

Dying to Self

submitted by Sis. Velma Gentle
Tucker, Georgia

WHEN YOU ARE FORGOTTEN OR NEGLECTED or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight; but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ --- that is dying to self.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed; and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence --- that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any

annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensitivity; and endure it as Jesus did --- that is dying to self.

When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, and society, and solitude, any interruption by the will of God --- that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or to record your own good works or itch after commendation; when you can truly love to be unknown --- that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met and

can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God; while your own needs are far greater and you are in desperate circumstances --- that is dying to self.

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart --- that is dying to self.

Are you dead yet? In these days let us pray that the Spirit would bring us to the Cross, "That I may know Him... being made conformable to His death" (Philippians 3:10).

When Trouble Comes and Things Go Wrong!

Author Unknown

Let us go quietly to God
when trouble comes to us,
Let us never stop to whimper
Or complain and fret and fuss,
Let us hide "our thorns" in "roses"
And our sighs in "golden song"
And "Our crosses"
in a "crown of smiles"
Whenever things go wrong....
For no one can really help us

As our troubles we bemoan,
For comfort, help and inner peace,
Must come from God alone....
So do not tell your neighbor,
Your companion or your friend
In the hope that they can help you
Bring your troubles to an end....
For they, too, have their problems,
They are burdened just like you,
So take YOUR CROSS TO JESUS

And HE WILL SEE
YOU TROUGH....
And waste no time in crying
On the shoulder of a friend
But go directly to the Lord
For on Him you can depend....
For there's absolutely NOTHING
That His mighty hand can't do
And He never is too busy
To help and comfort you.

Love: What it is, What it ain't

by Bro. T. W. Snider
Riverdale, Georgia

Before the ministers' meeting was called to order, a young pastor commented, "Love is an emotion." A quietness ensued, and he repeated, "Love is an emotion." An older minister with a doctorate in psychology leaned toward the young man, "Don't ever say that again. Love is not an emotion. If love is an emotion, when you get angry with your wife you don't love her any more."

Emotions are very changeable. Love sticks. "Love suffers long."

Those pastors began trying to define love. The best they could come up with was, "Love is the setting of one's affection." Does this improve the definition any: "Love is the setting of one's affection on a person or a

thing?" We can love things: "Love not the world, neither the THINGS that are in the world." (1 John 2:15). "Set your affection on the things above." (Colossians 3:2).

Many people seem to think that a love bug comes flying around like a bumble bee, and when he bites you, you are helpless. Love starts and you lose all control. You have no control, no responsibility. The dye is cast. The truth is opposite. "The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet." (1 Corinthians 14:32). We are in control of our spirits and our love. God commands us to love one another, to love God, and Jesus told us to love our enemies. This clearly implies that we are in control of our love. A lady said to

me, "I'm going to leave my husband." I learned she was going to leave, not only her husband, but her home and house full of children. Enough to make the angels weep! The "love bug" had bitten her. She had let her heart, her affection, her love and lust, go after another. Her desperate need was to repent of her sins, get a hold on her heart, and turn it back to her home, her husband and her children. **WE SET OUR AFFECTION.** And God commands us to set it in the right direction. Love is truly the setting of one's affection.

Knowing what love is, being able to define it, and realizing that we are in control of it, is a great and mighty step in the right direction.

Miracles and Blessings

by Sis. Irene M. Wilson
Newborn, Georgia

Have you thought of the Lord's
miracles and blessings today?

There are many more
than can be counted
that He sends our way!

Each day is filled
with His loving care,
love of family and friends
~ producing food to nourish us,
and clothes to wear.
He heals our heartaches,
illnesses and trials.

His blessings of comfort, love
and peace lift our sorrow,
and again we can smile.

Miracles and Blessings?

Yes! I've had a lifetime
of many, perhaps even
more than my share.

But ~ my faith never failed me,
for His love and comfort,
were and are, always there.
Your prayers, visits, flowers, calls,

cards and yes even snacks,
all sent His love and caring
through each of you
that brightened my hospital days.

Another miracle?

Yes! I am home
and on the road to recovery.
Thank you Lord ~ and to each
of you my heartfelt ~ Thank You!
May the Lord send
Miracles and Blessings
into your life ~ as He has mine!

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