

The  
Spirit-Filled  
Life

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*#8*

*"THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE!"*

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1.

*"CAN THE HOLY SPIRIT CLEANSE ME IN  
MY INNER SELF?"*

*Man is not only a sinner in practice who needs forgiveness, but man is also a sinner by nature who needs inner cleansing!*

*David acknowledged his need for inner cleansing. "Behold, I was brought forth in (a state of) iniquity; my mother was sinful who conceived me (and I, too, am sinful). Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean (ceremonially), wash me and I shall (in reality) be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right, persevering, and steadfast spirit within me." (Psalms 51:5, 7, 10)*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The fire, which took the appearance of cloven tongues on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), symbolized cleansing. The Disciples of Christ needed cleansing from carnal strife and selfish ambition.*

*The Holy Spirit comes to consume the cross of sin and to purify the character of*

*the Christian, enabling the believer to reflect the beauty of Christ's holiness!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Holy Spirit (third person in the Holy Trinity), you do have a manifold work to do in my life, including cleansing! Cleanse me from the guilt of my sins, and also cleanse me from the inner corruption (impurity) of my heart! You have come to do a 'deep work of grace' in my life—to forgive me for what I have done (sinning), and to deliver me from what I have in my heart (unholy passions). You have come to refine my character—to shed abroad the divine-type love in my heart! Cleanse me, just now, from the defilement of my heart! Create within me a 'right spirit' - a spirit of kindness and gentleness and faithfulness and humility and openness to heavenly wisdom! Take away from me any spirit of stubbornness or close-mindedness or selfishness! Let the 'blood of Jesus' cleanse my heart, just now, from all unrighteousness! Make me easy to live with—thinking of the needs of others before I think of my own needs! Give me a spirit of gladness and joy and gratitude—approachable, warm, winsome, and hospitable! A patient listener and a*

*quick responder to the needs of hurting persons around me!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Pray every day: "Purge me and I shall be whiter than snow!"*

2.

*"HOW CAN I HAVE AN INNER POWER  
FOR LIVING?"*

*Christianity is not difficult, it is Impossible!  
If you seek to live it on your own steam!  
Christianity is Christ in you, living his life  
through you!*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Man needs not an ideal example, but an  
Inward Empowering. Christianity is Not a  
creed, but a Life; Not demands but Re-  
sources; Not a religion but a Dynamic rela-  
tionship. Mere religion is a dead weight to  
the soul, but a relationship with Christ is as  
one said, "Living Power to Carry the Soul."*

*"Christ in you means feeling within you, as  
long as life here lasts, the carrying power  
of Love Almighty; and underneath you,  
when you come to die, the touch of ever-  
lasting arms." (James Stewart)*

*Jesus is more than an example to follow or  
a person to imitate. He is a person with  
whom to commune through His Indwelling,  
Empowering Presence!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Loving God, just as the roots are 'in' the soil, and as the birds are 'in' the air, and as the fish are 'in' the sea, so let my soul be 'in Christ'. For it is 'in Christ' that I find my natural habitat. As my lungs are made for the physical atmosphere, so my spirit is made for the spiritual atmosphere! Only when I am 'in Christ', and Christ is in me, do I truly feel 'at home' in God's vast universe! I want to share the life of Christ in my body, mind, and spirit—for all time and all eternity! I belong totally to Christ, for He made me, and He redeemed me! I gladly give myself to thee, Thou Blessed Savior! Amen."*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*Remember, that today 'in Christ' you can live a 'supernaturally natural' life! With Christ possessing you with His Love, you can live well, both in troublesome times and in peaceful times! Christ is the 'anchor of your soul'!*

3.

*"WHAT COULD THE BREATH OF  
GOD DO IN MY PERSONAL LIFE?"*

*'Breath' Of God - Spirit Of 'Christ' Yes! Yes!  
Yes! Hallelujah!*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

- *Conversion - To the Indifferent Ones.*
- *Conviction - To the Repentant Ones.*
- *Purity - To the Polluted Ones.*
- *Power - To the Weaken Ones.*
- *Confidence - To the Despairing Ones.*
- *Guidance - To the Confused Ones.*
- *Joy - To the Sorrowing Ones.*
- *Companionship - To the Lonely Ones.*
- *Assurance - To the Dying Ones.*
- *Healing - To the Sick Ones.*

*TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"God, send your hopeful Holy Spirit to inspire hope in my despairing soul. Send your powerful Holy Spirit to impart power to my weakened spirit. Send your inspiring Holy Spirit to cleanse my cloudy vision from earth's trivia, in order that I may see heaven's treasures alone! In Jesus' Name. Amen."*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Remember, "What God demands, He always provides. What God provides, you may receive—today!" It is my hope and prayer for you, my dear friend and loved one, that the blessed Spirit of God may "sweep over your human spirit in fathomless billows of love", resulting in you "standing on tiptoes with joy", that you may be an effective "channel of love", to touch everyone around you! May something of God's heart become your own heart, for time and eternity!*

4.

