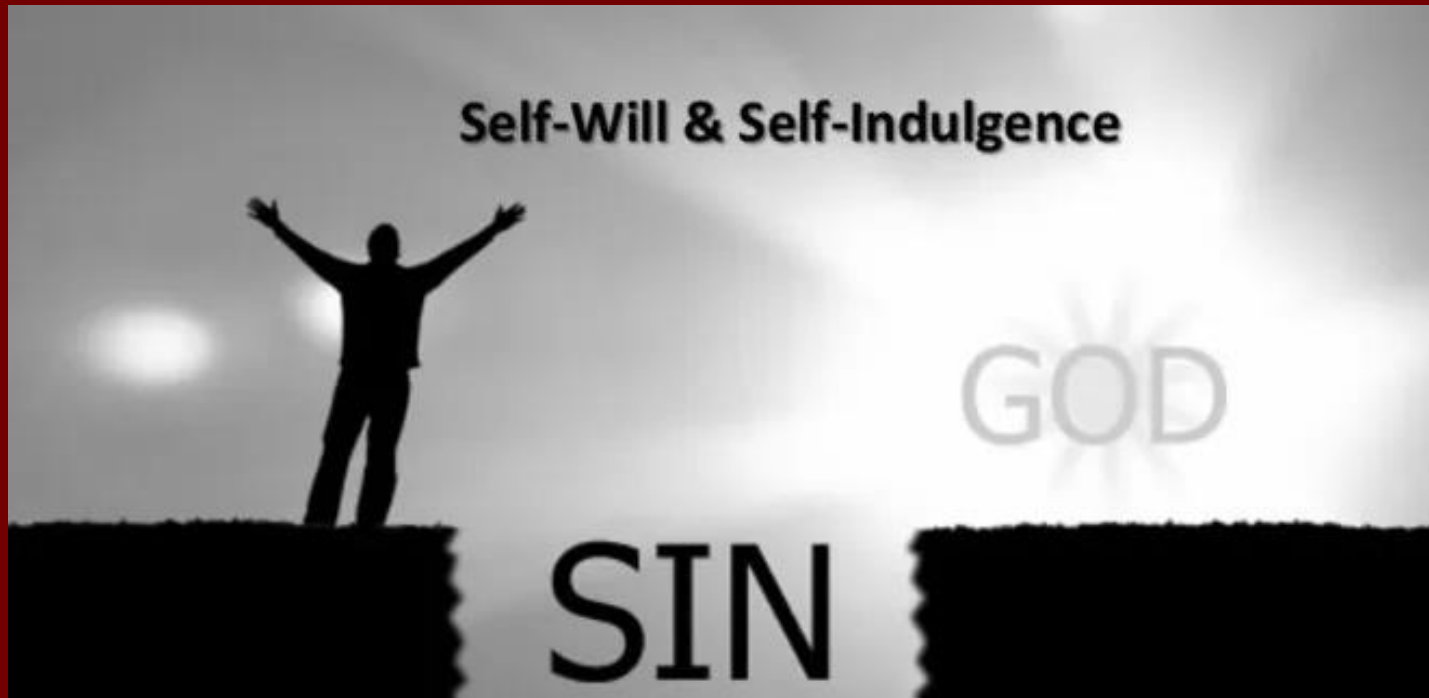


Bible Study

Overcoming

Self-Will & Self-Indulgence



Overcoming Self-Will / Self-Indulgence

“Beware of no man more than thyself; we carry our worst enemies within us.”

- Charles Spurgeon
English Preacher

**Although it may sound cliché,
we are truly our worst enemies.
Most of life is a mind game
and the person to control it is
no one but yourself.
You make the choice.**



Seven Churches of Revelation

- **One Thing All 7 Churches Have in Common:
Need to Overcome**
- **“...I know your deeds...”**



Seven Churches of Revelation

- **One Thing All 7 Churches Have in Common: Need to Overcome**
- **Some of the churches received more criticism than others, but they all received admonishments.**



Seven Churches of Revelation

■ Ephesus

- Left Your First Love

■ Smyrna

- Remove The Cause Or Yourself From Your Trouble

■ Pergamos

- Hold The Teachings of Balaam
- Eat Things Sacrificed To Idols
- Commit Acts of Immorality

■ Thyatira

- Tolerate The Teachings of Jezebel
- Eat Things Sacrificed To Idols
- Commit Acts of Immorality

Seven Churches of Revelation

■ Sardis

- Wake Up / Remember What Was Received / Repent

■ Philadelphia

- Hold Fast

■ Laodicea

- Neither Hot Nor Cold
- Self-Centered / Self-Absorbed
 - “I am rich and have need of nothing”
 - “Wretched”
 - “Miserable”
 - “Poor”
 - “Blind”
 - “Naked”

Will Jesus Christ Find Living Faith?

