

The Bishop's Corner

Love The Lord with All Your Heart

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22:35-38 NKJV)

Our body doesn't love God because it does not want to live free from sin, so we, being transformed by the renewing of our mind, must learn to love him with our mind and soul and with all of our strength, (Luke 10:27) committing our bodies to the service of the Lord. Writing to the church in Rome, Paul implores, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 NKJV)

Whatever God has called us to do in the ministry, we are supposed to do to the best of our ability. Jesus says in John that He always does those things that please the Father (8:29). If we want to be like Jesus, we must let the mind that is in Christ also be in us and be willing to change into His likeness. “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV)

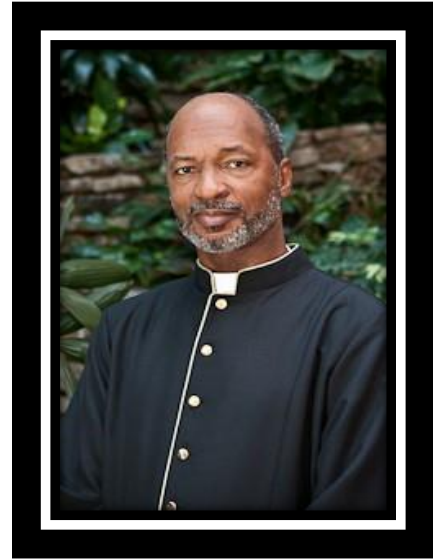
It took a great amount of power to change us from darkness to light because none of us wanted to be saved when we were in sin. So, while we were yet sinners, Jesus died on the cross and was raised again to deliver us from the *power* of sin—not the deeds of sin—which is the greatest miracle God has ever done for us. Jesus' death dealt with our sinful nature (iniquity, i.e., our evil thoughts and ways) nailing it to the cross. And the same resurrection power of the Holy Ghost that raised Jesus from the dead enables us to resist sin.

Without the Holy Ghost, we are not able to live free from sin. When we're wrong, however, we need to know that God is a patient and forgiving God, and He will reach out His hand to us and help us. But we can get right with God only when the Holy Ghost brings to our mind that we're wrong because those who think they are right will not repent. Repenting is simply realizing what is wrong before God (sin), apologizing to God concerning it, and developing the mind to never do it again. Although, if we do sin, we must not give up, no matter how hard it seems to keep holding on. Because of Jesus' shed blood and resurrection, we can ask God to forgive us: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 NKJV)

Everything that we do in the earth that's right comes from God because God is never wrong. Blessed is the person who will do what God tells him to do. God does not tempt anyone, but every temptation we experience comes from our own lust and desires. “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” (James 1:13-15 NKJV) Let us love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength so that we don't sin, but if we do sin, we are comforted in knowing that Jesus Christ is our advocate with the Father. (1 John 2:1 NKJV)

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction



For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."