

Jesus Christ makes you right-minded

Erkki Kuisma

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I strive to agree with Jesus Christ in all things, because He loved me and suffered the punishment of my sins. It is possible that I have been mistaken in some matters. However I trust that He will correct me, if I have misunderstood something. I love His reprimand and His comfort because without them I cannot remain in truth. Thus, if there is something wrong in these writings it is the fault of Erkki Kuisma. Jesus deserves the credit for everything that is right.

Issued 07.12.2009

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Battles of wills

You tasted something good and you wanted to get more of it. What you wanted once you almost always want forever. If you tasted something to be good although it is bad, you started to want what is bad. How could you get rid of it?

Birth of will

Without a promise there is no hope and without a hope there is no will. What was promised to you that you can hope to get. The promise must convince you that the target is good so that you could start to want it. A sample contains a promise and gives birth to your will. Will means binding oneself to a target hoped for.

What you tasted contained a promise. Your will was woken by the promise. You got to taste something to reach for. Your soul said this is good. I have to get more of this. How would anybody want something that he has not tasted? We must have got some experience, whether it is hearing, seeing or feeling.

One person feels that a sample is good and another one tastes the same bad and the third one tastes nothing. Therefore our will is woken by different things. You must be a very careful taster so that you would not wake wanting evil. When you taste something, make sure what tastes bad is bad and what tastes good is good. If you tasted something to be bad though it is good, you missed your bliss. If you tasted something to be good though it is bad, you stepped into a disaster.

What have you tasted of God? Many convey deceitful samples to you so that after tasting them you would think about Him: I want no more of this. If someone has really tasted that God is good, he has got a living hope of coming to Him.

If you have tasted that God is good, you want to be with Him. You want to do God's will and because you have this state of will you are able to believe Bible's Jesus. He says: *"If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on my own authority."* Joh.7:17

Sinful sampling

You tasted the ecstasy of alcohol and you wanted to experience it again. It left you the living hope of the happiness of inebriation. Sometimes you maybe experienced an awkward situation when you were drunk. Therefore you no more want it as much as before. Your will lost its heart, but still you remained dependent on your intoxicant.

You tasted the ecstasy of sexual ardour and it kindled a burning desire of getting more of it in your soul. Wanting to be stimulated anchored your soul to seek a perfect sexual partner. Sometimes you maybe suffered pains instead of pleasure. Therefore you don't want to satisfy your lust as before. Your will became weaker but still you remained dependent on your pleasure.

You tasted the gloss and splendour of mammon that caused you to want becoming rich. You fell in love with money. You started to want money and mammon, because it felt so good to be an owner. Sometimes maybe you felt great emptiness among your properties. Therefore your will to become rich became sluggish, but still you remained dependent on the security of owning.

You tasted joy of honour you received. When you were praised, your self-esteem raised so high that it caused you to want to seek gold and glory. Sometimes honour you received was maybe not able to swell you with happiness. Therefore your will to seek glory started to totter, but still you remained dependent on praises of people.

You tasted comfort of a religion. Holy ceremonies caused you to want to be a believer. A devoted atmosphere in a temple gave you a solid faith to God. Maybe the ceremonies in your community started to bore you so much they lost their power to convince you that God is with you. Therefore your will to believe died, but still you remained dependent on your religion.

Revived will

What we wanted once we almost always want forever. Our will recovers from the blows it got and doesn't easily cease from hoping for what we tasted in the beginning. Therefore many drunken want

to continue to drink alcohol although they got painful hits from it. Sexual intercourse outside a marriage is dirt that doesn't dishearten many from plunging again into the same flood of dissipation.

A desire to become rich is revived in many hearts although worries of the management of the property have pierced their souls with many grieves. Boasters who have been put to shame consolidate their strength and want determinedly to be something great even more eagerly than ever before. Those who have become estranged from their religion return back into the lap of their community in a moment of distress. Samplings are fateful moments!

To want or not to want, that is the question! When we accept some wanting to enter our innermost being there will always be born something new that will be a part of us. Therefore it is so difficult for us to get rid of wanting something. However you need not to be desperate in this matter. God has prepared for us release from wanting evil.

Have an experience of how God became man in Jesus Christ and atoned your sins on the cross of Golgotha. Look at Jesus suffering on the cross the punishment of your evilness. This sacrifice proves to you that God wants to save you. He will give you strength to crucify your evil will.

Do you think not to taste the sacrifice of God until you have lost all your hope concerning all other things? You wait for it in vain, because as long as you live your evil desires don't die totally. However if they are weakened they are not able to prevent you from tasting the gift of God.

Sampling of nature

The whole creation is full of samples that tell us about God. Our senses say to us that the world is planned. A bad conscience blinds senses and produces tasteless science. It is crazy to surrender to chances. In any case the miracles of nature are samples that nobody can miss.

All want God to give them the splendour of His creation. Although the Fall took away the Paradise from us, still there are samples of

it among us. We have samples of God's deeds, but do we taste God Himself in His deeds? A doer is always more than his deeds.

The polymorphism of living beings tells us about boundless riches of His imagination. The complicated system of nature tells us that He loves order and harmony. The appropriateness of the systems He has planned proclaims to us His amazing intelligence. The cuteness of baby animals reflects His tender character. His pure humour appears in many funny expressions and actions of animals.

Generally the samples of nature don't cause in us any movement to God, because the Fall left a curse in nature. Violence appearing in nature is a bad taste in a sample. Therefore we don't want to approach the Creator although that bad taste is our fault. Violence in nature reflects our evilness but who admits that?

A lion kills a goat and eats its flesh, because your evilness nourishes itself with gifts of God's goodness. Lions will eat grass when God once will step down to us.

The heavenly sample

The blood of animals is shed in nature because our sins require atonement. Someone understood this and confessed his sins to God and sacrificed a lamb to Him. Then God gave him a sample from heaven by forgiving him and by giving a good conscience. In this way the will to walk with God was born in him.

It exists only one sacrifice for our sins. Sacrificed animals have only been allusions to it. The Blood of the Son of God was shed on Golgotha. It is the only sacrifice for our sins. It is the heavenly sample that is offered to you. You can experience the power of God's sacrifice. You are allowed to experience how God forgives your bad deeds.

God has really promised much to us in Jesus Christ. If you tasted Jesus you received the promise and therefore you want to follow Him. However before you came to faith you have tasted selfishness, greed and pride. They gave births to the wills which are fighting against the will to which the gospel gave birth.

