

FALSE PATHS TO PERFECTION

Conclusion

Tonight I'm going to bring this series on false paths to perfection to a close. The indelible impression I'd like to leave on your minds regarding everything I have said is this: Satan does not want you to use your will and determination to fight the fallen flesh nature, or the influence of this world, or the influence of himself.

Satan wants Christians to be PASSIVE.

He wants YOU to be passive when it comes to resisting and overcoming evil—whether we're talking about the evil influence of the world, the evil influence of himself and his demons, or the evil influence of *our own* evil (which continues to reside in our fallen nature)—because Satan knows a passive Christian is a *defeated* Christian.

Now, defeated Christians may or may not end up eternally lost—that is for God to decide. He is a God of justice and mercy, so we can be sure He will judge each defeated believer *fairly*. However, there's one thing we *can* be sure of—defeated Christians will *not* rule and reign with Jesus in the Millennium because ruling and reigning with the Lord is a privilege (a reward) that goes to the overcomer alone. Jesus said very clearly: “To him that overcometh” (not, to him that believeth and is saved) “will I grant to sit with me in my throne”.

*To him **that overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, **even as I also overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Revelation 3:21-22

What gave Jesus the right, or the authority to sit in the Father's throne?

The fact that He overcame!

Do you think Jesus would be sitting in the Father's throne right now if He would have been *defeated* by Satan, or the world, or the Roman Empire, when He came to earth and walked as a man?

The same is true of us. What will give *us* the right, or the authority to sit with Jesus in His throne?

The fact that we overcame!

It's religious confusion to think Jesus would not have the right to sit in the Father's throne if He would have been defeated, yet turn around and assume *defeated* Christians will have the right to sit in Jesus' throne! When Jesus said “him that overcometh” He was telling us what would be *necessary* to sit in His throne with Him. ONLY the one who overcomes will sit with Jesus in His throne in the next age.

Of course, 98% of today's Christians reject this truth because they have been taught by deluded religious leaders that being born again *automatically* makes us *all* overcomers. Well, if we think we're *already* an overcomer, simply by virtue of what we have believed, is there any incentive left to use our determination to fight our flesh nature, or the influence of this world, or the influence of demons spirits? Absolutely not!

So we see that one of the most successful ways the enemy keeps Christians from becoming warriors and overcomers is by feeding them *doctrines* which tell them they don't have to fight—in this case, they don't have to fight because they are already an overcome (they've already won the fight through belief).

This is why I have been saying for years that today's gospel is a false gospel! It's dangerous because it contains *partial* truth, and that partial truth is being used to hide the *whole* truth. The vast majority of today's ministers are stumbling God's people and causing them to err. I'm not just talking about Word Of Faith teachers, or those preaching the Kingdom Now/Dominion error. I'm talking about people who think they're preaching the pure doctrine contained in the Scripture.

Based on their perverted view of justification—which I have fully documented and exposed in this chat room the last four years—they are teaching God's people (through various kinds of false teachings) that they don't have to fight in order to receive the full inheritance. These deluded ministers are convinced they are preaching the “gospel” but they are in fact preaching partial truths and outright errors which *hide* the real truth, and cause believers to embrace a life of spiritual passivity. No doubt, when these men stand before the Lord they will be expecting to hear Jesus say: “*Well done though good and faithful servant*”. But what they will hear is: “*Depart from me, ye who work iniquity*”!

If you look back over the five years of chat messages, you'll find that *every* person I have exposed—whether it be John Calvin, Martin Luther, or some contemporary preacher or Bible teacher—has been preaching the same basic error (though maybe not for the same reasons) and that error is *spiritual passivity*. Starting with John Calvin, who's aim was not necessarily to produce passive Christians, but to remove all responsibility from man in the process of salvation in order to protect the “glory” of God, up to present day “apostasy watchers” who's motive seems to be the same as Mr. Calvin, you'll find that the great majority of preachers and theologians have fallen into this same trap and have become tools of Satan to destroy the fighting spirit in Christians.

And we wonder why, after 500 years of teaching spiritual passivity the church has fallen away?

