



No Growth - Self

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:3

Sin - Romans 3:23

Egotism - Psalms 10:4, James 3:14

Life - Matthew 10:39

flesh - John 3:6

Self is a person referred to with respect to complete individuality. Self lives by its name. "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory,*" is the theme verse for the topic of self. For believers, what gets in the way of giving God the glory and praise? Vainglory, which is another word for pride. Self is what stops God's people from drawing close to Him.

The boastful ones will say, "It's me, myself, and I." The world does not highly regard humility. Therefore, those who do not serve God will live pridefully, which blocks God from getting involved in their lives. The most common word associated with "self" is "selfish." For believers, the word should be the opposite, "selfless," which is more of God and less of themselves.

Many words focus on the concept of self. The listings begin with self-assured, self-centered, self-confidence, self-conscious, self-contained, self-control, self-defense, self-determination, self-evident, and self-explanatory.

Another set of self words are self-interest, self-made, self-pity, self-possessed, self-preservation, self-respect, self-righteous, self-same, self-satisfied, self-service, self-sufficient, and self-willed, respectively. All the words above have no God leading, but self instead, and have nothing to do with Him who created self. There are only two words that define a person with reference to self. Either self-abasement, which is humility, or self-pride. For believers, "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit," as in Proverbs twenty-nine, verse twenty-three. Self was born in sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, as in Romans three, verse twenty-three. People are unable to connect with Him due to their vainglory; Therefore, they tend to follow the sinful nature and attempt to conform to this world. As a result, the devil will try to deceive us by using the self to get in the way of God's plan for our lives. If we were to go to church, where the Spirit of God is flowing and ministering through His servant, the human flesh called "self" may get annoyed and be uncomfortable because the physical part of us does not want to be under subjection to the spiritual things of God.

Self is flesh. And flesh opposes the inner person, which is the spirit within us that is the only channel that has the opportunity to connect with God and have eternal life. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would," as in Galatians five, verse seventeen. So we live inside a body born into the world made of dust, as in Genesis two, verse seven, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." However, our bodies are made of water too, as in the verse above, Genesis two, verse six, "But

there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." Self comes with an ego. Everybody in life, whether infant or adult, young or old, has likes and dislikes that stem from within themselves. However, when it comes to situations and making choices, "God *is* not in all his thoughts," as in Psalm ten, verse four. Eve, with Adam in the Garden of Eden at the beginning of Genesis three, allowed herself to get in trouble with deception by the serpent in eating the forbidden fruit. Cain, in Genesis four, from the start, caused himself to slay his only brother over his offering while looking or recognizing Abel's giving. A person commits wrong things when envy and strife are involved in a person, as in James three, verse fourteen, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." Many believers fail when they get caught up in things that may seem significant to the world. However, saints of God are not supposed to live like the ungodly, although we are among them. Our dependence is upon the Lord and not on others or on self. All believers should address God first in all things for direction. Self is life. For believers, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being," as in Acts seventeen, verse twenty-eight. However, if saints live for God, they should avoid self-leading and allow God to lead by strengthening the inner man, as in Ephesians three, verse sixteen, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man." The verse of Matthew ten, verse thirty-nine, does not mean in a physical sense, but spiritual. A person who is anxious to save their "temporal" life, or their comfort and security here, shall lose "eternal" life, or shall fail of heaven. However, the person who is willing to risk or lose their comfort and "life" here for my sake shall find "life" everlasting, or shall be saved.

Self is flesh that's made of dust, as in Genesis two, verse seven, "And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Humankind is also made of water, between fifty-five and seventy-five percent, depending upon gender and age, as in Genesis two, verse six, "But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." "That which is born of the flesh is flesh," is the start of John three, verse six. Pride, arrogance, and an exaggerated feeling of self-importance are part of the flesh. Did anybody notice that self with the words in reverse order, with the letter "h" at the end, spells flesh? The self will be left behind here on earth when a person passes away because it is of dust and water, while the soul will ascend or descend to only God knows where.