The battle between the will of God and the sinful wills takes place in the heart of every believer. Many have lost these battles and

therefore they have finally also fallen away from the sacrifice of God's love. *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance."* Heb.6:4-6

Falling away from God is like you had lost a war. We can lose many battles, but finally win the war. Also we can win many battles, but finally lose the war. Falling away doesn't happen easily. If it is difficult for us to put to death our evil wills which were born when we lusted after evil things, it is even more difficult to put to death that will which was born when we experienced the power of the gospel.

However, every battle is dangerous. During battles of wills we can fall into an experience that causes us to make a crime against the gospel. *"Since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."* Heb.6:6

We can lose our hope of the victory when we resist our sinful will. Don't you want to fight anymore? Your decision to give up hope is the decision to give up fighting. Although your faith in this way became sluggish you remain dependent on God's grace. Because you don't fight anymore you have not the full peace in God. You notice that some are fighting still and that starts to irritate you. When you resist them you can fall into the same spirit with those who crucified Jesus. When you defend yourself for not fighting you may put Jesus to an open shame.

So that you would not become a mocker of God's grace, never give up fighting against your own evilness, but give yourself always fully to it. *"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* Heb.6:11-12

Own or God's will

Jesus overcame all temptations. His attitude is the weapon that leads also us to the victory. *"I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."* Joh.6:38

In putting a bad will to death it is essential to live through Jesus. As the Father sent Jesus to the world in the same way Jesus has sent us to the world to do His will who sent us. *"I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me."* Joh.5:30

What would be my will now? Don't even ask. It is a trap to seek our own will, because the wills created by our wrong choices live in us and they will answer you. What would God want from my life? The Holy Spirit will answer to your question and He also gives you strength to do it. *"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."* Php.2:13

Unfortunately many are satisfied with only tasting God's life and don't want to continuously eat Him. Therefore God can't work in them to will and to do for more than coming to faith. They believe that they can live their whole life on a sample. Therefore they desert God and don't remain in faith to the end.

Why are many satisfied with tasting God, not wanting to get more? They are fed with religious food in meetings of churches and they believe that to be genuine spiritual nourishment. This deception isolates them from the genuine nourishment of God's grace.

The congregational meetings, where believers give performances to each other, raise pretenders. The hypocrisy that was adopted in meetings also affects personal prayer life. Many perform to God and therefore they cannot hear the words coming from the mouth of God. If we come near to God only with our mouths and keep our heart far from Him, we remain without the food of His grace.

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1Pe.2:1-3

Smash your prayer wheel created by the Christian culture and "rend your heart" and pour out it as water in the presence of God. Put away performances! Just leave it and run for your life!

God doesn't give performances to us! His sacrifice on Golgotha is not a divine play. The death and the resurrection of Jesus are real occasions which touch the whole creation.

If we put away our old wills, we are able to concentrate on receiving impacts of the Spirit of God. If you hug Jesus you turn your back to the likings of your sinful nature. If you have tasted God, eat more! Then God will work in you to want His will. You are allowed to want what God wants.

I have the will but no strength to do it

It is miserable if we have the will that God gave us, but we have no strength to practice it. God worked in us to want His will, but why is He prevented to work in us to do it? Paul wrote about it:

"I know that in me that is, in my flesh nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice." Ro.7:18-19

Paul had this experience that his evil wills live in his flesh. They were fighting against the will of God that lived in his spirit. When Paul says, "the evil I will not to do, that I practice", he is speaking about what his sinful nature wants to do. The flesh did its deeds in his thoughts, but he didn't acknowledge them, but put those thoughts to death.

He certainly doesn't give any mercy to his fleshliness so that he would allow it have an influence on the deeds of his body. Of course he sometimes fell into a sin, but he doesn't give any right to do evil on the pretext of that he has no strength to do good. God offers us a share in the death of Jesus as the solution to our lack of strength to do good. Our good deeds are fruit of the resurrection of Jesus.

"For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Ro.8:3-4

Your bad deeds got what they deserve in the pains of the body of Jesus. He was struck on Golgotha by the wrath of God because of your evil will. Look at the holy fire that consumes your sinful nature and silences its speech.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors - not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Ro.8:12-14

If we have experienced God's love to us, we owe God our life to carry out His will. Because of His love we allow the Holy Spirit to put our evil wills to death. If we refuse to die together with Jesus, we don't get strength to do the will of God, although our will woke for it when we heard the gospel.

Doers of the will of God

If we have eaten well we are better capable of doing something. With the food given by God we can want what God wants and do what God wants us to do. In His Spirit we can do His will. He has done all our good deeds in Jesus Christ.

God's Spirit doesn't put your evil will to death by force. Therefore Paul says that "if by the Spirit you put to death". It is expected that you put it to death and voluntarily. God doesn't practice mental violence. Instead religious spirits would like to make you to be their puppets. If you have a liking for God's automatic effects in you, you are in danger of falling under the domination of these spirits who pretend the works of God.

If Jesus lives in you, you can guard your every thought that comes to your mind. Be ready in the Spirit of God to kill with the sword of God's Word every evil thought that comes to your mind. Thus you carry out the following word of the Bible: *"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."* Ga.5:16-17

Hey, where are your thoughts wandering? Be man of courage, be strong and let your spirit fight in the Spirit of God. Guard the gate

of your mind in the same way as a soldier watches the direction from where he expects an enemy is coming. Be ready to fight every moment. Precisely about this Paul said: *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* Php.2:12

He doesn't urge us "to deserve our salvation", but he urges us to be diligent in grace. Religious spirits urge you to give up battles of wills by claiming that your battles are against the salvation by grace. If you have the will caused by God you have life in the Spirit of God and you need not listen to doctrines of the dead people.

If your spirit has God's life it means death to your sinful nature. Cry out to the Spirit of God: 'Crucify my sinful nature!' *"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* Ga.5:24-25

Fight yet for a moment, for soon all the evil will disappear and Jesus comes and establishes His Kingdom on the earth. *"The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* 1Jo.2:17

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Childlike mind

Evil thoughts are learnt. A baby gets a pure mind as a birth present. One's mind is not empty but God has initialised it with good thoughts. When growing a child abandons the thoughts given by God and learns wickedness, which overwhelms one's mind. The mind of an adult is like a wall filled with evil writings and pictures. Jesus Christ calls you to adopt a childlike mind, for He has the power to wash clean your mind. He presents you with new attitudes and thoughts.