*"CAN GOD GIVE ME A PURE HEART  
AND LIFE?"*

*With great conviction, one hymn writer declared confidence in GOD'S POWER to give him a 'clean heart' (affections):*

*"The blood, the blood, is all my plea; O Hallelujah, it cleanses me!"*

*Jesus, before He returned to heaven following His resurrection, promised the Holy Spirit to His children, as the greatest of all gifts! The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to the Christian who openly asks.*

*"And he was casting out a demon that was dumb. And it came to pass, when the demon was gone out, the dumb man spake; and the multitudes marveled."  
(Luke 11:14)*

*The Bible promises cleansing to the heart of every earnest believer: "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*This is reminiscent of the Old Testament passage: "Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord: through your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool". "Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isai-ah 1:18)*

*It is God's will that Christians be sanctified, completely made pure within. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". (Matthew 5:8)*

*Paul wrote, "For this is the will of GOD, even your sanctification". (I Thessaloni-ans 4:3a) Peter wrote, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior). Because it is written: Be ye holy; for I am holy." But like as he who called you is ho-ly, be ye yourselves also holy in all man-ner of living because it is written, ye shall be holy; for I am holy. (I Peter 1:15-16)*

***TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!***

*"Father, thou art holy and thou hast called me to live a holy life. Now make me holy through the cleansing blood of Christ! Cleanse me from all carnal acts and attitudes. Enable me to have a sincere love for my fellow men. Through Jesus' empowering name. Amen."*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Always remember that what you need, He will supply! What you ask, He will give—holiness of heart and life! When you receive God's wonderful Love from the Spirit—you will certainly want to share, openly and gladly!*

5.

*"DOES MY SELF-SURRENDER TO GOD  
TRULY LEAD TO MY  
SELF-REALIZATION?"*

*Surrendering to the Lordship of Christ leads one to unlimited freedom to commune with God for whom each person is made.*

*Sin causes man to live in an alien environment; surrender to God enables man to find his natural habitat—the unhindered fellowship of God. Such fellowship frees the Spirit-filled believer from deep loneliness.*

*Surrendering totally to God results in a person receiving creative energy to cope with life's problems and changing circumstances. Wrote Paul, "This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me." (Colossians 1:29)*

*The strength, power, and energy of God can only flow effectively in and through the life channel which is unclogged of selfishness and self-centeredness.*

*Surrendering to the Lordship of Christ leads one to unlimited freedom to commune with God for whom each person is made.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Surrender - To the Lordship of Christ results in a new freedom to know, to love, and to accept yourself.*

*Surrender - To the Lordship of Christ enables one to serve people without being in bondage to people.*

*Surrender - To the Lordship of Christ enables one to be free to live in harmony with the basic law of the universe.*

*When Jesus chose the way of self-giving—dying on a Cross and surrendering all of His Own Rights—He was openly revealing the nature of God—the nature of total self-giving.*

*The Cross on Mount Calvary was the revealing of the very Cross that had been on the Heart of God eternally.*

*Taking the way of self-surrender is taking the way of God Himself, and results in living in harmony with the very nature of reality.*

*The way of self-surrender is the way of God. Therefore, self-surrender leads to self-realization. Victory Comes Through Total Surrender to God!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"O thou loving and all-wise GOD, thank you for revealing the truth that sets men free—the truth that, just as Christ Surrendered His entire life on the Cross and was raised to honor on Easter Morning, so I too must die to all my selfish ways (self-centeredness) if I am to find my new and victorious (resurrected) life! Self-surrender leads to true self-fulfillment (in service to my fellowmen, to the glory of my God!). Unconditional surrender leads to unlimited freedom—freedom not to indulge the passions of the flesh, but freedom to serve the Lord passionately, freedom not to live a self-centered life, but freedom to live a self-giving life. Freedom to be the best self that you, O God, created me to be! 'Thank You' a thousand times for such glorious freedom!"*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*Life has many mysteries, but life also is*

*filled with great (amazing) God-given revelations! Some revelations are in the form of 'paradoxes'. 'Self-surrender leads to self-realization!' 'The last shall be first!' 'You win by losing!' 'You get by giving!' 'You live by dying!' All because of Christ—who died (defeat) and then rose again (total Victory). "He Is Your Life Pattern!"*

6.

