

Neither Poverty

*Give me neither
poverty nor riches,
but give me only my
daily bread.*

Proverbs 30:8

Living Well

in an

Age of Indulgence

Lesson Six: Moving Deeper into a Biblical Lifestyle

FROM WHENCE WE CAME: SIN, CROSS, AND NEW IDENTITY

Confession

Father, I want you to know that sometimes I have a really hard time giving you control over my time, talents and money. I feel like I'm really busy and need all the money that I have and that makes me not want to give them back to you.

I know that you love me and desire to fulfill my deepest longings. Please help me to bring to mind the ways in which my sinfulness has caused me to struggle with stewardship over the last few weeks so that I can clearly bring these to the cross.

Father, please bring to mind times when I have:

Been selfish with my resources when I've sensed you calling me to greater obedience and sacrifice.

Chosen to say "no" to your promptings about my resources instead of saying "yes."

Tried to use my resources to gain power and influence, to make myself look good or feel good in comparison to others, to provide me with security.

Treated my time, talents, and money as if I owned them.

Pushed you aside because I've been less than obedient in the area of stewardship and thought that you would be disappointed with me.

Allowed my guilt and shame define my self image instead of your love and forgiveness.

Cross

And now, Son of God,

Savior,

Jesus,

Friend,

I want to bring these sins to the place where they belong—
nailed to the cross, paid for by your precious, innocent blood.

I long to be set free from failings and know only you can do that. I also need to be reminded that you did not excuse my sins, or ignore them, or hold them against me, or punish me for them... you paid for them in full by giving your life for me.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:14-19

Jesus, remind me again of the most important way I **know** that you love me as I meditate on what it meant for you pay for my sins.

And now People of God, hear His word of forgiveness which is given for you:

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He has forgiven all of your sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:13

Our New Identity

Holy Spirit, speak now within our hearts to confirm your love for us and our security in you.

The Lord your God is with you all the time. He is a powerful and mighty warrior who saves you. When he thinks of you He exults in festive pleasure and with great delight. At other times He becomes quiet as He reflects on His deep affection for you. He celebrates who you are with joyful singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

Holy Spirit, remind us that as Sons and Daughters of the Most High God you love us and sing over us even when we have been selfish with our resources, or said no to you.

Remind us that because you are a mighty warrior we find our true security and strength in you.

Help us see more clearly, more deeply that being loved by you, being enjoyed by you is what brings true satisfaction and lasting joy.

And finally overpower the doubts, guilt and despair which we feel when we fail to live up your standards.

Help us hear you singing over us with great joy and sense your affection for us.