Lovely babies

How cute are baby animals! How lovely are human infants! Why are we charmed by them? Especially the shapes and the expressions of their faces excite something pure in us. There is something in them, which is a ray of purity reflected from the face of God. Glory to God, He is the source of loveliness! The whole nature has lost much of its purity because of sin. Fortunately God will one day recreate everything and remove sin forever.

The word Designer is included in the word Creator. What God designed He also created. Every designer always expresses in his plans something of himself. Because He Himself is lovely He has created cute things!

Jesus says: *"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."* Matthew 18:10 If you look down on the childlike mind you look down on the loveliness of God.

Childlike mind

God has put something of Himself not only to the face of a baby, but also to one's mind. God is pure minded.

The mind of a baby is not an empty wall, but God has initialised it with pure thoughts. *"At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.'" Matthew 11:25-26*

If you want that God approaches you and reveals His secrets to you, adopt the childlike mind. A child receives a message without doubts from the person whom he/she loves. So fall in love with God to be able to learn from Him.

Adult-like mind

A child is eagerly waiting for things to be told to him. An adult eagerly examines to be able to find out the truth. When he has invented something he is proud of his doctrine and is bumptious with his discovery. Adult-like mind wants to define the truth and it doesn't appreciate a message that is revealed to him as a present.

Jesus calls adult-like minded to forsake their thoughts and to become childlike minded. The disciples made an adult-like question to Jesus and got the advice to change and become like little children: *"The disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a little child and had him stand among them. And He said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'"* Matthew 18:2-3

This is not a request to be credulous but to be pure minded. People are often childish when they receive mindless things, which lead them to conflicts with themselves. So that you would not mix the childlike mind with the childish the next explanation is needed: *"Stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults."* 1Cor.14:20 To become a grown-up means that evil things grow in us and not only better understanding. Therefore Jesus sees that the salvation means becoming a childlike person.

Godless adulthood

Learning evil things begins younger and younger, but at the latest the puberty is the time of the Fall. A child must become independent, but it doesn't mean that he should do just the opposite of what the parents say.

Godless adulthood is rebellious and knowingly tries to get rid of the commandments of God. Peaceful and smiling baby faces are fading out under the pressure of evil. Instead of them gloomy peace or restless joy appears on the hard faces. When man gets more

self-assurance his rebellious spirit changes to proud dignity and dissolute joy.

May he, a conceited, wise and learned adult forsake his dignity and receive Jesus as the wisdom of God. If God has hidden something from you, do not think that you are able to find it out. Do not become a theologian, because it means that you have rejected the childlike mind. Do not make God the object of science, but let Him make Himself known to you.

Mind of God's child

No-one can purify one's mind oneself. On the other hand God purifies nobody with violence. You can come to Jesus as you are. On the other hand close to Jesus you don't remain as you are. When Jesus forgives us our sins He also affects a new mind in us, if we remain in Him.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Rom.12:2

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Eph.4:22-24

So do not be satisfied only with good conscience, for Jesus wants to give you more. Unclean mind brings about new sins, but pure mind protects against temptations. Great is this lovely secret: How the Spirit of God renews thoughts and attitudes!

Spiritual maturity

Becoming a believer of Jesus means becoming a child of God. The appearance of this new creation in the unclean minded man is a great challenge to every believer. Every day the attitudes of the old creation must be put to death and the consciousness must be opened to the mind of the new creation, *"until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants."* Eph.4:13-14

What kind of person is a spiritual grown-up? He has the mind of Jesus Christ. *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."* Phil.2:5

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Upbringing to right attitudes

Training of attitudes is more important than training of manners. Behaviour that is not based on attitudes is pretence. Parents who teach their children to learn only manners but not right attitudes are training pretenders. Schools, which only give knowledge without training of attitudes, educate only formally qualified people. Congregations which teach only knowledge of the Bible but not the attitudes of Jesus are training their members to be pretenders. Hypocrisy is an essential feature all through societies.

Attitudes

Change of attitude springs up in the mind of man. A new attitude cannot be adopted in the same way as knowledge. Attitudes are like basic thoughts, which affect in the content of other thoughts. They are usually unconscious thoughts which only occasionally spring up from the depth of the heart.

By observing our spontaneous thoughts we can recognise our attitudes. *"The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out."* Prov.20:5

Manners and attitudes

Children are trained to follow good manners. When one gets something, one is told to say: "Thanks". When one wrongs, one is told to say: "Forgive me." If one forgot to thank or apologise the parents ask the child: "How must you say now?" Instead of this kind of training of manners there should be training of attitudes, not guiding behaviour but attitudes. Woe, how often parents are training their children to be pretenders!

If our mind is egocentric we cannot think gratefully. If our mind is proud, we cannot judge our own faults.

Gratitude can be tried to awaken in an ungrateful receiver by asking: "Did you get a good present? He took trouble with your gift. Wasn't he good when giving you the present?" When a recipient takes in his thoughts the position of the giver he can get a grateful mind. Who preaches the right attitude to oneself will get a change

of mind and is able say with all one's heart to the donator: "Thank you very much of your present." The word "thanks" fits only in the mouth of a grateful one.

If a receiver doesn't say thanks, it is a message to the donator that his present was not welcome. Why should this message be perverted with pretending? An ungrateful one can be urged to examine one's attitudes and ask oneself why he is not grateful.

If someone has been violent, we can try to make him repent by asking: "Think about how much your victim suffered, when you hit him. Think it over, if someone would have handled you in the same way as you did." By taking the position of his victim in his thoughts a violent one can get regretful mind.. If his mind is opened to see how wrong he has done, he is able to confess regretting: "What I did was wrong!." The words "Forgive me" fit only in the mouth of a regretful one.

If all attempts to awake repentance failed, then the violent one can be punished in the way that forces him to think about the results of his deed from the view point of his victim.. So it would be better to give a corporal punishment to a violent one than put him to a jail. If he learnt already in his childhood that he got away with his wrongdoings only by saying "forgive me" though he didn't regret, he was guided to a dangerous way. Because of this attitude he can suppose that he gets away with his sins before God by approaching Him only with utterances of his mouth and not with his heart.

Right behaviour without right attitude is lying. Thanking without gratitude and apologies without repentance are pretending. If somebody doesn't feel gratitude or repentance, he must not be forced to behave in the right way! It is important to make known what is the right behaviour pattern, but forcing to the right behaving brings up people who are trained liars.

Pretending is the prevailing way of life

Someone is wondering that is it really wrong to bring up a child to follow good manners. Wouldn't life be terrible without beautiful manners? It is reality that people are bad and good manners don't help much its consequences. By hiding evil with pretending doesn't

remove bad consequences, but only makes it more difficult to remove evil.

