

The Bishop's Corner

If you die today, will you wake up in heaven?

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.” (Galatians 6:1-5, NKJV)

If you die today, will you wake up in Heaven tomorrow? This is a question we shouldn't be arrogant about, and we should be honest with ourselves. We know all the things that God is working on in us and those things that He has told us to give up. We also know if God is satisfied with us. If we're not sure we're going to make it to heaven, we need to repent.

What does it mean to be spiritual? It means someone who is led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14) Unless we are led by the Spirit, we won't speak a word of life and pray in the Spirit. Spiritual people always consider themselves lest they be overtaken by sin (Galatians 6:1). Many people preach what they do not practice. We take for granted God's grace, because we think that as long as we have breath in our bodies, we have another chance (Romans 6:1-6). When we get to the point where we won't let the blood of Jesus have an affect on us, we need to repent.

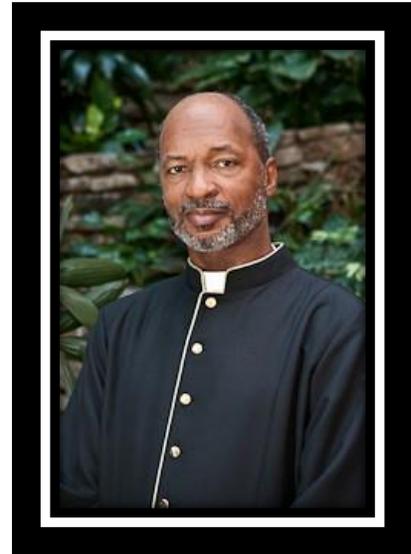
Each of us must work out our own salvation and bear our own burdens (Philippians 2:12; Galatians 6:5). Holiness is not an act we put on, but what we have become. We must ask God to forgive us every time we pray. (1 John 1:9) We need to consider ourselves when we come before God lest we be overtaken in a fault. (Galatians 6:1) God will never justify our flesh, but evil spirits will spur us on to keep us angry so we can't hear the Holy Spirit and repent. We must examine ourselves before we commune with God. We must examine ourselves to see if we're in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). We can be overtaken in the faith because we're not examining ourselves.

We must judge ourselves, so no one else can judge us. When we judge ourselves, we will see when we are out of line with God. “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world” (1 Corinthians 11:31-32, NKJV).

God has given us His Spirit to get us right when we're wrong; just do it! Ask the Lord to sanctify you because God can't use us unless we're forgiven and filled with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:26-27).

God bless you,

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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."