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BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

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**Sin
and the
Controlling
Power of Self.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Sin and the Controlling Power of Self.

Topics.

- Paradise, Adam and Eve and the fall.
- Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.
- Your brotherhood, experience the same sufferings.

PARADISE, ADAM AND EVE AND THE FALL

Prior to the fall Adam and Eve lived in Paradise on earth, everything flourished animals ate the leaves of trees and the grass of the ground, the climate was perfect for plant life and for the life of animals and human life Adam and Eve did not need to struggle and strive to survive or fear wild animals and destructive weather conditions. Adam lived with his wife in a safe environment and God provided everything in abundance that they needed to live a comfortable, safe and secure life. After the fall everything changed, they were cast out of this Paradise and mankind has had to work and overcome hardships and all sorts of troubles and sorrows to survive. Self-survival generates a driving force within to protect itself this force manifests itself in either legal honest work to provide and better itself or in illegal activities and sin (lies, deception, oppression for one's own gain criminal activities violence and wars etc.). This is because sins at their core are motivated by the desire for:

- Self-survival, self-protection and self-security.
- Self-gain, self-power and self-comfort and self-pleasure.

Sinful inward desires of self and the flesh are manifested in outward acts of wrong-doing. The motivation of all the following sinful acts and thoughts stem from self, craving some form of gratification physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or mentally.

- Unlawful sexual pleasure, rebellion and breaking promises.
- Stealing and dishonest gain of wealth or material possessions.
- Acting dishonestly and perverting justice by deception, lies and bribes
- Lying for one's own gain and intimidating people to be the top dog
- Greed and oppressing others for one's own advantage and gain.
- Verbal or physical anger, rebellion and breaking promises.
- Being lazy rather than working when there is no good reason not to.
- Constantly thinking of deceitful and crooked schemes
- Cursing God and disobeying Him for gain, wealth and pleasure.
- Harboring hatred and cruel malicious thoughts of revenge.

All of these sinful emotions, thoughts and acts not only stem from self, desiring some degree of pleasure, comfort, security, gain, advantage, protection, power, control and importance and from self, wanting freedom to do as it pleases or to give self, instant satisfaction, gratification and pleasure, but also to ease and comfort the emotions. Self to some degree is at the center of everything humans do good or bad and when self lacks integrity and honesty and cannot get what it wants lawfully and honestly

will resort to unlawful and dishonest means to fulfill its desires and passions. Added to this if self is not disciplined and controlled it will not only rebel when it is not happy with the task it has to do, but will also lie, deceive, cheat and act corruptly if it fears the loss of some kind of personal benefit, gain or advantage.

Self-only thinks about how it can:

- Protect itself.
- Make itself secure.
- Give itself pleasure.

Self constantly does things that will in some way benefit it:

- Physically.
- Emotionally.
- Financially.
- Spiritually.

The nature of self is such that if it is not disciplined and lacks integrity and honesty and cannot be satisfied or get what it craves by lawful means it will get what it wants unlawfully sinfully and dishonestly. Self, is impatient it does not want to wait for its satisfaction or desire and everything self does, is to satisfy its own pleasure and for its own self-gratification. There is a universal rule amongst physiologists and counselors which states: "Self does things for its own reasons and not for others."

YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION

In the book of Genesis, the LORD says to Cain:

- If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it (Gen. 4:7).

Peter in the following verse describes the devil as a roaring lion prowling and seeking someone to devour.

- Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world (1 Peter 5:8-9).

The LORD in the Old Testament pictures sin as a creature who desires to feed on humans hiding behind a door waiting for its victim to enter into the room so it can devour them. The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil therefore resisting the devil and resisting sin are the same thing. When the devil and sin are personified as a devouring creature, they can both be seen as the same entity because they both have the same desire, the same character and the same motivation which is to lead a person away from Christ and into ungodly behavior.

James in his letter wrote:

- Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

James in this chapter is explaining to his listeners that there are passions in the human heart that are at war with each other and then explains that these passions arise from a person wanting something, but not being able to have it. James says it is these craving passions that desire to have the

things of this world that causes a person to commit murder, fight and quarrel because they do not have the ability or the means to obtain what they (self) desire and crave legitimately, honestly or legally. The devil in this verse refers to the desire in the human heart that craves to have something that it cannot obtain and will therefore commit all sorts of corruptions to get what self, craves. This Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil they are the same entity the devil is simply a personification of sin one is pictured as a roaring lion while the other is pictured couching behind a door, but both are waiting for their opportunity to devour its victims. Resisting the devil and resisting sin is the same thing. We overcome sin and the devil by doing what is right and good and by being watchful and submitting to God and standing firm in our faith in contrast to doing what is wrong and corrupt and that brings a bad testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

YOUR BROTHERHOOD EXPERIENCES THE SAME SUFFERINGS

Peter's words, "Resist him firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world" (v9). Show that the devil in this context is outwardly manifested in some form of persecution by those against the Christian faith. The word devil can apply to the spirit of an individual, the collective spirit of a group or government etc., that is opposed to God, opposed to God's will and against Christ and those who follow him. At the time of Peter the word devil most likely refers the Romans and the Jewish priesthood at Jerusalem who was strongly opposed to the Christian faith and aggressively and brutally doing all that was in their power to destroy Christianity and its followers by putting them in prison, torturing them and putting them to death.

Whoever opposes God, the Lord Jesus Christ and those who belong to his Kingdom are simply outwardly manifesting the deep and gross horror of sin dwelling in the human heart. The devil and sin are the same entity manifested outwardly in many various forms of corruption and wrongdoing. Self-gratification could be pictured as a great dark bottomless pit out of which flows sin and the devil to fulfill the sinful cravings and passions of self.

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Is it any wonder Jesus said:

- If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me (Matthew 16:24)

And why Paul said:

- Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24).

To be a true follower of Christ he must be the ruling and reigning King seated on the throne of the heart and mind and not self.

For further information see the title:

- Devil in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).