Everybody must know when it is good to give thanks and when it is suitable to ask for forgiveness, but they must not be demanded only as a custom. We should endure the fact that someone is not grateful though he got a good present. Some have even learnt, not only to say "thanks", but to be able to play a part of a grateful man, though they think otherwise in their heart.

In God's sight your pretending is more detestable than your ingratitude. Be careful that you don't fall in love with pretence! *"With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse."* Ps.62.4
Getting practice in pretence creates deceitful people. Therefore escape pretence with all your power. *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses."* Prov.27:5-6

There are no excuses for pretence, no matter where it appears. Jesus gives one common name for those who will be judged to hell, when He says: *"... and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Matth.24:51

Knowledge and attitudes

Schools distribute knowledge and force to memorise right answers, but usually they don't teach right attitudes. However the attitudes of one's branch of activity are needed to adopt the knowledge and especially to apply it to practical life. In this way also schools are bringing up pretenders.

For example logicalness and carefulness are attitudes of mathematical thinking. What does a teacher of mathematics do that he would strengthen these attitudes in his pupils? If he only teaches to memorise formulas and to do exercises, he teaches to pretend being a mathematically thinking person.

An interest itself is already an attitude. Effective learning requires that one is interested in the subject. Who is interested in his subject learns things by oneself, the others only copy what others have learnt. Therefore the first task of a teacher is to awake their interest in the subject. If the interest springs up then it can be used to adopt

other attitudes related to the subject. Knowledge is much easier to memorise, if one has internalised the attitudes of the subject. Everyone has noticed how easy it is to remember the things learnt by oneself. Instead the facts that are memorised for an exam are forgotten already on the next day after the exam.

What if the right attitudes are not formed though one has tried to adopt them? Must pupils to be forced to copy the knowledge which they are not able to apply in practice? My opinion is that it would be better to change the subject to another than to try to pretend to be the expert of the subject. If you are served by a person who has got the suitable attitudes of his profession, you surely notice the difference between him and a person who pretends to be the professional of the branch.

Ability to adopt new attitudes depends on the attitudes that have been already adopted in the same way as ability to receive new knowledge depends on the knowledge that has been already adopted. After one has adopted a basic attitude one is able to adopt other related attitudes. The alphabet of good attitudes can be learnt only from God. Many are satisfied to be pretenders. Some even love their double life. Because many have lost their hope to get good attitudes they stress their good manners or their good education. They try to hide themselves behind their academic degree so that nobody would notice that they have not the right attitudes required in their profession.

Faith and attitudes

Also many congregations teach their members to adopt the right doctrine but they don't care about right attitudes. In this way they bring up their members to be pretenders. Memorised Bible passages and dogmas make it possible to pretend to be a person who thinks like a real believer. A person who has adopted the mind of Jesus is able to say all essential truths of the Bible with his own words.

It is important to make known the commandments of God to everyone, so that everyone would know how one would live, if one would be upright. However it is not good to force anyone to follow them, so that one would not believe it possible to obey the commandments without the change of mind.

A religious person tries to follow God's commandments, though he has a sinful mind. Although he tries to stress how he has the right doctrine, he is not able to hide his unjust mind. The true believer has experienced the repentance. He does right because he is upright.

Repentance means that we change our attitudes. It is the most essential thing God expects from us. He doesn't change our attitudes by force, but we must grant repentance voluntarily. He has given us the example of the perfectly upright man in Jesus. Therefore it is written: *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."*

Phil.2:5

The gospel about the crucified and the up risen Son of God offers you the power to experience the change of your attitudes. The Spirit of God is able to renew the spirit of your mind. The Good Spirit creates the good attitudes. *"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."* 1Pet.2:1-3

Jesus is the only unbeatable hero in the struggle against hypocrisy. Only He has succeeded completely also in this matter. He never pretended, though the environment tempted Him in the same way as us. So take seriously His warning: *"Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."* Luuk.12:1 He will set you free from pretence!

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Convincing doesn't swear

Swearing is used in connection with both past and future. When somebody tells about his experiences an oath can be demanded to confirm that he is telling the truth. This is done for example in court. When it is wanted to make sure that a person keeps his promise an oath is demanded. This happens for example in the army.

Why does Jesus forbid an oath?

Jesus Christ says: *"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago: 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you: Do not swear at all."* Matth.5:33-34

One who is reliable tells always the truth. If someone must try to assure or to swear that one tells the truth, the reason is that one is not trusted. Swearing is one way to react upon mistrust. Jesus forbids an oath because it "comes from the evil one". *"Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one'."* Matth.5:37

Ambiguous people like to give oaths. *"Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, 'Yes, yes' and 'No, no'?"* 2Cor.1:17 To tell lies in certain circumstances is an accepted habit in this world. People often speak in different ways about the same issue to different people. In this way their speaking can be at the same time as well 'Yes' as 'No'. In court they want to make sure with an oath that now we do not lie as we normally do. Taking oaths is a part of this sinful culture. God's children should behave in different way and follow the teaching of Jesus.

There is in the Bible a passage, which seems to be a request to swear. Paul says to Timothy: *"I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions..."* 1Tim.5:21 It is obvious that this expression means: "I urge you powerfully..." Timothy doesn't swear here anything and Paul doesn't ask any oath. We can bind ourselves to something, but it is not swearing.

Solemn affirmation

A solemn affirmation is offered to those who don't want to swear. This is a typical attempt to go around the commandment of God. A hypocrite heart can be deceived with a solemn affirmation.

The content of the matter is not changed, if a different expression is used instead of swearing. He who wants to follow Jesus with his whole heart wants carry out the content of the commandment and he is not satisfied with a formal obedience. Jesus says: "Anything beyond this comes from the evil one". A solemn affirmation is something that is added to 'yes' or 'no'. Therefore also it comes from the evil one.

Oath concerning past

A swearing person tries to assure that it happened in the past as he says. If he is not believed he can be misled to swear by God's name or to affirm solemnly by his conscience that the thing is true. Instead of swearing he should bring forth evidences or ask for support from witnesses. It is also possible to call God as a witness but it is not allowed to swear by His name. *"I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth."* 2Cor.1:23

A court that asks for an oath from witnesses wants to frighten them to tell the truth. God instead forbids swearing therefore that swearing itself leads under condemnation. *"Above all, my brothers, do not swear - not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No', no, or you will be condemned."*

James 5:12

How severely condemned is a court that asks you to put your hand on the Bible and to give an oath though swearing is forbidden in the Bible! Only a religiously pretending society can be so blind. Instead of an oath the conscience of a witness should be tested. A lie detector can work also when a witness has silenced the voice of his conscience.