*"HOW SHOULD I DEAL WITH MY  
HURTFUL PRIDE?"*

*Pride Is The 'Chiefest' Of All Sins! (i.e., pride is the 'hub' from which all other sins are 'spokes').*

*All sins derive from pride (self-centeredness). Why is pride so serious? Because it was pride that motivated the most beautiful angel to USURP the place of God Almighty. When this beautiful angel was lifted up in his own eyes (and attempted to overtake God's Sovereign place), God cast him out of heaven. Therefore, the origin of sin was PRIDE, and all who live by PRIDE, are living with the same motivation that caused evil to enter the universe!*

- (1) Pride puts one's self in the center of life, but the center rightfully belongs alone to God the Creator.*
- (2) Pride cares not for others, but instead makes persons into 'things' to be manipulated.*
- (3) Pride constructs barriers, for pride has no compassion on*

*others. Pride thinks only of the interests of self, with no regard for others, and, of course, wars, hatred, bitterness, and competition are borne out of pride. A proud person is very self-centered, and such a person cannot be a peacemaker.*

- (4) *Pride is self-protective, and unable to humbly ask forgiveness for wrongdoing. Pride 'Scapegoats' on others, and is defensive and unable to admit personal weaknesses and personal wrongs. Pride is grudge bearing.*

*Remember: God Resists the Proud One, But Gives Grace to The Humble One!*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*There is only one way adequately to deal with self-centeredness and pride. That way is the way of self-surrender. Then said Jesus unto his disciples: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)*

*There are many benefits for the person who allows his pride (self-centeredness) to be 'crucified' (destroyed)!*

- 1. Such a person is freed from the bondage of self-worship to worship of God alone. A glorious freedom to get one's 'self-preoccupation' off his hands.*
- 2. When you transfer your worship from self to God alone, amazingly you find that you have a wholesome new love for yourself. When you love God Supremely, you are 'allowed' by God to love yourself subordinately and joyously (but never selfishly).*
- 3. A person who is centered on God is the person who is delivered from needing always to please people. He is not always sensitive to others' remarks. He does not see himself as a hostile competitor.*

*The Christ-centered person falls in love*

*with the ones whom God loves - every other human being! Such glorious freedom to love others in this self-forgetful way!*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, help me to be wise with your wisdom and to be righteous through your righteous Son. When I become captured by Christ's love, then my entire attitude toward life changes. When I become broken on the altar of surrender, then I am willing to help bear the burdens of my fellowmen, thus lightening the load of the world's suffering. Help me to live a Christ-centered life, rather than a self-centered life. Then I shall see a right and live a right!"*

*"O God, when I surrender the 'title deed' of my life to Christ, I feel truly 'at home' with myself, for I realize that I am made by you, and for you! Please 'sit on the throne' of my heart and mind, and guide my thinking and always tender my heart!"*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION*

*To become infatuated with the love of God is to be compelled to surrender everything to Christ!*



7.

*"HOW CAN I MAKE A MEANINGFUL  
SURRENDER TO ALMIGHTY GOD?"*

*Recognize that God is the center and not you! The humanistic mood of our day puts man at the center of life, with a consequent denial or neglect of God Almighty.*

*You must remember that we are creature, not Creator; son, not Father; subject, not Master; steward, not Lord; man, not God!*

*You must determine that God shall have the same place in your life as He has everywhere else in His vast universe—Center!*

*Draw near to God, and determine with your will to make a full surrender of yourself to God, in spite of your hesitation and fears. Remember, when you surrender to God, you are surrendering to a Christ-like God. You are surrendering to a God who is All Loving, that is, to a God who wants what is best for you! Recognize That God Is the Center and Not You!*

*The humanistic mood of our day puts man at the center of life, with a consequent denial or neglect of God Almighty.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Surrender yourself fully to God's cleansing and creative love. Your 'self' has been frustrated because you have tried to accept an unacceptable self. Now accept yourself as a cleansed self – cleansed of guilt's, frustrations, inferiorities, cynicism, fears, etc. 'Yourself' is cleansed by Jesus!*

*There Is Power in The Blood of Christ! Your 'self' has been frustrated because you have expressed your 'self' in a social setting which has been competitive and comparative. This has led to jealousy and strife.*

*Now accept yourself, no longer in horizontal competition with your peers, but as a self, which is in the process of vertical development - upward and onward toward the unique standard which God has designed for you.*

*You no longer need to compare and to compete with others - outwardly. God is now your standard, not others. Now you grow and develop with God—upwardly. The fact that God is your standard releases you on one hand, from the stress that comes from peer competition, and on the other hand, from the complacent attitude of self-*

