

Lesson No. (39)
Victory Over Passion

References :

Notes for Servants :

Objectives :

General:

Specific:

Instructions:

1. Review last week's lesson.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Bible Verse:

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”
(Eph 4:26)

Lesson :

The Passions:

The meaning of the word passion is emotions or feelings. We going to use the word emotion or feelings. Most people are led by their emotions and feelings whether love or hatred, envy or jealousy, sacrifice or giving. Women are perhaps led by their emotions more than men. But emotions alone are not sufficient; they should be mixed with reasoning and wisdom.

Emotions without reasoning are not sufficient, and reasoning without emotions is not sufficient; both perfect each other. That is why God gave the family a father and a mother to perfect each other. A straight person makes balance between his feelings, and his actions; balance between reasoning and emotions; and balance between the self and the others.

If a person thinks only of himself without taking others into account, this may lead him to a kind of selfishness and may fail as a social person. If he thinks only of others, he may get tired, becomes bored and grumbles if his sacrificing is not accompanied with

great love that makes him forget himself absolutely or makes him concentrate on his eternity not on his life on earth.

A straight person divides his emotions in a straight way.

Such a person makes balance between happiness and gloominess in his life, between seriousness and simplicity and between work and amusement. He makes balance between his various emotions.

Divine leadership:

The divine leadership is the ideal thing; for the Holy Bible say, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* (Rom 8:14)

Example of wrong emotion:

We will take the feeling of hatred as an example.

Why we have hatred feeling toward anyone?

1- Because the love of Christ does not fill our heart full?

2- Self love which lead to fulfill what self wants to do more than what God wants us to do.

A. Hatred will produce anger.

B. Anger leads to the emotion of taking revenge.

C. Revenge will cause violence.

Violence is a compound sin:

Christianity does not approve of violence in whatever form.. because it is an unspiritual conduct which includes a number of sins. Violence does not go with love, Christianity teaches us that love, meekness and gentleness are of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

Spiritual person handles his problems with love not with violence.. because through love he wins God and people.. But if he behaves with violence, he loses all. Violence is also an aggressive sin and Christianity, which disapproves of anger, cannot allow violence or aggression and it is said,

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

(Rom 12:21)

St. James The apostle says,

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

(James 1:19-20)

The Holy Bible says also, *“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger... be put away from you”* (Eph. 4:31),

and, *“Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go”* (Prov. 22:24).

Christianity is against human anger because it is the first step to aggression, violence and murder.

The Lord Jesus Christ says in the Sermon on the Mount,

"Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment"
(Matt. 5:22).

Here anger without a cause is distinguished from holy anger which is for God's sake in a spiritual style far from the body and its inflamed nerves. Anger develops into hatred and hatred in turn into aggression, violence and a desire to harm others.

Love and revenge do not go along the same way because the Holy Bible says,

"Love suffers long and is kind... bears all things, ... does not seek its own."
(1 Cor. 13:4-7).

In the case of revenge, love vanishes and the 'self' appears at the time of violence. Christianity powerfully and clearly fights the 'self' as the Lord Jesus Christ says expressly,

"if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself."
(Matt. 16:24).

In the contrary revenge does not achieve self-assertion but rather demonstrates weakness!

A calm person restrains himself, but a violent person loses self-restraint and cannot control his nerves or his torment such as frightening and startling others.

Forms of revenge:

1- Harsh reproach, cruel rebuke, concentrating on someone's faults continuously and destroying one's personality. Another aspect of violence may be included here i.e.:

2- Violent insults: This includes bitter sneering, disdain, defaming, abusing, slander, disregard, breaking the relations.

How Can we overcome the Devil:

1. By Faith: That God, the Almighty who prevents the devil according to His own will and remember also God's promises to us to be encouraged.
2. By God's Power: As we remember the power given to us, we should likewise remember the spiritual powers surrounding us.
3. By Resisting: Do not submit but resist in the battle as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The devil dominates only the person who submits to him.
4. By Humility.
5. By wisdom and discernment.
6. By prayer and fasting:
7. Watchfulness and caution.
8. By counsel and confession.

Overcoming is possible:

If you think always that it is difficult or impossible to conquer in the diabolic wars, you will faint, weaken and submit and consequently you will fall. But, when the devil fights you, be absolutely sure that you are able to conquer, otherwise God would not have allowed such an unequal war... always contemplate on the biography of the saints who conquered.