As I said, it all started with John Calvin and his “*a-dead-man-can't-do-anything*” analogy, which was created to bolster his new T.U.L.I.P theory (and that's all it was—an intellectual theory), particularly the T in TULIP, which is called Total Depravity or Total Inability. The fundamental purpose of the T was to remove all responsibility from man in the salvation. You see, if a dead man can't choose to accept the gospel; if God has to regenerate him first and make him alive before he can possibly believe (which is exactly what Calvin taught); then God gets ALL the glory. The person who has been saved can't claim to have added anything whatsoever to the redemption process. It was “*all of God and none of him*”.

Not only was this whole concept totally unscriptural, not only did it confuse even many of the most brilliant men who believed it, it's unintended consequence is spiritual passivity. Charles Spurgeon, who was a staunch Calvinist and who said “Calvinism is the gospel”, was still able to recognize the folly of saying an unregenerate person must be regenerated first, before he can believe the gospel. Thus, he made the following statement:

“If I am to preach the faith in Christ to **a man who is regenerated**, then the man, being regenerated, is saved already, and it is an **unnecessary and ridiculous thing for me to preach Christ to him**, and bid him to believe in order to be saved when he is saved

already, being regenerate. Am I only to preach faith to those who have it? Absurd, indeed! **Is not this waiting till the man is cured and then bringing him the medicine?** This is preaching Christ to the righteous and not to sinners."

Sermon: The Warrant of Faith

Charles Spurgeon—who is considered by 98% of today's Christians to be the epitome of spiritual wisdom and knowledge, and who is called "the prince of preachers"—was just as confused as any of today's believers are! In one breath he declared "Calvinism is the gospel". Yet he denied the foundation upon which the whole TULIP theory was built (Total Inability or Depravity).

Mr. Spurgeon also vehemently strongly denied Calvin's *double* predestination error. That is, the idea that in eternity past, God (for no particular reason) predestined some people to eternal life and the rest He predestined (again, for no particular reason) to everlasting torment. Yet Spurgeon said Calvinism was *the* gospel!

I won't dwell on Mr. Calvin's error except to say that the outcome of his "Total Inability" concept—aside from producing the lie of Eternal Security (which is another form of spiritual passivity)—leaves Christians with the idea that they do not have to fight in order to receive the rewards or the inheritance God has prepared for them. The phrase which encapsulates this whole error best is: "*It's all of God and none of you*". Meaning, from start to finish, our redemption is God's work and responsibility alone.

Another platitude that sums up this error is: "*I'm trusting in the finished work of Christ*". When people say they are trusting in the finished work of Christ, what they really means is, they believe Jesus did *all* the work of salvation for them, so there's nothing we can, or should even try to do, except believe.

I can give Mr. Calvin the benefit of the doubt regarding his *motive* for creating such a destructive and unscriptural doctrine. According to his writings, he was very concerned with protecting God's glory. His TULIP theory was specifically designed to remove any and all glory from man in the redemption process. He didn't want the sinner to be able to say he did a single thing to affect his own redemption. If he could, this would be *stealing* God's glory in Mr. Calvin's mind.

However, I don't give today's Calvinist preachers the same benefit. Indeed, I believe there's a *selfish* motive behind the Calvinism they preach and that motive is spiritual *laziness*. They don't want to have to fight or struggle in order to receive the inheritance. Therefore, they use Calvin's theology (that we cannot and indeed must not try to do anything to affect our own redemption) as a means of avoiding that struggle. They say that if we try to carry *any* responsibility for our own redemption—and that *includes* the need to fight to gain the inheritance—all such effort equals stealing God's glory. Every week they find new ways to prove from the Bible that Jesus fought and overcame sin so we don't have to. Every week they find new ways to convince God's people that Jesus' victory over sin, Satan and the world (and all the rewards that accompany it) has been "imputed" to us by faith. These deceivers choose to ignore all the New Testament passages, just one of which is below, which expose this whole theological concept as a monumental lie.

