

## LIVING OUT GOD'S TRUTHS

1 John 5:1-5

INTRODUCTION: When we try to live by the principles of God's Word we learn all too sadly that at times we all fall short. The temptation at those times is to give up but God promises His greatest rewards to those who overcome. We must learn to wrestle against our weaknesses and allow our Lord to strengthen us with His power! Revelation 21:1-7. We must learn that we cannot accomplish God's will in our lives. We must focus on Christ and His power and not on what we can do through will power: 1 Corinthians 3:18.

### I. AN UNFORGIVING SELFISH HEART!

If you have an unforgiving and selfish heart it will rob you of the joy of the Lord. Nehemiah 8:10. When we focus on ourselves instead of on the Lord we get out of balance. When we have confrontation with others we must first focus on ourselves and our own heart or we can never help others with their problems: Luke 6:41-42. In our relationships with others we must learn to put others interests above our own. 1 Corinthians 10:24; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. When we put others above ourselves we can experience real love. By its very nature love gives: Luke 6:38; Ecclesiastes 11:1; Proverbs 11:24-25. Have you ever met a happy selfish person? Philippians 2:3-4. This is the very heart of the love the Lord has given into our hearts: "Love does not seek its own." Isaiah 55:8-9, 11.

### II. DON'T LET YOU'RE EMOTIONS RUN YOUR LIFE!

Someone has said: "Bitterness is the poison we drink in hopes the other person will be harmed." Bitterness truly is a poison to our soul, and as long as it stays in our hearts peace cannot take root. 2 Timothy 1:7. The Lord never intended our emotions to be our masters. Fear and doubt are not emotions we dare let rule our lives: Romans 14:23. Faith is believing God's Word and putting our trust in His promises. 2 Corinthians 10:11-13; Proverbs 24:16; Philippians 1:6. Remember, God won't drag you toward victory; He leads but we must follow. Psalm 37:23-24. God's ways do indeed work for our good, but it can't work for our good if we refuse His Word when we need it most!

### III. WHEN WE FAIL!

You must know that at times you are going to fall short of the glory of God. When you do don't beat yourself up, regroup and submit yourself to the Lord and press on! 1 John 1:9. When we come into those times when our selfish desires must be evaluated by the Word of God and we follow the promises of God, those are the times we are becoming over comers: Acts 20:28. God's goal is not to punish our failures but to rescue us from the things that bind us. Philippians 4:6-9. It is God who guards our hearts and minds. If we will trust the Lord He will deliver us from our flesh in His due time.