

Alpha Counseling

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Dear Friends,

There is a war going on in us. It is the battle of flesh verses Spirit. Too much credit is given to the World and the Devil for things that I am responsible for. The Devil doesn't make me do anything I don't choose to do. Choice is where it all settles. Do I choose to walk like the world's friend and in doing so deny the Lord who saved me? Do I choose to listen to the Devil who tempts me and mocks the Christ who lives in me?

Life is filled with choices! I talk with "Born-again" people who repeatedly struggle with trusting the Lord with the same issues again and again. I've come to the personal opinion that many Christians have never truly surrendered their lives to Christ. Romans 12:1- Amplified Bible, *Therefore I urge you, ...by the mercies of God, to present your bodies[focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes],so you may prove[for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect[in His plan and purpose for you].*

If we are not surrendered to Him then each time a trust issue comes up the same struggle occurs. Do I trust myself to handle this trouble or temptation or do I invite God to take control? Christians have confessed to me that they fear that God may want them to do something they won't want to do. This very admission reveals that they really know little of the Bible or God Himself.

Repeatedly in both the Old and New Testaments He declares His love and care for us. Jesus says; *Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ...How often I long to gather your children, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused! Matt. 23:37 & Luke 13:34*

Henri Nouwen in his wonderful treatise on the Prodigal Son states: "Day and night God holds me safe, as a hen holds her chicks secure under her wing...the image of a vigilant mother bird's wing expresses the safety that God offers His children." They express care, protection, a place to rest and feel safe.

Psalm 91: 1-4 *"You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shade of the Almighty say to your God: My refuge, my stronghold, My God in whom I trust!... You conceal me with your pinions and under your wings I shall find refuge."*

Our flesh says your the only one you can trust and yet look at all the trouble we experience by being in charge!

Walking in God's spirit is not hard on us, it is safety and consistency. Why struggle repeatedly over the same issues when things can be settled by our faith in Him! What could be simpler? Walk in God's Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16.

Please pray for us we are very busy with people in crisis. God bless you!

Richard