*And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, **Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will*

seek to enter in, and shall not be able...There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Luke 13:22-24 & 28

If the responsibility for our redemption is God's work and responsibility alone, if it really is "all of God and none of you"—then why did Jesus tell the disciples to "strive" to enter the kingdom through the correct gate?

If God is totally responsible for our redemption, how can someone who is in the kingdom NOW be "cast out" of that kingdom LATER? What? Did God suddenly change His mind about that person?

Anyone who has any knowledge of the Scripture will know that it states over and over again that we are responsible to do our part in the work of redemption. Indeed, you can't get away from all the passages which plainly state such is the case. The Bible says we must *attain* the first resurrection (Phil. 3:11-12) and *labor* to enter the rest of God (Heb. 4:11). It also says we must *obtain* the new world (Luke 20:35), the prize (I. Cor. 9:24), and salvation (I. Thess. 5:9; II. Tim. 2:10).

Hmm. It looks like WE are responsible to labor, attain and obtain things.

Question: How do these verses fit into the "all of God and none of you" version of salvation?

Answer: They don't!

The Bible also says we have to *lay hold* of eternal life (I. Tim. 6:12). It says we must *sow* to the Spirit in order to reap eternal life (Gal. 6:8). It says we must *win* Christ and *overcome* to win the rewards of Revelation chapters two and three. It says we must *keep ourselves* unspotted from this evil world (James 1:27), *make* our calling and election sure (II. Pet. 1:10) and *walk* worthy of that calling (Eph. 4:1). Moreover, it says we have to cleanse and purify ourselves, our hearts and our hands (II. Cor. 7:1; James 4:8). It says we must *abstain* from fornication (I. Thess. 4:3), from all appearance of evil (I. Thess. 5:22), from fleshly lusts (I. Pet. 2:11), and *lay aside* sin (Heb. 12:1). We also have to *flee* youthful lusts (II. Tim. 2:22), idolatry (I. Cor. 10:14) and the love of money (I. Tim. 6:11).

Hmm. Sure looks like WE are responsible to do a lot of things! But wait; there's more! We have also been instructed to *put on* the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11) so we can *resist* the Devil (James 4:7; I. Pet. 5:8-9), *stand* against his temptations and assaults (Eph. 6:11), *wrestle* against his power (Eph. 6:12), *war* as a good soldier of Jesus (I. Tim. 1:18), and *fight* the good fight of faith (I. Tim. 6:10).

Hmm. I wonder why Paul's telling US to do all these things when most of today's preachers are telling us just the opposite? I thought the Bible said God carries all the responsibility for our redemption? I thought being "saved by grace" means that we don't have to do anything; and that if we do try to do the things Paul tells us to do we're trying to be "saved by works"? But wait. There's more!

Jesus said we must *seek* both the righteousness of God and His kingdom (Matt. 6:33). Isn't "seeking" a work that WE do? I thought you entered the kingdom by faith (belief)? Why must I seek something I can get just by believing it's mine? This gospel message is getting a little confusing!

Think so? There's more!

Paul said we must *awake* to righteousness (I. Cor. 15:34) and *yield* to righteousness (Rom. 6:19). But wait! How can WE awake to righteousness? I thought God had to awaken us because a dead man can't do anything?

The Scripture also commands us to *draw nigh* to God (James 4:8) and *come out* from among those who will not draw nigh to Him (II. Cor. 6:17). It says we must *endure* hardness (II. Tim. 2:3), afflictions (II. Tim. 4:5), chastening (Heb. 12:7), persecution and tribulation (II. Thess. 1:4), grief (I. Pet. 2:19), and all things (II. Tim. 2:10).

Therefore, we should *be* sober (I. Thess. 5:6), vigilant (I. Pet. 5:8) and holy (Eph. 1:4).

The Bible clearly states that all these things are OUR responsibility. We must *do* them. They are not an invisible legal position. They are not religious platitudes we can simply believe and confess. We have to do them if we want to reach the goal that has been set before us. Of course we cannot do them in our own wisdom and strength. They must be done through the power of the Holy Spirit. But WE are still responsible to DO them!

