN GLORY, PROVOKING ONE ANOTHER, ENVYING ONE ANOTHER.
- [GAL 6:7-10 KJV] 7 BE NOT DECEIVED; GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP. 8 FOR HE THAT SOWETH TO HIS FLESH SHALL OF THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION; BUT HE THAT SOWETH TO THE SPIRIT SHALL OF THE SPIRIT REAP LIFE EVERLASTING. 9 AND LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING: FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP, IF WE FAINT NOT. 10 AS WE HAVE THEREFORE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD UNTO ALL [MEN], ESPECIALLY UNTO THEM WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.

THE ARGUMENT

BY GIGI GRAHAM TCHIVIDJIAN

- HE WALKED OUT, CLOSING THE DOOR FIRMLY BEHIND HIM. I HEARD THE CAR DRIVE AWAY, AND WITH A HEAVY, ACHING HEART, I LEANED AGAINST THE CLOSED DOOR. HOT, ANGRY TEARS FILLED MY EYES, SPILLED OVER, AND RAN DOWN MY CHEEKS. HOW HAD IT HAPPENED? HOW HAD THINGS BUILT TO THIS POINT? NEITHER OF US HAD INTENDED OUR LITTLE DISCUSSION TO DEVELOP INTO A HEATED DISAGREEMENT. BUT IT WAS LATE, AND WE HAD BOTH EXPERIENCED A HARD DAY.
- STEPHAN HAD RISEN EARLY TO DRIVE FOR THE CAR POOL. THEN HE HAD SEEN SEVERAL PATIENTS WITH DIFFICULT, HEARTBREAKING PROBLEMS. AN EMERGENCY HAD TAKEN UP HIS LUNCH BREAK, AND HE HAD BEEN BEHIND SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON. WHEN HE FINALLY LEFT THE OFFICE, HE HIT A TRAFFIC JAM ON THE FREEWAY AND ARRIVED HOME TENSE AND TIRED TO A WIFE WITH SEVEN CHILDREN, ALL DEMANDING HIS ATTENTION.
- I, TOO, HAD ENDURED A DIFFICULT DAY AFTER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT WITH THE BABY. BESIDES THE NORMAL RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVED WITH RUNNING A HOME, RAIN HAD KEPT US CONFINED INDOORS ALL DAY. IT WAS HUMID, AND THE CHILDREN WERE MORE QUARRELSOME THAN USUAL, AMUSING THEMSELVES BY PICKING ON EACH OTHER. BETWEEN SETTling ARGUMENTS AND SOOTHING HURT FEELINGS, I MANAGED TO GET DINNER ON THE TABLE. BUT I HADN'T HAD TIME TO COMB MY HAIR OR FRESHEN MY MAKEUP, AND STEPHAN COULD SENSE MY FRUSTRATION WHEN HE CAME IN.

- FINALLY, WHEN THE KITCHEN WAS CLEAN, THE SMALL CHILDREN BATHED AND TUCKED INTO BED, AND THE TEENAGERS TALKED OUT, STEPHAN AND I FOUND OURSELVES ALONE IN OUR BEDROOM, TRYING TO DISCUSS A MINOR PROBLEM. IT SOON BLEW OUT OF PROPORTION. ANGRY FEELINGS WERE VENTED, WORDS SPOKEN THAT WE DID NOT MEAN, AND THEN—A SLAMMED DOOR AND RETREATING CAR.
- I SLUMPED INTO A CHAIR, DISSOLVING INTO TEARS OF DISCOURAGEMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT IN MYSELF. HOW LONG WAS IT GOING TO TAKE TO LEARN MY LESSON? LATE AT NIGHT, ESPECIALLY AFTER A WEARISOME DAY, IS NOT THE TIME FOR ARGUING, BUT FOR COMFORT, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND LOVING.
- AS I SAT THERE, I REMEMBERED THAT I HAD BEEN SO BUSY TRYING TO HANDLE THE HOME FRONT, KEEPING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE UNDER CONTROL, THAT I HAD NOT SPENT TIME WITH THE LORD THAT DAY. I HAD EVEN FAILED TO PRAY FOR STEPHAN. NO WONDER THINGS HAD NOT GONE WELL.
- I GLANCED IN THE MIRROR AND SAW RED, PUFFY EYES, NO MAKEUP, AND HAIR IN DISARRAY. I SAW LINES OF FATIGUE AND TENSION WHERE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TENDERNESS AND LOVE, AND I UNDERSTOOD STEPHAN'S DESIRE TO GET AWAY AND COOL OFF.

- I FELL ON MY KNEES BESIDE THE CHAIR, ASKING THE LORD TO FORGIVE ME AND TO FILL ME WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT SO I COULD BE TO STEPHAN ALL HE HAD EVER DREAMED. I ASKED FOR THE LORD'S STRENGTH, HIS SENSITIVITY, HIS WISDOM, SO I COULD JUGGLE MY OWN SCHEDULE, THE DEMANDS OF MY HOME AND CHILDREN, AND STILL HAVE TIME TO MEET MY HUSBAND'S NEEDS WHEN HE CAME HOME FROM THE DAY'S WORK. THEN I ADDED A TIMID P. S. ASKING HIM TO GIVE STEPHAN A CHANGE OF HEART, TOO.
- I FELT PEACE AND A SUDDEN REFRESHING. I GOT UP, WASHED MY FACE, ADDED A LITTLE COLOR TO MY CHEEKS AND LIPS, COMBED MY HAIR, LAVISHED PERFUME ON MYSELF, AND CLIMBED INTO BED TO WAIT.
- BEFORE LONG, I HEARD THE FRONT DOOR OPEN AND FAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS IN THE BRICK HALLWAY. OUR BEDROOM DOOR OPENED QUIETLY AND STEPHAN STOOD THERE, HIS TIRED FACE AND KIND, LOVING EYES DRAWING ME LIKE A MAGNET. I FLEW INTO HIS ARMS. LATER, OUR LOVING ERASED THE LAST TRACES OF FRUSTRATION AND ANGER. CLINGING TO EACH OTHER AS WE FELL INTO A MUCH-NEEDED SLEEP, I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING WHY WE HADN'T THOUGHT OF THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.