Oath concerning future

When Jesus forbids swearing that concerns the future He reminds our inability to control the future. *"Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black."* Matth.5:36 He specifies

this teaching through apostle James: *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"* James

4:13-15

What we promise can be a swearing or only a promise that we intend to do something. An oath concerning the future is only for God but not for us.

A military oath is an especially bad thing. Through the oath man gives away his conscience to the state. He promises to follow all commands of his superior and to obey them till his death. Actually he dedicates himself to give a blood-sacrifice for his fatherland. This kind of sacrifice is idolatry.

Under special condemnation are those churches, which arrange ceremonies of military oaths. They bring shame with their deed on the sacrifice of Jesus, on the gospel and on the teachings of Jesus. Because a government of a state is uncertain of the will of its citizens to die for their fatherland, it wants to bind their consciences as firmly as possible. Therefore they want to take God with them to make their war. That oath really has an effect. It helps the absurdity of war.

God has sworn by Himself that the promise which He gave Abraham will be realised. *"Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, He confirmed it with an oath."* Heb.6:17 How does He Himself swear and at the same time forbids us to swear?

Before Jesus came there were some situations when it was right to swear or to destroy a sinful nation through a holy war. However Jesus changed these things. When He died instead of all nations He removed the possibility that we could make a holy war in the name of God. When He rose up from the dead, He made it possible for us to get a better deposit which guarantees His blessing.

The Holy Spirit instead of the guarantee of the oath

Although God swore an oath to Abraham, He doesn't do it anymore to us, but instead He has given us a better deposit: *"God set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."* 2Cor.1:22 It is easy to be without oaths when God's peace dwells in my heart, for He in me is my defender.

I say to you who believe in Jesus: I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, to keep this teaching of Jesus so that you don't swear any oaths and you don't give any solemn affirmations.

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Worldly or godly

What does it mean to be worldly-minded? Do you want to live with a worldly or a godly mind? Why does somebody want to be godly? How do you get godly thoughts? Or do you rather want to be worldly-minded?

Worldly goodness is deceitful

Modesty of a proud person is cringing. Alms of a greedy one are an investment that is expected to make a profit. Charity of a selfish person is a request to gain pleasure. Goodness of a world-minded person is seeming. Deeds of a wrong-minded person are always spoiled by injustice, although they seem to be good.

In the light of God's goodness the Seven Virtues of worldly-minded persons turn out to be the Seven Deadly Sins. Worldly-minded love equals lust, worldly-minded faith equals sloth, worldly-minded hope equals envy, worldly-minded justice equals anger, worldly-minded prudence equals pride, worldly-minded fortitude equals greed and worldly-minded temperance equals gluttony.

The more I have learned to know God, the more I have been shocked at my thoughts that naturally well forth from my sinful nature. Many attitudes considered natural are revealed as evil in the company of Jesus. Good self-esteem may be revealed as pride. Many noble looking efforts are revealed as plots to take advantage of others. Thoughts of a diligent person can be expressions of greed. Self-confidence and bold actions come often from selfish and untruthful thoughts.

Do you give up worldly mind?

Glory caresses the complexion of your spirit. Boasting refreshes your depressed mind. Acquiring wealth sets your mind at rest. Ecstasy of sensuous pleasures makes you glad. Give up seeking glory! Do not anymore take pains with getting rich. Turn away from injurious pleasures. Are you shocked at my request? Why would you abstain from what you like? Because God wants it. Deny yourself!

Your proud, greedy and selfish life is sin and deserves a punishment. Shame, death and endless pains are waiting for you. However God demonstrated His love for you in allowing His only Son to suffer your punishment. If you believed in Jesus, your sins were forgiven. What next? After you got life from Jesus, He is looking for something from you. He doesn't command nor press, but He is expecting something from you.

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves. It means us ourselves, and not only our deeds. It hurts something in us which we consider natural and a good part of us. Those who belong to Jesus Christ have allowed themselves to be crucified together with Jesus. It means death to a worldly mind. Yes - it means that we admit our own goodness to be evil. You who believe in Jesus, can you agree with all your heart with the following statement. "Nothing good lives in me - that is, in me without Jesus"?

God's goodness is genuine

God's thoughts are different from ours. A worldly mind is proud, greedy and selfish. A godly mind is humble, generous and loving. Jesus showed us the attitudes of God. God's character is godliness. God demonstrated His humbleness by coming down as a man. Proud people cannot believe that God could be humble. Therefore they cannot believe in the Son of God. God is generous to everybody. He distributes His gifts also to the ungrateful. God loved all the people with the same love, although He knew beforehand that only few will receive His love. Jesus died for everyone so that anyone could get the forgiveness of one's sins.

Jesus didn't come - only - for the forgiveness of our sins. He came to change the thoughts of our hearts. One would suppose that everyone who has been cleansed of sins would like to experience godly life in one's heart. Unfortunately the practice proves that many people, who confess faith, have decided to accept wrong thoughts for themselves - at the cost of mercy. The right mind is the aim of God's mercy in us. If it has not come true in us, we have not been so much under grace as we supposed.

Worldly Christianity

The more I have learnt to know different Christian communities, the more I have had been shocked how widely believers have attitudes that are against the thoughts of Jesus. I don't mean imperfection life of believers or their falls into sin, but I mean their intentional choice to reject Jesus as the Master of their thoughts. Most shocking in this matter is that they insist they obey Jesus in everything, although they actually are offended with Him.

In fact they consider Jesus narrow-minded, although on the other hand they also consider Him their Saviour. Certainly it is true that a wrong-minded one considers a right-minded one narrow-minded. However the narrowness doesn't reside in the heart of the right-minded one, but results from the love for injustice of the wrong-minded one. Although among believers many wrong deeds are condemned, many wrong thoughts and attitudes are even encouraged.

The whole human civilization is based on pride, greed and selfishness. Therefore it is right to say that a wrong mind is the same as a worldly mind.

It is easier for everybody to have the same mind with people than with God. The interest to step out from the mind of the world is awakened in us when we understand how great the difference is between the thoughts of God and the thoughts of people. This difference cannot be seen without knowing Jesus.

Do not they really realize what is the mind of Jesus, or don't they want to be like Him! If they don't see the character of Jesus, they need to get a revival. Instead if they don't want to adopt the character of Jesus, although they know it, their heart is hardened by evil.

