

THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL DEPENDENCY

TEXT

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Intro;

I want to stress upon each of you a truth that is important to your spiritual walk with the Lord. If you are going to be successful in your spiritual pilgrimage in this life you need to learn to avoid having your spiritual health tied up in any thing or any person except the Lord Jesus Christ.

The truth is that you came into this world by God's help and grace alone, and you are going to leave this world alone meeting your creator. When you stand before the Lord there will be no one there but you and God. You will give an account to Him alone. Mother, Father, Spouse, Brother, Sister, Pastor, Friends, no one will be there but you and God.

Paul, at the end of his life, said this as he faced martyrdom for the Lord.

II Timothy 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

II Timothy 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;

If your spiritual health is dependent on any thing or anyone besides the Lord, you may not end well when you meet the Lord.

We are living in days of great adversity.

We are living in days of great temptations.

We are living in days of a great falling away.

If you are going to end well,
if you are going to live a victorious Christian life.

What I am about to share this morning is what you are going to need.

You need to get victory of what I call **"THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL DEPENDENCY."**

THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL DEPENDENCY.

I. THOSE WHO FALL INTO THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL DEPENDENCY ALLOW OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES TO DICTATE THEIR SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

The question I pose to you this morning, is your spiritual health dependent on outward circumstances?

Two things should never dictate your spiritual condition:

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

SOME PEOPLE ALLOW OUTWARD CONDITIONS DICTATE THEIR SPIRITUALITY.

1. PAUL SAID I KNOW HOW TO BE ABASED.

Can you serve the Lord in times of abasement?

Can you love God in times of want?

Can you be faithful to God when outward conditions are bad?

We have had relative prosperity in our nation thus far in my lifetime. I wonder how well we would do if things got really bad.

There are some people who turn to the Lord when things get bad.

There are some people who turn away from the Lord when things get bad.

We need to not let outward circumstances dictate our spiritual temperature.

Do you know how to serve the Lord in times of need?

I have seen with some people that hard times draw them to the Lord.

I have seen other people who get bitter in times of hardship and abandon their faith.

Outward hardships should never tempt you to question God, or abandon your faith.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

God promises that in this life there will be days of adversity and there will be good days. Ecc. 7:14 says God sets the one over against the other. To the end that man should find nothing after Him.

John Gill

God also hath set the one over against the other; they are both by his appointment, and are set in their proper place, and come in their proper time; succeed each other, and answer to one another, as day and night, summer and winter, and work, together for the good of men;

to the end that man should find nothing after him; should not be able to know what will be hereafter; what his case and circumstances will be, whether prosperous or adverse; since things are so uncertain, and so subject to change, and nothing permanent; and therefore can find nothing to trust in and depend upon, nothing that he can be sure of: and things are so wisely managed and disposed, that a man can find no fault with them, nor just reason to complain of them; so the Vulgate Latin version, "not find just complaints against him"; and to the same purpose the Syriac version, "that he may complain of him"; the Targum is, "not find any evil in this world."

One thing is certain in this life and that is that there is nothing certain. Our health is uncertain, our wealth is uncertain, whether we live or die is uncertain. This is by the design of God.

It is He who sets the one day over against the other that we may learn in life not to boast, not to trust in uncertainty, but to lean on Him. To trust Him.

2. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE THAT FALL AWAY FROM THE LORD IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY.

Paul said, I know how to abound. I know how to deal with prosperity, and getting gain.

I Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Just because you are prospering does not mean you are right with God. Sometimes it is hard to turn away prosperity for godliness. That is harder than dealing with adversity. In times of adversity there is no choice. In times of prosperity there is a greater temptation to allow things to draw you away from the Lord.

The Israelites forsook their God more in good times than bad times. When they were in affliction they usually cried unto the Lord. When they were in prosperity they became hypocritical and worldly, and forgot the Lord.

So it is today. In times of prosperity there is more to do, more to have, more to get. There seems to be less time for God. Less time to sacrifice, less motivation for devotion.

We need to say as the Psalmist.

Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Proverbs 30:9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Can we say that poverty, or wealth, nothing shall separate me from the love of Christ.

It reminds of Brother Darrell Champlin when he was staying with us for a few days many years ago. I went up to the prophets chamber to talk to him. When I knocked on the door and asked how he was doing. He was looking at his check book he looked up at me and said, "I have too much money, I am looking for ways to give some of it to others in need.. " He had too much support and he was looking for some other missionary he could give money to.

There was a man who could live in the jungles of Congo, Africa, and Surinam South America, or fit in with teaching at Bob Jones University. For years he lived in mud huts in the jungles of Africa. He had to hunt for food like the natives. In fact he went back to Surinam to make sure when he died, he would be buried on the mission field.

So if you are going to be spiritually independent you need to learn to not allow outward circumstances dictate your spiritual health and commitment to the Lord.

II. THOSE WHO FALL INTO THE SIN OF SPIRITUAL DEPENDENCY ALLOW PEOPLE TO DICTATE THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION AND COMMITMENT.

1. JOASH WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS. HE DID RIGHT ALL THE DAYS OF JEHOIDA HIS SPIRITUAL MENTOR.

