

MEN WITH A MISSION 1

A Men's Discipleship Class

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SESSION EIGHT

DYING TO SELF

We will attempt to discover in this section the principles surrounding the teaching of dying to self.
What are the key ingredients of such a truth?

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I. AN ARTICLE

A. The following is an article by G. D. Watson, 1845-1924. He was a Wesleyan Methodist minister and evangelist based in Los Angeles, California. His evangelistic campaigns took him to England, the West Indies, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Korea. He also wrote several books.

B. Read the enclosed information prayerfully.

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you to a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their success, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored, and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants you to produce some choice, fragrant, fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great, but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words, and feeling, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own.

He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. But if you absolutely sell yourself to be His...slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

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Settle if forever, then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in the secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of Heaven.¹

¹ (Watson n.d.)

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II. EXPLANATION OF “DYING TO SELF”

A. Research

1. Find all the places in the New Testament where dying to self is specifically taught.

Use a Topical Bible, or Encyclopedia, etc.

You should be able to find at least 25.

For example:

- *Carry one's cross*
- *Living sacrifice*

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2. What does it mean to “die to self”?

3. List what may be the process (steps) whereby one dies to self.

B. Conclusions

What are your specific conclusions regarding dying to self?

III. OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

A. In Christ, I am Significant.

Matthew 5:13—I am the salt of the earth

Matthew 5:14–

John 1:12–

John 15:1, 5–

John 15:16–

Acts 1:8–

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1 Corinthians 3:16–

1 Corinthians 12:27–

2 Corinthians 5:17, 18–

2 Corinthians 6:1–

Ephesians 1:1–

Ephesians 2:6–

Ephesians 2:10–

Philippians 3:20–

B. In Christ, I am Accepted.

John 15:15—I am His friend

Romans 5:1–

1 Corinthians 6:17–

1 Corinthians 6:20–

1 Corinthians 12:27–

2 Corinthians 5:21–

Ephesians 1:5–

Ephesians 2:18–

Ephesians 2:19–

Ephesians 2:19–

Ephesians 3:12–

Colossians 1:14–

Colossians 2:10–

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C. In Christ, I am Secure.

John 1:12—I am a child of God

Romans 8:1–

Romans 8:28–

Romans 8:35–

2 Corinthians 1:21–

Ephesians 1:13, 14–

Colossians 1:13–

Colossians 3:3–

Philippians 1:6–

Philippians 4:13–

2 Timothy 1:7–

Hebrews 4:16–

1 John 5:18–

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IV. CLOSING ARTICLE

When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely set at naught, and you sting and hurt with the insult of the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ—that is dying to self. When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence—that is dying to self. When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, or any annoyance, when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is dying to self. When you are content with any food and offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any attitude, any interruption by the will of God—that is dying to self. When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown—that is dying to self. When you see your brother prosper and have his needs met and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances—that is dying to self. When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart—that is dying to self.

Author Unknown²

Happy dying!

² (Unknown n.d.)