■ John 15:1-11

- With Living Faith, our belief galvanizes into a conviction that will produce righteous works.

■ II Corinthians 13:5-6

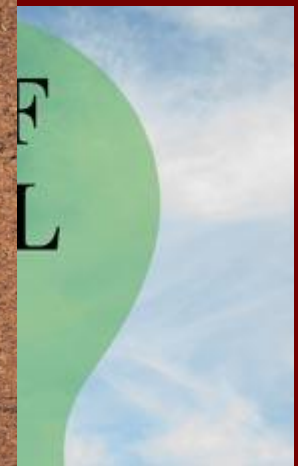
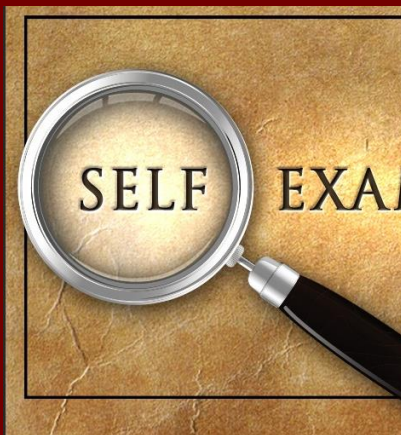
- Test ourselves to prove that Christ lives in us.
- We will not fail the test if we draw close to Him and truly work to make the changes we need to make as individuals to take on the very nature and life of God.



"The Self": Deterrent to Overcoming

■ What is Self-Will / Self-Indulgence?

- The quality of obstinately doing what one wants in spite of the wishes or orders of others.
- Self-will is being stubborn or sticking firmly to your own opinion and ideas.
- Self-Indulgence is the act of satisfying one's desire, pleasures, lusts and whims, especially without restraint.



“The Self”: Deterrent to Overcoming

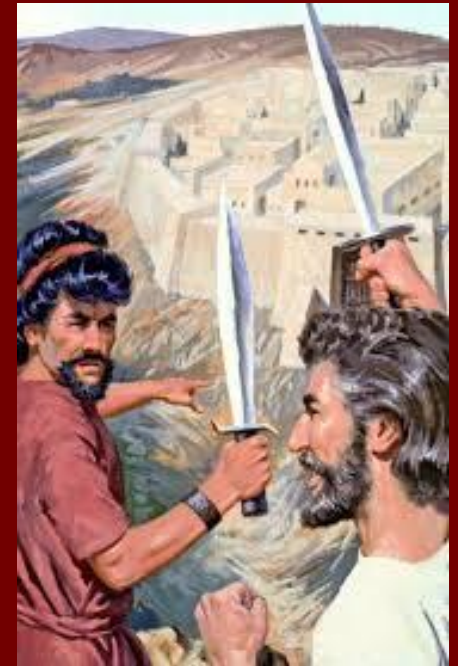
- **Harmful Affects of Self-Will / Self Indulgence**
 - Deterioration of self control
 - Creates close-mindedness / Inflated egos
 - Cognitive distortions
 - Relationship challenges
- **“The less you believe you’re affected by self-will or self-indulgence, the worse you suffer from it.”**



Jacob's Prophecy Concerning His Sons

■ Genesis 49:5-7

- In his curse on Simeon and Levi, Jacob says that in their *self-will*, they were “implements of violence”. Their vengeful, violent acts against Shechem (Genesis 34:25-30) cause Jacob to pronounce a curse on their anger because it manifested itself in fierceness and cruelty. As a result, the tribes of Simeon and Levi, given no inheritance, are scattered throughout Israel.
- Simeon's descendants were absorbed into the territory of Judah (Joshua 19:1, 9). Levi's descendants were dispersed throughout the promised land, as they lived in 48 towns and surrounding pastureland (Joshua 14:4; 21:41)



Korah's Rebellion

■ Numbers 16:1-40

- The rebellion of Korah demonstrates the grim consequences of usurping the authority of God, due to self-will, and of those whom He has chosen to be leaders of His people.
- Korah was of the tribe of Levi (same tribe as Moses and Aaron). He led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, accusing them of exalting themselves above the congregation of the Lord (Numbers 16:1-3). He gathered 250 other men to challenge Moses' authority as well: "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" (Numbers 16:3).
- The Apostle Jude records a strong warning about such men who come into the church as false teachers, arrogating to themselves the authority of God and His Word: "Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error *and perished in Korah's rebellion*" (Jude 1:11).