HE WAS OK AS LONG AS JEHOIDA HIS SPIRITUAL FATHER WAS ALIVE.

Some people are totally dependent for spiritual sustenance.

II Chronicles 24:1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beer-sheba.

II Chronicles 24:2 And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

II Chronicles 24:3 And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

II Chronicles 24:4 And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

II Chronicles 24:6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

II Chronicles 24:7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

II Chronicles 24:8 And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:9 And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

II Chronicles 24:10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

II Chronicles 24:11 Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

II Chronicles 24:12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

II Chronicles 24:14 And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

1. Notice his zeal to serve God during the days of Jehoiada.

He was zealous for building the temple..

He was zealous in giving to the work of the Lord.

He was zealous in serving the Lord.

So it is with so many as long as the patriarch of the family is alive they are on fire for God.

Sometimes the dependence is on a mother.
Sometimes the dependence is on a father.
Sometimes the dependence is on a Pastor.
Sometimes the dependence is on a youth leader.

When Peter was called to preach he turned around and asked Jesus about what he had in store for The Apostle John Jesus answered him:

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

John 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

Our Lord has made it clear He wants each of us to wholly follow Him. Get our eyes off of others.

If your spirituality depends on anyone else but the Lord you someday will fall away.

No one is going to be on this planet forever. The Lord is looking for people to wholly follow Him and when our spiritual mentor is gone. We still will follow the Lord.

You read in Scripture how Joash was so on fire for the Lord that when the priests delayed in repairing the temple he rebuked them. He pushed for building programs. He was on fire. He a a zeal for the progress of God's work.

II Chronicles 24:6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

II Chronicles 24:7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

II Chronicles 24:8 And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:9 And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

II Chronicles 24:10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

II Chronicles 24:11 Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and

took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

II Chronicles 24:12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

II Chronicles 24:14 And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

2. BECAUSE HE WAS SPIRITUALLY DEPENDENT WHEN JEHOIDA DIED AND OTHERS CAME AND INFLUENCED HIM AWAY FROM THE LORD HE FOLLOWED THEM TO HIS DESTRUCTION.

II Chronicles 24:15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.

II Chronicles 24:16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

II Chronicles 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

II Chronicles 24:18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.

II Chronicles 24:19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

II Chronicles 24:20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

II Chronicles 24:21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

II Chronicles 24:23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus.

II Chronicles 24:24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

II Chronicles 24:25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada

the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.

What a sad ending we see for a king that started out on fire for God.
A king who started with a great legacy.

He fell all because he was a spiritual chameleon. When he was with Jehoiada he did what he knew would please Jehoiada. When his contemporaries came he did what pleased them.

If you don't learn to walk with God alone you will fall.
The devil has your number and in time he will dial in on it.
If you don't serve God with a single heart and mind,
given the right time or wrong time you will be tempted by people to fall away.

The only way you can avoid this syndrome is if you spend time alone with God.
We need to make the Lord our sustenance.
We need to make Him our influencer.
We need to learn to walk with God.
We need to learn to stand alone for God..

Here we have Joash, one of the best kings of Israel.
He did a great job until Jehoiada died.

You will notice how many names on the windows of this church whose kids came to church as long as their family came to church. When they died, all spirituality died in their children and family.

Paul the Apostle warned his converts not even to trust in him, but to be followers of Christ as he was a follower of Christ.

1CO 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Galatians 1:8 But **though we**, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

He was saying if I go astray don't you go astray.

III. PAUL PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS WHEN HE LISTS ALL THE THINGS THAT SHOULD NOT SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

You know at the end of of a fireworks display they usually save the best for last. The finale is when they throw everything up in the air and say here it is.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul gives an all inclusive list of everything that should not be able to separate us from serving and loving Christ.

He gives the list.

Tribulation

Distress

Persecutions

Famine

Nakedness

Peril

Sword

Death

Life

Angels

Principalities

Powers

Things in the present

Things to come

Neither Height

Nor Depth

Nor any other creature..

None of these can or should sway us spiritually.

In other words, are you in until the end? Or is there a condition to your commitment to the Lord?

1. IS YOUR SPIRITUALITY DEPENDENT ON A PARENT?

When the parent is gone so is your spirituality!

2. IS YOUR SPIRITUALITY DEPENDENT ON A RELIGIOUS LEADER?

Favorite preacher, pastor, school, church.

3. IS YOUR SPIRITUALITY DEPENDENT ON FRIENDS?

4. MAYBE YOUR SPIRITUALITY IS DEPENDENT ON HUSBAND OR WIFE?

Relative?

Girlfriend boyfriend?

INVITATION: JUST WHO ARE YOU SERVING ANYWAY????

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:
for ye serve the Lord Christ.

The essence of the sin of spiritual dependency is that you will not stand alone for Christ. In that day every one of us shall give an account for himself. When that day comes God will try your works and you will get eternal gain or suffer loss based on how you lived and how faithful you were in serving the Lord.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

I Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

I Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Let me encourage you to resolve to end well for the Lord. In a race it is not as important how you start as how you end. Resolve to end well!