

The Enemy Within

Ray Stedman

Introduction:

- A. Some are tired by now but we are responsible to keep each other awake.
- B. Nodding the head is OK.
- C. Sleeping is not OK.

I. We left off last night with contrasts between the Old Covenant and the New. (2 Corinthians 3:11)

A. The satanic lie that has affected humanity is that man has something in himself with which to satisfy God and to handle life.

1. Power within is sufficient is something we have been taught from childbirth,
2. It takes the word of God and a radical life lessons to correct this misconception.
3. Older hymns look forward to going to heaven when we die.
4. This is not the real good news as far as the present life.
5. The good news now is that God indwells us and enables us to be victorious now.
6. Anything less than this is a return to the Old Covenant.
7. It takes time for us to learn to operate in the New Covenant.
8. God is patient with us.
9. The flesh is confused about this issue.
10. We don't even realize that we are relying on ourselves instead of on God.
11. We get discouraged and think that God is angry with us.
12. A great moment in the Christian life comes when we realize we can't live this life.
13. God rejoices when we reach this conclusion.
14. He wants to teach us the victorious Christian life.
15. The grace of God helps us at this point.
16. We encourage children when they fall and God encourages us.

B. The speaker reads the verse. (2 Corinthians 3:12)

1. When a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed.
2. A visual aid Paul used to communicate here is the veil covering the eyes symbolizing the fleshly attempts to serve God.
3. When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai his face shone.
4. He didn't realize it but the people hid from him.
5. He put the veil over his face in order to communicate with the weak people.
6. This was proper.
7. Paul tells us that Moses placed the veil on for the right reason but he kept it there for the wrong reason.
8. As the glory of Moses' face faded he kept the veil anyway; thus it became a symbol.
9. Israel to this day has a symbolic veil over their eyes so they cannot understand the Gospel.
10. What hides the end of the fading splendor?
11. Why did Moses keep the veil?
12. Paul says because he wasn't very bold.
13. Since Jesus Christ lives in us and our dependence for success in any enterprise is not within us but within God.
14. This gives us boldness.
15. We don't need to be afraid to tackle anything.
16. God will help you to do anything that aligns with the purposes of God.
17. The legalist sees everything wrong unless its in the Bible.
18. The Spirit filled Christian is free to follow the Spirit and doesn't need to prove things by some strict Bible verse.
19. If you want to start a meeting that's not found in the Scripture just get going.
20. Don't be afraid.
21. What was Moses afraid of?
 - a. Would he lose his position?
 - b. Would he lose his prestige?

22. The flesh keeps us from operating in the New Covenant.

- a. We don't want to admit our inability to make things work.
- b. WE drive old jalopies instead of new cars.
- c. Our pride doesn't want to admit we don't' have what it takes to succeed.
- d. We would rather cover up our inadequacy and go on.
- e. This the trouble with Israel.
- f. They won't admit their inadequacy to inherit glory.
- g. Many Jews are coming to Christ today but those who don't resist because they are determined to show the world they have what it takes.
- h. The flesh makes its appeal to us.
- i. It feels good to tell someone off.
- j. We rehearse how we will tell others off better next time.
- k. This is Old Covenant living.
- l. James says the wisdom beneath is first fleshly.
- m. This hangs us up.
- n. We can't have both the flesh and the Spirit of God work in us.
- o. If we give in to the flesh we say goodbye to the power of God until we repent.
- p. If we say yes to the Spirit of God we can have God's power.
- q. Pride is the problem.
 - 1. We call our prejudices convictions though they are pride.
 - 2. Others are gregarious but we are good conversationalist.
 - 3. We condemn in others what we exhibit in ourselves.
 - 4. Others see through our flesh, however.
 - 5. If anyone thinks he has no sin the truth is not in him.
 - 6. Frustration, bitterness, unhappiness, depression, hostility, anxiety, fear, are all Old Covenant symptoms.

7. We also invented other names for pride such as haughtiness, conceit, prejudice, which are all evident.

8. Other forms of pride are false modesty, like Uriah Heep in David Copperfield, who was very prideful.

9. True humility never talks of its own humility.

10. A Christian leader asked for prayer that he would be nothing

r. Self justification is another form of Christian pride.