Balaam Error / Teaching of Balaam

■ Numbers 22 / 31:8

- Balaam tried unsuccessfully through self-will to prophesy against the people of Israel (Numbers 22). He eventually advised King Balak of Moab, the enemy of Israel, to pursue a campaign of seduction against them (Numbers 31:8). The doctrine of Balaam is not only a serious problem, but a devious one. When the frontal assault failed, Balaam took a back-door approach.
- In Revelation 2:14, the church of Pergamum is scolded for tolerating the “teaching of Balaam,” or the “doctrine of Balaam.” Balaam’s name is also invoked in II Peter 2:15.
- Balaam was willing to use his God-given talents for illicit purposes. Even though he knew Balak was God’s enemy, he tried to sell his prophetic gifts to help him. Balaam counseled Balak on the most effective way to weaken Israel, using Moabite and Midianite women to tempt the Israelites into sexual relationships and into pagan rituals. The Israelites who participated brought God’s judgment upon themselves (Numbers 25:1–9).

Other Examples of Presumptuousness

■ Deuteronomy 1:34-44

- Israel willfully attacked the Amorites after God told them not to go, and their presumptuousness brought them bitter defeat.

■ Isaiah 14:13-14

- The Fall of Lucifer occurred through the self-will, which resulted in the development of Satan. Self-will can create frustration, when trying to acquire that are not meant to be desired for the individual.

■ Genesis 11:1-9

- “Come let us build for ourselves a city and a tower whose top will reach into heaven and let us make a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

■ II Samuel 15:1-6

- In seeking security and prestige, self-will frequently develops into conformity to a social status, a peer group or an organization. In reality, it is slavery to sin.

Cause and Effect

- **II Peter 2:1-11** Peter says that all "who walk according to the flesh" are "presumptuous" as well as "self-willed." The Greek word Peter uses literally means "self-pleasing." It denotes the person who, dominated by self-interest and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will. The self-willed person so overvalues any decision he makes that he cannot be dissuaded.

False Teachers in the Church of God



Cause and Effect

- **Isaiah 28:9-13** The person led by self-will commits a very serious sin by refusing to learn God's truth.
- **Proverbs 21:24** ""Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names, Who acts with insolent pride."
- **John 8:42-47** Contrast of the Pharisees traits of Satan and Jesus traits of the Father; Contrast of self-will and the will of the Father. The self-will of the Pharisees was evident in that their desires matched the devil's desires: the desire to kill and deceive. Jesus here described His unity of nature and purpose and will with God the Father.



Cause and Effect

- **Ecclesiastes 6:7, 9** "All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied...What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind."
- **Matthew 23:25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence."
- **Luke 11:39** "But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness."



How Do We “Get Over Ourselves”?

- **Matthew 26:38-42** “...My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will...Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak...My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink, Your will be done...” Submitting to God's will is the first step in overcoming self-will. This requires obedience and that the law of God be written in our hearts.
- **James 4:7-10** “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you...Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” This process demands that we resist Satan, the father of pride, and develop true humility.



get
over
yourself

How Do We “Get Over Ourselves”?

- **John 7:16-18** “...If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself...” Doing God's will rather than our own provides understanding of true doctrine and discernment of truth.
- **Psalm 25:9, 14** “He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way...The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.”
- **Daniel 12:10** “Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.”



get
over
yourself

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Applications To Our Lives

- **Clearly, we should do, not our will, but God's. God has given us freedom and power, not to do as we want, but to do as He wills. Apart from His will, we are like the undisciplined, because we really do not know what we ought to want.**
- **Despite the enticements of self-will and self-indulgence, "the solid foundation of God stands" (II Timothy 2:19), and those who repent of sin and live the will and desires of God will be granted entrance into His Kingdom.**



Group Discussion