Roots of worldly Christianity

The apostle Paul says: *"Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature!"* Gal.5:13 If you obey your sinful nature, you misuse the freedom of the gospel. The worldly Christianity has come true when believers have fulfilled themselves and the godly Christianity has come true when believers have denied themselves.

The gospel sets you free from all your own deeds, through which you tried to be accepted by God. The salvation is a gift that is received only by hearing the gospel. When you come to faith Jesus gives His life to you. In the God given salvation you are only the receiving party. You cannot give your life to Jesus before Jesus first has been able to give His life to you.

Many receive the gift of God and enjoy it without feeling any debt of gratitude. Paul actually speaks about ingratitude, when he says that freedom can urge us to continue with a wrong mind. God's love affecting in your heart creates eternal gratitude to Him. The change of your mind gets its power from the gospel.

Roots of godly Christianity

The apostle Paul says to a believer: *"Train yourself to be godly."*

¹Tim.4:7 He compares this mind training to a training of an athlete who exercises to be in good condition. The roots of godly Christianity are in the seriously taken gospel. The gospel that went to the bottom of your heart works patience and self-control in you. *"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last for ever."* ¹Cor.9:25

Must you train yourself to be godly so that you would be saved? This question expresses disbelief in the gospel of God. Believers living with this attitude have decided to stay wrong-minded to avoid becoming "too pious". They don't put to death their wrong thoughts, because they are afraid of getting under the law and losing a share of God's grace. Just what they fear that will meet them. Everybody who tries to escape law must stay under it. The only way to get away under the law is to die together with Jesus.

Think in the right way, that is, according to the gospel. So are you allowed to train yourself to be godly, because you have been saved? Be free to do it in the strength of the gospel. This attitude hides the power that joins us to the training team of Jesus. In this team there is no fear of getting under the law, because the spring of grace is so close. God's grace is not only for getting forgiveness, but it is also for the transformation of our hearts.

Hero of Heroes

Jesus Christ is the true hero, because He has experienced all the human temptations and has overcome them. In Him there is proven purity of which also you can be a partaker.

The hero of sexual purity

A woman anointed herself with fragrant oil and took her stand beside the door of her house. She gestured enticingly to men passing by her. She had got used to seeing lust in the eyes of men. They glanced round quickly and came to her to satisfy their lust. Once a man passed by and there was no lust but purity in his eyes. The woman looked at the eyes of the man and suddenly she felt herself very dirty. Later she got to know the man was called Jesus of Nazareth.

The woman shut herself up in her room and started to cry bitterly. She tried to forget those pure eyes, but over and over again they came into her mind and made her weep over her filthiness. She could not any more go seducing men beside her door. Also she couldn't any more lubricate herself with fragrant oil, because she thought she don't want to try to cover her filthiness with it. Once this thought came into her mind: "Could also I become as pure as he?"

When she got to know that Jesus was eating in the house of a Pharisee she took her fragrant oil and went there and *"stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil."* Lu.7:38 Soon Jesus turned to the woman and gave her purity by saying, *"your sins are forgiven."* Lu.7:48

Jesus was a true man and He had all the temptations of man. He had pure eyes, because He never fell into sin even in His thoughts. He is the great hero, because *"He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."* Heb.4:15

Jesus Christ is the expert of winning of temptations. He can give the victory also to you through His own victory. Getting the forgiveness

is the beginning of the fight the goal of which is to keep the purity we received. Jesus Christ is the hero of heroes who has succeeded in this fight.

A hero of humbleness

A man restlessly paced up and down and then sat down to the judge's seat. Before him it was brought a man named Barabbas, who was charged with insurrection and murder.

With a stern expression and with his head erect the accused came before his judge. He might have said in this way: "According to the Law of Moses I didn't commit a murder, but I put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel. In this country we must follow the law of God of Israel and not the law of the Caesar." Pilate looked in anger in the eyes of Barabbas and might have said like this: "The Caesar is god here and you deserve the death penalty."

After some time Pilate was again called to judge a criminal. When he was waiting for the arrival of the accused one he might to think: "Again I get to meet a bastard who considers himself so innocent and guiltless, although he has done who knows what ever evil."

Then the doors were opened and a peaceful and quiet man was brought before him. Pilate stared at the face of the man in astonishment, because the face was not such as he was used to seeing with the accused. Jesus didn't radiate guilt and hate but purity and peace. At that moment Pilate felt himself dirty, power-seeking braggart, but he didn't allow it to be shown outwardly.

The Jewish priests and the elders present accused Jesus of making Himself the king. Pilate looked at Jesus and waited for Him to defend Himself, but He was quiet. *"Then Pilate said to Him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against you.'"* Mt.27:13

It is not easy to be quiet before one's accusers, when one knows himself to be guiltless. Jesus knew He was guiltless of the accusations which were presented, but He didn't defend Himself so that He could receive the judgment of our sins which He had taken upon Him.

He had taken our guilt as His own in Gethsemane. So He also was guilty, because He had taken to bear our sins. He took up the

attitude towards His judge which belongs to a person who deserves his judgment. Who is guilty must not defend oneself. Therefore He was quiet and didn't open His mouth.

Pilate didn't want to sentence Jesus to death, because he honored His purity. However he didn't want to become like Jesus, because he was not ashamed of his filth. Instead he decided to be pure in his own way. *"He took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.'* And all the people answered and said, *'His blood be on us and on our children.'"* Mt.27:24-25

Most people have taken the same attitude to Jesus as Pilate. They don't want to crucify Him, because they consider Him good. However they don't want to become like Jesus, because they love their lusts so much.

You know how the guilty people usually put the blame on other people. There is always found something that can be used in defending one's deed, although one doesn't deny having done wrong. If someone humbles oneself so completely that he doesn't defend himself at all, but takes the full responsibility of his deed, he is a hero. Jesus Christ is the Hero of such heroes.

Is there a will to fight against filth?

Many have experienced the purity given by Jesus and rejoiced at the forgiveness they got. The person, who was forgiven much, loves God much and the person who experienced he was forgiven less, loves less. However the purity of both of them will be tested in practice. The trials of faith cannot be avoided, because only they prove who loves God.

A believer is in good safe when fighting against temptations, because the safety net of forgiveness will save those who have fallen. However many have remained lying in the safety net refusing to fight. It often happens to them that they fall asleep in there and when they sleep they roll off the net and become backsliders. The purpose of the safety net is to give courage for the right actions and not to give courage to live godless life.