1. They always want to explain their motives.

2. This is a form of perfectionism.

3. We can do nothing perfect and none is better than another.

s. Self righteousness is another form of pride.

1. This may be the worst sin of Christians.

2. Jesus was gracious with petty sinners but he was harsh with self righteous Pharisees.

3. This sin doesn't realize it's sin.

4. Self righteousness is the right to be hasty because they feel they are always right.

5. Christians memorize verses to knock others down with as the hypocritical Pharisee who boasted of his righteous life.

6. Jesus pulls the rug out from under people to show them their self righteousness.

t. Sensitivity is another form of pride.

1. I was tortured by a sensitive spirit being hurt easily.

2. I thought others were rude and myself good.

3. I would fall into self-pity.

4. A chance remark of a woman delivered me when she said that sensitivity is nothing but selfishness.

5. I realized the problem was not others but me.

6. I prayed about it but the Lord agreed with her.

7. I wanted a share of the glory.
8. I gave up wanting people to apologize to me for their rudeness.
9. A burden lifted from my back.
10. My friends even started inviting me to things.

u. Day dreaming is another form of pride.

1. It is a psychological trick to retreat to an imaginary world because we don't like the way the reality treats us.
2. Excessive TV watching is like this.
3. It's a play on reality.
4. Pretending is OK if we admit it's pretending.
5. Living in a pretend world is harmful.

D. The remedy for the flesh is to remove the veil that is over the eyes.

1. Pride is so insidious that it takes us down every time.
2. Our will is insufficient to defeat pride.
3. We must turn it over to the Lord who alone can remove the veil.
4. We can't crucify the flesh but we can agree that Christ already crucified it.
5. Paul tells us the Lord is the Spirit and in the Spirit there is freedom.
6. Where there is righteousness there is liberty.
7. We can't make God love us more or even be more effective in serving him.
8. We don't have to strive to impress others.
9. Paul told the Corinthians it's a small thing if he were judged by them.
10. Paul didn't even judge himself.
11. We just need to trust God to release in us the life that pleases him.
12. Whatever is not of faith is sin.
13. If we're not living every moment expecting God to supply what we need we are not living by faith.

14. If we think part of me is acceptable to God because of my natural goodness we are offending the Spirit.
15. The only righteousness God can accept is that which is forgiven.
16. Have you been forgiven in every area of life?
17. Where the Spirit of God is there is freedom.
18. God has already taken care of our sin problem.
19. Our righteousness, acceptance, comes from God.
20. In this way we are changed from glory to glory.

E. A diagram may help you here.

1. The Campus Crusade symbol of the throne with either self or Christ on it can help some understand the Christian life.
2. It is insufficient, however, in that it oversimplifies things.
3. We need to surrender to the lordship claims of Christ.
4. The Spirit never leaves the throne of our lives.
5. The soul is where we live our conscious life with emotion, will, reasoning, and choosing.
6. The soul is being invaded by the Holy Spirit asserting the claims of God on us.
7. When we fall into fleshly living we don't need to restore the Spirit to his place in lordship.
8. In other areas of life such as business, recreation, study, sex, there is as throne with either Christ or self seated there.
9. The Spirit of God exerts the claims of God in each area of life usually one at a time.
10. If we are walking in the Spirit we begin to have victory in one area at a time.
11. We can revert to the flesh in another area, however, if we are not careful.
12. We can become harsh, or unforgiving, or cruel toward others.
13. We must learn how to walk in the Spirit in each area.
14. On weekends we are great but on Monday we take over control.
15. This is a recipe for failure.

16. Paul tells us to keep our eyes on the glory of the Lord so the Spirit can take us from glory to glory.

17. All of this finds its expression in our bodies.

II. Conclusion.

We have read about the enemy within that keeps us from walking in the Spirit. The enemy without is opposition to our witness (2 Corinthians 4:1-5) The enemy within is not us. This enemy is an alien intruder to keep us from seeing the glory of God. May we honestly face these symptoms of the flesh so we can walk in the power of the Spirit and go from glory to glory.