Yet, in arrogant defiance of these explicit commands, the vast majority of today's preachers and Bible teachers claim that Jesus did it all for us, and they warn us that if we try to do anything *but* believe and accept what was done for us, we will be guilty of "adding works to grace" or of trying to be "saved by works". This is how deceived the Church System has become.

Jesus did not do it all!

He died to empower *us* to do it all.

The Lord did not shed His blood in order to rapture a bunch of unchanged, self-centered, rebellious and disobedient Christians into heaven. If He did, heaven would *no longer* be heaven! It would turn into the same Hell we have today on this planet. Jesus sacrificed His life to *change us* now. He died to give us the courage to fight, struggle against, and overcome the things (and people) that try to keep us from attaining the destiny He has prepared for us from before the foundation of the world.

Those who refuse to fight will never attain that destiny. Just as the Israelites under Moses had to engage the occupants of the land of Canaan in battle in order to attain victory, so we, by the leading of the Spirit must engage in battle the things that would stop us from entering our Promised Land. God promises to give us victory as long as we fight but He does not promise victory if we *refuse* to fight!

Christianity is not a religion. Nor is it the path to health, wealth and self fulfillment. Christianity is a war and we're called to be "*soldiers*" of Jesus Christ (II. Tim. 2:3-4). God has an inheritance for us. He wants to change us from the kind of person we are to something so different and wonderful we can't even dream of it at this point. But in order to become that person God has ordained us to be; in order lay hold of the inheritance He has prepared for us, we MUST struggle and fight and resist and labor and strive and eventually overcome everything—whether it be the power of Satan and his demons, or the love of this world, or personal relationships and material things, or carnal security, or a good name, honor, houses and lands, or our own selfishness, rebellion, ego and self will—or anything else that stands between us and that inheritance.

Nothing short circuits and eventually destroys the fighting spirit of Christians than the false doctrines that are being taught in today's churches. You know the ones I'm talking about. We've gone through them dozens of time in this chat room and every one of them is *designed* to make you a *passive* Christians. Every one of them is *designed* to make you think you *don't* have to struggle and fight and resist and labor and strive and overcome all the things that stand between you and the glorious inheritance God has prepared for us.

Last year I told you about the sister who had been sitting under the very *Calvinistic* teaching of an apostasy watcher for two years and she had no idea how to overcome the sin nature. After two years of listening to this guy's Calvinistic trash, she emailed me and asked some questions: Once question she asked was: "*How do I overcome my sin nature*". My answer was:

"We overcome our sin nature by resisting it's desires and temptations, **and** by learning to abide in the new nature we were given when we were born again. Walking in the Spirit, living in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, are things that must be learned by personal experience. No one can teach you how to do it. That's the job of the Holy Spirit.

We **do not lose** our fallen sin nature once we are saved. That nature remains with us **till we die**, or until the Lord returns. Therefore, you can be living in victory over the desires of that nature one day, and the very next day, come down out of the Spirit and be entangled in those old desires again.

This is what so many people do not understand. The old nature remains with us and it **never** changes...never. What God is calling us to do is resist the old nature while walking in the Spirit. Easier said than done--I know. But that's the answer. This is why it's so important that we **exercise our will** as much as possible in the battle against the old nature--which leads me to your next question."

Her next question was: "Is it me struggling to overcome my sin nature by myself, or is it the Holy Spirit working in me that helps me overcome?" What a question. After 2 years of listening to a Bible teacher who claims to be rightly dividing the Scripture, this poor sister still didn't understand *how* to resist sin or even who it was that was supposed to resist it! My response was:

"No. It is not you struggling **by yourself**. We will never be able to overcome that nature in **our own** strength. We need the power and the wisdom and the direction of the Holy Spirit. But at the same time, the Holy Spirit **will not do it all by Himself**. He expects us to co-operate with Him. That co-operation **involves** us using our wills and our determination to resist the desires and sins we know are coming from the old man. It's the sword of the Lord and of Gideon. In the time of temptation we must engage **all** our own effort, **all** our own will power, and **all** our own determination to not give in to those things, while at the same time, calling on Jesus to give us His power (that He would strengthen our wills) to resist them".