Do you want to be as pure as the Son of Man, Jesus Christ is pure? If you are grateful for the grace you got and you love the Giver of Mercy, you want to be like Him. When living here none of us becomes as pure as Jesus, but everybody can make a good progress in this matter. It is worthy of seeking and God has promised it to us. He wants to cause it in us, so rise up and fight!

If we don't want to fight, every temptation is only an annoying moment we are not able to deal with leaving us helpless and embarrassed. Our unwillingness to fight guarantees we are overcome by temptation and fall. The right attitude is the precondition of overcoming. Jesus gives us strength to overcome. Therefore the honor of our every victory goes to Him. However He doesn't give us His victory, if we don't call on Him at the right moment. And we don't resort to Him at a moment of a temptation, if our attitude is wrong.

Many believers have been taught to take the attitude that they will gain a victory over sins without fighting. Therefore they consider strange the situations where temptations to sin rush over them and they have to experience that they don't gain a victory only by resting on grace. They would need acting on grace, but they have been made passive by frightening. Thus they are only confessing their sins and are content with life in filth.

A temptation can arise into your mind impudent as Bible's Goliath. You shake with fear before it and think I cannot gain victory over that. If you have a guilty conscience you have no courage to fight. Confess your sins to Jesus and experience the power of His blood. Although your conscience would be clear you still can live without courage of faith, if you don't continuously watch your thoughts. *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."* 1Co.16:13

Pick up a Jesus-stone from the fountain of living water and sling that thought with the shout of your spirit in the impudent forehead of the tempting thought. When the evil thought staggers and falls hurry to cut off the head of the thought with the sword of God's word.

The previous symbolical text means that you always first turn to Jesus in your thoughts and call on Him. You take His word and

condemn the evil thought with it without caring of the source from which it came into your mind. After that inspect the source from which it came and cut off your connection to the source.

Vaccinated against sin

God wants to make us trial proof. He allows us to be tempted for the same reason people are vaccinated against virus diseases. The weakened virus of a vaccine causes the production of antibodies. When later the none-weakened virus hits those vaccinated are resistant.

A trial is a temptation that is weakened by God. It produces in our mind thoughts and attitudes against sin. When a strong temptation then comes, the tested believer has power of resistance against sin. *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* 1Co.10:13

God never wants anybody to fall. No vaccinator wants any vaccinated to get the disease from the vaccine, does he! *"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."*

Jas.1:13-14

It doesn't increase our love to God, if we commit a lot of sin and then get again forgiveness. Our every defeat hurts Him and it also leaves its mark to us. Instead every victory we gained over a temptation increases our love to Him. *"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* Jas.1:12

Temptations are always overcome in the level of thoughts, because "each one is tempted by his own evil desire." Also the joy of the victory is experienced in the spirit of the person causing good thoughts that crown our life with the glory of God. The victory over our proud thoughts concerning us as God's own, guarantees that we don't allow the glory to come to ourselves, but to Him whom it belongs to.

What is clean and what is unclean?

Jesus Christ is the only clean and holy human being. Everything that is against His attitudes and thoughts is unclean. This should be clear to everybody who claims to be a Christian. Even so it is a different thing to know this matter in theory than to know it in one's heart that endured trials.

What is honorable among men is detestable in God's sight. The heroes of this world are idols. The world is full of worshipping of heroes which teaches to love unclean honor. Everyone who is dreaming of becoming an honorable hero of all people wants to make himself a false god. Proud thoughts are unclean and stink of the smell of death.

Sacrifices given in a war for a government show no love for your relatives. Even hostile thoughts against any person deserve a judgment. Violent thoughts are filthy like an unclean cloth. The heroism of war heroes is a crime against the Gospel of God. The unclean spirits cry in the military graveyard demanding fresh blood on the altar of patriotism.

Fornication is not beautiful but it is shameful dirt! Adultery is not love but ghastly filth! Have not sex even in your thoughts with others than your spouse! Practicing sexual intercourse in your thoughts makes your spirit unclean. Thoughts of fornication and adultery are dirty and they stink of bad, like spoiled food.

A diligence, which is directed to gain worldly riches, is not a virtue. Greedy thoughts are dirty and love for money stinks bad like vomit.

Of course thoughts don't smell to your natural nose, but the nose of your spirit becomes alive in the company of Jesus and you can learn to recognize a thought you heard if it is evil. Learn to recognize the three basic bad smells: pride, greed and selfishness. Sometimes it may be difficult to recognize the real origin of a thought, because the speaker tries to hide the real smell with good smelling words.

It is important you consider bad thoughts dirty, because then you avoid touching them. Your reaction time is shorter than if you consider them only bad but not dirty. This works also in the same way with natural dirt. You have a reflex to avoid touching a dirty

place and, if you touched it by accident you wash your hands immediately. God has given His own this promise: *"Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

2Co.6:17-18

Every man has the ability to consider something unclean or clean. Therefore man is able to consider unclean clean against the matter of facts. When Jesus considers something unclean it really is such. Everybody can test this in practice. Everything Jesus of the Bible speaks works in practice just as He has said. Who has experienced something of His purity knows this.

Your will to become like Jesus is evidence that proves you were born of God. *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."* 1Jo.3:2-3

We, who belong to Jesus, have not yet become perfect, but we press on to take hold of that, because God has called us in Jesus Christ to behave so. His humbleness, obedience and unselfishness smell like the finest fragrant oil. Let's recognize odors of His thoughts. *"Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."* Eph.5:1-2

The Bible version used in references is NKJV

Quarrelling Christians

Christianity has been overwhelmed by the proud attitudes of the society. Therefore many Christians quarrel, although Jesus doesn't. They have wanted to live as the other people. Therefore they have abandoned the humble attitudes of Jesus.

Where do quarrels come from?

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" James 4:1

How is it possible that believers are seized with bad desires? It should not be so, because it is written: *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."*

Gal.5:24

If we believers quarrel it means that something has prevented us from crucifying our sinful nature with its passions and desires.

The desire to be a friend of this world has prevented us from crucifying our pride, greed and selfishness. If we allow the Holy Spirit to put our sinful nature to death, we start to feel outsiders in this world. Many believers waver from side to side. Do you allow your sinful nature to rule you to be able to feel better at home in this world or do you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to the road of the cross to experience life as Jesus did.

Many believers have been filled with a desire to be a friend of the world. Therefore they also behave according to the spirit of the world that is they quarrel.