*sufficiency and easy contentment with your present attainments. You are delivered from the stress of carnal competitions and delivered to the creative pursuits of divinely given goals!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Father, cleanse me from all self-centered living, in order that I may be creative in God-centered living. Cleanse me from the negative in my carnal selfhood, in order that I may be creative in your consecrated Self-hood. Release me from all horizontal competition and give me your energy to pursue God-given goals. In Jesus' name. Amen."*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*Remember this: What Christ Cleanses, He also fills. Cleanses from sin, and Fills with Himself! **Humble yourself every day, and open your mind and heart to the blessed Holy Spirit, for it is the Spirit who sheds abroad the Love of God into Your Life!** (Romans 5:5)*

8.

*"CAN I BECOME A PERSON OF INWARD  
AND OUTWARD INTEGRITY?"*

*One of the great benefits of honest confession of sin to God is a sense of inner cleansing from deceit and falsehood and duplicity. The deceitful spirit is the one which seeks to trick others. One who is deceitful is one who tries to appear good in the eyes of others, even though his spiritual condition is contradictory to his outward profession.*

*The Pharisees during Jesus' day appeared to others as religious and respectable, but Jesus saw the corrupt hearts of these hypocritical religious leaders. Jesus' piercing eyes saw below the religious façade of the Pharisees and He exposed their deceitful hearts.*

*"Woe to you, Pharisees, and you religious leaders—hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed. Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup, and then the whole cup will be clean. Woe to you, Pharisees, and you*

*religious leaders! You are like beautiful mausoleums—full of dead men's bones, and of foulness and corruption. You try to look like saintly men, but underneath those pious robes of yours are hearts besmürched with every sort of hypocrisy and sin."* (Matthew 23:25-28; Living Bible)

### TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

*He who pardons wrongs and he who removes shame and he who forfeits judgment, is He who positively establishes inner soul integrity and heart purity. The God who outwardly pardons sin is He who inwardly purifies the sinner. The pardoned sinner becomes the assured believer who can face the world with boldness and who can look at himself with confidence. His inward integrity and his outward honesty are one and the same. He is not double-minded or two-faced, but transparent and real. No disguises, deceit, or duplicity. But purity, poise, and purpose! Inwardly and outwardly, whole, and holy! Not guiltless but blameless! Still human and subject to mistakes and in need of daily cleansing, but a forgiven sinner who is becoming a perfected saint!*

### TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

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*"O Lord, you are 'Love' by nature and personality. All your works (actions) are works of Love. There is nothing that you do, or think, that is contrary to your nature of Holy Love. Your love is sometimes manifested as judgment, for you love your objective moral laws so much that you will not allow any human to defy those laws, without just punishment. It is not your desire to 'hurt' anyone, but when wicked persons deliberately defy your laws (holy will) then those rebellious persons are 'broken' by the very laws which they willfully break! But in love, you offer forgiveness to all sinners who break your laws (and that includes the mass of humanity). You are willing to forgive, to restore, to heal, to establish a place of dignity for a converted soul!*

*Great is your mercy—mercy which always tempers your justice! 'You are not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.' You have a unique place prepared for each person in heaven, and you desire that none fail to prepare themselves to become a celebrated citizen of heaven! However, loving God, in affirming your intention to save me from my sins, I also thank you for your intention (and power) to cleanse my heart, through and*

*through, of any guile and pollution, and ulterior motives, and self-centered desires. I am a sinner by choice, and a sinner by nature. So, please, forgive me for what I have done, and cleanse me from what I am! Give me inner integrity, and then I will find it 'natural' to have outer integrity! I want to be fully yours—to love you supremely, to love others sincerely, to love myself subordinately! Amen."*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*No wonder that some people consider 'forgiveness' to be the most beautiful word of the English language! Transgressions pardoned, shame removed, judgment forfeited, integrity established! Glory!*

9.

*"IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO POSSESS A  
GOD-LIKE LOVE?"*

*God Loves All Men and the God-like man will also love all men, regardless of their moral condition. This will involve an exercise of the will on the Christian's part and an impartation of divine love on God's part. "...and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us." (Romans 5:5)*

*Christian love is not mere sentimentality, but love that involves an exercise of the rational and volitional powers.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*God gives the Christian the power to love those whom he does not like and who do not like him. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)*

*The Christian's love must be like God's love—personal and remedial. God seeks the highest good for all men, and so must*