Her last question was: “I know that I have prayed for removal of certain behaviors in my life that were literal addictions, and I kid you not—poof! Those things and the desire for those things were gone from my life just like that. But I have one issue now that keeps plaguing me, and try as I might I keep falling flat on my face.” My answer to this question is very important, so please pay close attention to it. I said:

“Your experience is not unusual. You just don’t know how to interpret it or relate to it properly because of all the wrong doctrine you have been taught. Many people experience **instant** deliverance from things when they are first saved. That’s God showing us His love, His power and His faithfulness.

But you see, if God did that for **every** wrong desire in your life He would be **thwarting** the very **purpose** of redemption. The whole program of salvation is to produce people who have the stamina and the will to resist and overcome sin. In order to build that resistance to sin and the produce the power to overcome it, we have to face certain things and battle them **until** we get the victory over them.

It’s like weight lifting. The only way to build stronger muscles is to apply resistance to them. The resistance are the weights or barbells. The more resistance you apply to them, the stronger the muscles become.

This is what God want’s to do regarding your WILL.

When we first come to Jesus, our wills are very **weak** in resisting sin. But they are very **strong** in rebellion and selfishness. God has to turn that situation completely upside down so that our wills become **strong** in resisting evil and doing righteousness.

The only way this can be accomplished is if He leaves things in our life for us to fight against. It’s that **struggle** that makes you an overcomer! It’s the **struggle** that produces spiritual iron in you. And it’s the **struggle** that will eventually lead you into a life of total obedience to God—as long as you don’t give up.

Of course, it’s always possible that there are spiritual powers involved with your problem. After a time of applying **all** of your will and determination against that thing, and also asking God to strengthen you in your fight against it, if you still can’t get free, then maybe you need some deliverance.

God wants us free, but He wants even more that we have the spiritual iron to **stay** free. In order to stay free, He must **strengthen our wills** against sin. That’s His goal.”

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were perfect. They were not subject to death; they had no fallen sin nature; and they were created pure and their spirits. The only thing that needed to be done was *test their wills* to see if they would *resist* the urge or impulse to disobey. Do you think Eve would have ever gone to that tree and disobeyed the command of Adam and God on her own?

I don't.

But you see, there's the problem. Since there was no *internal* fallen nature to tempt them, how was God supposed to test the strength of their wills to obey? Satan was the instrument God used to perform the test and both of them failed that test.

Why did they fail? They failed because their wills had never been tested. Their wills had never been hardened (in the sense of having a determination to obey) through tests and trials.

What if God removed your sin nature today and made you just like Adam and Eve?

Is your will *strong enough* to fight off all the temptations Satan would still be able to throw at you from the *outside*?

Has your *determination* to obey the Lord (regardless of cost, regardless of the pain) been built up and strengthened to a sufficient level that you could overcome the *external* temptations of the enemy every day for the rest of eternity?

You see, in the end, it all boils down to the human will. Unless the will has become a "rod of iron" in regards to obeying God, Eden can happen all over again, at any point in Eternity. There must be a people who's WILL is no longer capable of rebelling against God, even though that will is still FREE to do so. The only thing that can produce that kind of a will is a constant struggle against something we know is wrong.

This is why God leaves things in our lives to battle day in and day out. He wants a people who will not only desire to do His will all the time, but a people who have proven in life that they are willing struggle against anything, as long as it takes, to have an iron will that bent towards righteousness and obedience.

God wants a *tested* people. He wants a people who know how to fight against evil and overcome it.

Adam and Eve failed their test but Jesus passed His; and He's there to help us pass ours.

Can you see why all these doctrines that, one way or another remove the *need* to fight, are so wicked? They are designed to thwart the very purpose of God in man's creation.

It's not God's will, nor is it His desire to *remove* all temptation from us. It is His desire that we overcome the temptation we face. IF we don't learn to face and overcome temptation we'll never have the iron God wants to put in us; neither will we receive the crown of life, brother James talks about:

*Blessed is the man that **endureth temptation**: for when he is tried, **he shall receive the crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*
James 1:12