

SERVING GOD NEVER GOT EASIER

11/7/18

Many people, including numerous Christians, falsely believe that serving God is a difficult and demanding task... this is not the case. God has never made it easier to prove his existence, to develop a working relationship with him and to build a quality life. This is made all the more easier by following a few well proven steps. Nothing workable happens until the Holy Spirit enters our bodies as this is the key to a successful relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is the source of power for every blessing and the key to all worthwhile knowledge. God's power also makes it possible to succeed despite our obvious shortcomings and personal weaknesses. The greatest power of the Holy Spirit lies in its ability to cleanse us of all sin and to maintain the cleansing process for our whole lives.

The first great truth comes by understanding that we are powerless to make any changes in our own strength. JOB 14:4 Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? not one.

We are powerless on our own, but God has made it possible to have a balanced relationship with him. ROM 8:7 Because the carnal mind (*natural human status*) is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. **8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. **9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. *This emphasises the essential need to be anointed with the Holy Spirit. This gives us the resources that the human race seeks, but never finds. One of the greatest concerns that Christians face relates to their ongoing relationship with God. What happens if we sin after we have received the Holy Spirit? Some believe that a 'major' sin ends a relationship with God while others believe that sin is no longer relevant to Christians. As usual the truth lies between both extremes.*

It is true that wilfully sinning leads to certain death. HEB 10:26 For if we sin **wilfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

It is also true that more forgiveness than ever is available once we receive the Holy Spirit. ROM 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Christ made the anointing of the Spirit possible for us... he also made forgiveness possible. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath (vengeance) through him. The offer is better now than when we were unsaved. Even though much is expected from us; when it comes to dealing with default, even more is offered than what we were promised at our initial salvation experience. The last two verses may appear to contradict themselves, but this is far from the truth. Forgiveness is clearly offered to repentant souls... the difficulty is in determining what 'wilful sin' is. For most Christians, all sin is wilful in one way or another. There may be levels of ignorance in the early stages of our walk, but the greater number of failings and weaknesses are known transgressions. The answer is simple, yet compelling. Wilful sin is the abandonment of Christian values... it's about turning our back on the way of God and it's fatal if maintained. It is equally as fatal for those who are hot one moment and cold the next. God responds to sincerity and commitment, both attributes enable faith to work and our daily cleansing to continue.*

Paul explains that weakness and sin will not stand in the way of a committed saint. ROM 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. **19** For the good that I would dwelleth in me. *Sin is part of our natural attributes.* **21** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. **22** For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. *Paul is simply being open and honest about the battle with the flesh we all face on a daily basis. This explanation gives us understanding about how to approach and manage the flesh and spirit battle.* **24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? *Paul expresses this as a spirit filled person... like you and me.* **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. **1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. *Weakness and trouble should not be surprising to anyone. Our sole purpose should be to walk in the spirit, despite our failings. Nothing is easier than walking in the Lord. Commit to prayer, fellowship, wisdom and support the fellowship. If you fall, get up and keep going. Learn to use the power and God will guide you through the rest.*