*the true Christian, regardless of how he himself is treated by his fellow men.*

*The Christian must look at every man as being infinitely important and of eternal value. Christ prayed for his persecutors and forgave them, and so must the true Spirit-filled Christian!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Father, shed abroad your kind of love in my heart by the Holy Spirit. Cleanse my mind from negativism, cleanse my emotions from resentments, and cleanse my will from willfulness and rebellion. Help me to love the loveless, to befriend the lonely, to comfort the sorrowing, and to seek nothing but the highest good for all persons. Through Jesus' loving nature. Amen."*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*By God's enabling power, you will be able to love all persons—the easy to love persons, and the hard to love persons, the attractive ones and the repulsive ones, the righteous ones and the wicked ones, those who affirm you, those who hate you! You are not called by Christ to like everyone, but you are called to love everyone (i.e., you are called to wish nothing but the best*

*for everyone)! Jesus will love His love into your loveless heart, in order that you might love others in a Supernatural Way! "Love divine, all loves excelling; joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown." Be a 'channel' for God's Love!*

10.

"ARE GOOD WORKS IMPORTANT  
TO ME?"

*You Are Saved by Grace, Through Faith, For Good Works! "Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others." (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

*"Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world! For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me! I was sick, and ye visited me! I was in prison, and ye came unto me." (Matthew 25:34-36)*

*TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I now understand that a saving faith is a working faith. Faith that does not issue forth in a life of holy actions is dead and useless! Help me, dearest Lord, to prove my faith in You, by my good works. In Jesus' Name!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*May you be granted a Biblical and balanced understanding of the relationship between faith and good works. You cannot be saved by good works, but neither can you be saved without good works (unless you are a 'thief on the Cross' beside Christ, or unless you repent at the last minute of your life).*

11.

*"ARE HAPPY PEOPLE HOLY PEOPLE?"*

*Happy is the person who loves God's Christ, and who endeavors (by grace) to obey God's Holy Laws!*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Breaking the 'Law of Gravity' results in brokenness and physical misery! Breaking the 'Laws of a Holy God', Results in Brokenness and Spiritual Misery!*

*TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Be ye holy, for I the Lord Thy God am Holy!" O God, you are everything I wish to be—whole, holy, healthy, and righteous! My body is made for you, not for sin's perversion! Right now, O God, I exchange all my perversions for your wonderful purity! I recognize that the way of holiness is the way of happiness and health. I will distain sin and I will delight in righteousness. Through Jesus' enabling power!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*May you always remember what a holy*

*regard for the human body truly means,  
"The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." (1 Corinthians 6:13)*

*May your Holy God continue His loving work in your precious life!*

12.

*"CAN I FIND MASTERY OVER MY  
INNER SELF?"*

*There can be no mastery in life unless one has surrendered his self to the lordship of Christ!*

*Self at the center is self that is off-center! When man makes himself his own god, then he comes to hate that god! To control the self, one must surrender the self. Surrender the self to the creator God in order that the self may become creative.*

*"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their lower nature with all that it loved and lusted for." (Galatians 5:24; Phillips)*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*What is the great secret of self-control? It is Christ-control, made possible through death to self-will and surrender to Christ's will. It was George Muller of Bristol who testified: "There was a day when I died—died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approv-*

*al or blame of my brethren and friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved to God."*

*The man, whose life is a message rather than a mess, is the man whose life is under the Spirit's control. 'I delight to do thy will, O God!' Christ's burden is our blessing! Christ's yoke is our yearning! However, is Christ's way always easy? Is there not struggle? Is it always easy to submit to Christ's will? Not always easy, but always right! Christ suffered being tempted, but He never yielded to temptation! Christ learned obedience by the things which He suffered, but He never once disobeyed the Father!*

*He sweat as it were 'great drops of blood' in the Garden of Gethsemane, but His final mastery over life was demonstrated when He prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39)*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Father, I am slowly learning the way of true freedom. Bowing low at the feet of Jesus, I stand tall before everything else!*

*Surrendering to the control of Christ, I find freedom in self-control. Forgive me for trying to whip my will into obeying moral laws when you call me to surrender my will to find your liberating love. Your will is my freedom! Glory!"*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*Your deep 'inner life' (mind and spirit) must be yielded to the lordship of Christ! As painful as it may be, you must 'die' to the self-centeredness of your life, so that Christ may raise you up to a new and love-oriented life — a life centered in Jesus Christ! Mastery in your life comes from allowing Christ to 'Sit on the throne of your heart'! You must cooperate with your Lord if you are to experience a masterful life. Mastery in life will mean that you give counsel to reason, not to passion; that you give counsel to faith, not to fear; that you give counsel to discipline, not to indulgence; that you give counsel to God's Will, not to man's will!*

*Booklets Of  
"Effective Christian Living" Series.*

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