

CLEANSE YOURSELF!

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

CLEANSE YOURSELF!

Bible Text: 2 Corinthians 7:1

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Oh Lord we are going into Your word right now, Father go with us, give us the Spirit of understanding and at the end of everything let Your name be praised, thank You Jesus, in Jesus mighty name we have prayed.

Introduction

You are all welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The study before us today is a very important one for those who desire not to miss heaven, this is why I would plead with us to concentrate as the Holy Spirit teaches us.

Study

The book of 2 Corinthians is a one where Paul talked the most about his affection and personal inner feelings the most, he talked about his love and affection for the people. Now he said having these promises beloved, he called them beloved because they were already saved, they were dear to his heart, now he makes it clear that though they were saved yet they have some important things to do which is to cleanse themselves, God has done the first thing necessary in the work of redemption for them which is to justify them, now they are expected to work in sanctification. Paul says they have these promises.

What promises was he talking about? The promises were spoken of in the previous chapter. **2 Corinthians 6:16-18 KJV** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the

temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them ; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. After making the life of Christians known as one that has no affiliation with unbelievers, lawlessness, darkness, Belial and idols in terms of conducts, words, moral standards, purity and character. Then he quoted what God said, which were His promises towards us. **Leviticus 26:12 KJV** And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Not only were there promises but there was also a command, which is to COME OUT FROM THEM that is, worldly practices and be separate from them and also not touching the unclean thing, this would bring acceptance. **Isaiah 52:11 KJV** Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing ; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. Then the promises again, I'll be a Father to you and you shall be my sons and daughters. **2 Samuel 7:14 KJV** I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

The promises are that

1. He would walk among you
2. He will be Your God
3. You be His children
4. He will be Your Father

In the midst of these promises I.e His commands. If God chooses to walk among us then we will not remain the same, we will all

continue to be a wonder, when God works in the midst of His people He proves His power, His glory will be seen in our lives and all-round testimonies would be ours.

There's nothing as great and peace given as to have God as our God, the One who is All-powerful, The Almighty. The Creator Himself through whom all things exists, knowing fully well that idols are nothing compared to Him. **Isaiah 40:18,20,22,25 KJV** *To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? [20] He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved. [22] It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: [25] To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.* Please who can be compared to Someone like this? Since He then promised to be Your God, can you see that you are very fortunate?

He would not adopt you like a foster child, but will make you His own child who is begotten by Himself, how great and wonderful it is for God to also be one's Father, that's the best thing a man can ever experience, to be a bonafide child in God's family and not a bastard attracts divine favor, special grace and mercy. God says **Psalms 103:13 KJV** *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.* These are great promises no one should miss. This implies that when you are passing through life's challenges and things are not turning out the way you expect you have a great God who can do all things as a Father, Who is always ready to help you because you are His child and He pities you because you fear Him.

Paul then says "since we have these great promises let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." We are God's

dear ones, we must grow in sanctification and this must be done by cleansing ourselves from all forms of pollutions and defilements, this was the command God gave about coming out from among the abominable things of this world and be separate for anyone who would cleanse himself from all filthiness, such must first remove the link he has with the source of such filthiness. This is the essence of coming out. *Without coming out from somewhere, separation is not possible, this is why you must come out from the world to be separate to God* . There must be a step taken, then separation begins, that is when not touching what is unclean will be possible.

"It is just like someone who finds himself in a pool of water if such do not want to get wet anymore and get dried, then he must come out first from the water, that step of coming out is bringing about separation from the water already then when he is out it will now be possible to get dried, and when he is out he must stay away from the water not having any contact with water again if he wants to remain dry and not wet".

Why many people keep touching unclean things today is simply because they have not come out, they are still in the middle of the river of abominable practices and even in the midst of those who practice abominations. For example, someone who wants to stop prostitution yet keeps going to hotel at night with old friends, such would certainly touch the unclean things and would remain filthy but the moment she decides to come out from that ungodly friendship she will discover that being separated from the hotel lifestyles becomes easy, then doing prostitution stops automatically because there wouldn't be any access to touch that unclean thing (acts) again.

For every unclean thing One touches there is something to come out from in order to be free. In the case of those fornicating with boyfriend and girlfriend or into adultery i.e befriending another

man's or women's spouse, they must first come out of that secret relationship then separation occurs between them both, it is by then fornication/adultery which is the unclean thing will stop. Then this would bring about holiness for every evil conduct man gets separated from pushes him a step forward into holiness. This was what Paul was explaining to the Corinthians church; he said they should perfect holiness in the fear of God.

If you can't do without wearing seductive clothes that exposes the sensitive parts of your body, the first step to take is to gather those clothes together not minding how much they cost and set them on fire because your soul is more important, by this the temptations to wear them will reduce, then you need to change those who are your role models, it's most likely possible that models who dress half naked are those you are looking up to as mentors. This is when you can become separate.

Is it that you drink? Then separate yourself from drunkards and don't sit in the bars.

Is it that you find it hard to stop betting and gambling, then do away with football, and friends that love it and don't follow the timetable of any tournament again, nor sit close to a football viewing center either and avoid sport news. By this you will come out and not touch what is unclean.

From Paul's words we can see that when it comes to coming out from abominable practices and separating oneself from worldliness and not touching unclean things which defiles, it has to do with the spirit and the flesh it means that both the flesh and the spirit can get corrupt and since we have God's promises let us cleanse ourselves from every filthiness we are into as regards to the flesh and spirit, if indeed we want to live holy lives. This is the major reason many find it hard to live holy lives,

they neglect God's command which is the formula, then they try to form another formula which keeps failing them.

Just like the flesh there are many things that defile the spirit, this has to do with things that the ordinary eyes cannot see. An example is witchcraft, it defiles the spirit making it filthy before God. If we want to live perfect lives in holiness then we must start the work of cleansing, this work is what is so difficult for many. Most times, it might be difficult to come out of secret cults which brings separation from defilement but it is commanded that it must be done. When Paul talked about cleansing oneself he meant everyone must take a step to see that **intentionally** they come out of these defiling things. Most sins/filthiness are not overcome by mistakes. For example, if a person would stop gossiping, he must take a step to come out of the company of gossipers, separating himself. That's when the unclean thing would not be touched. **Psalm 1:1 KJV Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**

Therefore, since we have these great promises, we should take steps regarding our walking with God, that will make us look like Him every day. Our walk with God does not end on the day we are saved, it continues and we must grow in it.

The things that defile the flesh are the things that we do with our bodies, which then presents us before the Lord in an unholy way. For example, smoking, drinking alcohol, tattoos, ungodly hairstyle, attachments on the head, jewelries, plaiting the natural hair, crazy fashion, seductive dresses, ungodly shoes i.e high heels, clothes with demonic symbols and inscriptions, makeup, wedding rings, bangles, rubber/hand bands even with name of Jesus or churches in it. Malice, hatred, unforgiveness, stubbornness, disobedience, envy, contention, conspiracy Etc.

We should cleanse ourselves from these things so that our outer parts can become clean before God. From what the Apostle Paul has taught, we can say that Holiness involves the external (body) and internal (spirit) parts, we must take care of both in holiness. And how this can be achieved is if we fear the Lord. We have to have it at the back of our minds that without perfecting holiness we will not see the Lord.

If you understand this topic can you attempt these questions?

1. Does holiness have anything to do with the two parts of our lives?
2. What did God command us to do?
3. Does God only look at the heart and not the body?

I pray that we will be perfect before God in Jesus Christ's name.

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