

Disciple
Overcoming their Self-Life

Can a person who has a Self-Life (centered) be a Disciple?

Who you are will produce.

Matthew 10:39 He who wants to keep his life will have it taken away from him. He who loses his life because of Me will have it given back to him.

Matthew 16:25 If anyone wants to keep his life safe, he will lose it. If anyone gives up his life because of Me, he will save it.

Quote – “I was looking for someone to inspire me, motivate me, support me, keep me focused...Someone who would love me, cherish me, make me happy, and then I realized that all along I was looking for myself” ~ Unknown

Quote – “Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. “ ~ Unknown

Deuteronomy 8:18-20 Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful; to fulfill the covenant, he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. ¹⁹ “But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed. ²⁰ Just as the Lord has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed if you refuse to obey the Lord your God.

God never designed the Church to make anyone feel good!

The Church has many Similarities with the People of Israel.
The Book of Judges

- I. Their Failures through Compromise.
Israel’s failures lead to captivity; it is possible to be in the middle of God’s inheritance and be a slave because the enemy gets the best of us.
 - **Numbers 33:55-56** “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live.
⁵⁶ And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them.” (NIV)
- II. God left some of the Enemies in the land.
Why do we still struggle with our OLD MAN?
 - To Chasten (Correct) you –
Judges 2:3 And I have also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.’”
 - To Test (Examine) you –

Judges 2:21-23 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

²² I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their ancestors did.”

²³ The Lord had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

- To Teach (Train) you to Fight –

Judges 3:1 These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan.

If we don't learn how to fight (believe), we become entitled.

III. A Pattern of Failure

There is a Cycle of Failure -

Seven times this happened with the people of Israel in the Book of Judges.

After several years had passed, the people of Israel forgot what God had done in their lives.

- Departure – from the ways of their God, this is where it starts.
- Became Slaves – Israel served other nations. God releases them to the things they have chosen, and they have become slaves to those things. Why? Spiritual infidelity leads to slavery.
 - **Romans 6:12-14** Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So, use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.
- Whatever you serve, you become a slave to.
- They cried out to God – sometimes it took them 20 to 30 years before they cried out to the Lord, the stubbornness of the heart. What will it take before we cry out to God? The Lord Heard their Cry!
- God raised a Deliverer (Judge) – A Savior; a Liberator, a person who would free them from their bondage. In those days, it was the judges; now He is Jesus.
- People Returned to God – The people served the Lord only until the remaining days of their Judge. They were forgetful people, just like us.

IV. How can we change this Cycle?

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Heart – the core of our being; **Soul** – mind, will, and emotion; **Mind** – starting point of every act, thought; **Strength** – power or ability to understand, explain.