This whole civilization has been made up of the mankind's rebellion against God. If someone feels at home in this world, it can only mean being an enemy of God. *"Friendship with the world is hatred towards God. Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."* James 4:4 God calls us purposefully to abandon the ambitious attitudes of the world. *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* James 4:6

Quarrelling is ambition with a bad temper

Pride and ambition are an essential part of the behaviour of this world. People get strength to live from things they are proud of.

Because seeking honour makes one a quarreller, a quarrelling believer must have been boasting about something.

People boast either about their wisdom or about their deeds, but a person who is faithful to God receives everything as a gift of God. He doesn't seek his own wisdom, but the will of God. He doesn't trust his own strength, but the help of God.

James rebukes believers for doing plans and ignoring the will of God. *"Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil."* James 4:13-16

It is an evil thing if we boast with our deeds and our plans of the future, because boasting leads our life to the dominion of evilness. *"The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark."* James 3:5

You tend your ambition by self-praise. If it is difficult for you to control your sexual lust, keeping down your ambition is far more difficult for you. Try to take away a source of honour from someone, and the temper of one's lust produces a quarrel. Boasting stimulates your spirit so much that you finally dare together with other boasters to rebel against God. But why would you allow your ambition to blind you and why would you allow your mouth make you an enemy of God? A friend of the world must have ambition, but a friend of God must have humbleness.

The humble never can enter the society of this world. If you don't appear self-confident, you never can win the favour of godless people. A person, who humbly trusts God, is a strange fellow in the eyes of this world. Who lives the life of a humble one doesn't quarrel. Those who seek glory for themselves will cause quarrels wherever they are, also among the people of God.

Quarrels of boasting about men

Paul gives the same reason as James for the origin of quarrels.

"Since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says: 'I follow Paul', and another, 'I follow Apollos', are you not mere men?" 1Cor.3:3-4 Believers should not be like mere men, but like Jesus.

He pleased his Father and not himself. As man He didn't seek his own glory but God's. Nobody can be at the same time a friend of God and a friend of the world. However it is popular to try it. If all believers sought only the glory of God, there would not be quarrels among them.

Truth makes free from boasting! For this freedom Paul said to the Corinthians: *"So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God."* 1Cor.3:21-23

I suppose that everybody likes this boasting: "All things are mine." However it has the condition: "I am of Christ." You can own everything through Jesus, but who does want to put this into practice?

Pride of men misunderstands these words of Jesus: "That all of them may be one." They think this means that all Christians should belong to the same Church. However Jesus speaks here nothing about the unity of the organizations. *"That all of them may be one. Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us."* John 17:21

Jesus speaks about the right mind of His own, which causes them to be one. When some believers have exalted themselves, they are wrong-minded and so break that unity Jesus is speaking about. Orthodoxy is not enough for God, but He expects us to be right-minded.

Some say that God has only one Church in every area and their Church is that only one. This is very much a Pope like statement, because it tries to force all believers under one human church order. This boasting rebels against the unity produced by the Spirit of God.

It is not coming together or agreeing on the doctrine that creates the unity of the Spirit, but righteousness. Ambitiousness is the real reason for this kind of boasting. The church organizations are only servants of the real Church of God. Boasting about them is in vain. Of course, boasting about one's own Church is an important thing for the power seeking church leaders. Leaders after God's heart do

not lord over the congregation. Jesus and the apostles have strictly forbidden it.

Notice how Paul reminds us that believers own each other through Jesus, not through the church. It doesn't give us the ownership of each other if our names are in the same registry of a Christian association. If you are one with God in the Holy Spirit, you are able to rejoice over every brother and sister in Jesus Christ, although you were not sitting together with them in the same meeting. Due to your boastings you are blind to the reality of the Church of Jesus.

Boasting with a gift

The salvation coming from God follows this main principle: "*So that no-one may boast before God.*" 1Cor.1:29 Who has been saved by God's grace lives according to this principle: "*Let him who boasts boast in Lord.*" 1Cor.1:31

If someone intends to remain under God's grace, one has to boast only of God. Everybody must have something to boast about. However, boasting of God may easily change into boasting about one's own faith. Just for this kind of proud faith Paul rebuked the believers of Corinth and said: "*What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*" 1Cor.4:7

Why do we forget having got all as a gift? Our ambition causes this forgetfulness. If we have not allowed the Holy Spirit to put our sinful mind to death, we keep our desire to be accepted among the worldly people, and we also seek glory among other believers.

Believers boast amongst themselves either about their wisdom or about their supernatural experiences. "*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.*" James 3:13-14

It is typical for ambition that it makes a person angry, if he doesn't get his lust satisfied. This anger makes him boast about things that are not true. Ambitious person tears out a reason for boasting from anywhere and finally falls into the trap of his lies. Where is pride

there is quarrel. Where is quarrel there are lies and there is self-deception.

Paul advises the believers who are boasting about their wisdom:
"Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." 1Cor.3:18-19

Faithfulness of an administrator of property

Paul is a good example for us of how to dissociate from the friendship with the world. He exposed to all his incapability, his helplessness, his ignorance and his powerlessness. However virtues, wisdom and power turned up in him - affected by the grace of God.

"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." 2Cor.3:5 Paul forces his sinful nature to speak the truth about himself by saying: "I am nothing." He doesn't reveal here self-pity, but exposes the truth about himself.

"Though I am nothing." 2Cor.12:11 *"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."* 1Cor.3:7 *"To the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ!"* Rom.16:27 *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."* Gal.6:14

Paul didn't cringe, but he confessed the truth. All are talents from God. It is wrong to say this is mine, if the owner is someone else. This was the attitude of Jesus: *"I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me."* John 6:38

Paul says about himself: *"So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* 1Cor.4:1-2 An entrusted servant does business with the property of another person. His faithfulness appears there that he doesn't consider the property in his possession as his own. Nowadays an administrator of a stock portfolio could maybe called an entrusted servant.

When Paul speaks about a believer as a steward or as a treasurer he obviously had in his mind the words of Jesus about this same thing in Matth.25:14-30. There Jesus says He entrusts His property to His believers. When He returns He will settle accounts with us.

God has entrusted His secrets to us. An unfaithful administrator of the property begins to do business with the property entrusted to him as though it would be his own. It is easy to make a mistake and believe that I own the truth. And so - the same applies to the salvation itself. Jesus Christ is the only saved man. When we come to the faith we share His salvation.

You probably wonder what kind of a gift is this which you have not got as your own? You will own it in the resurrection. Now you own it through your resurrection faith. *"You stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid."* Rom.11:20 Because of your boastings you can think: "Once saved is saved forever. Who once received the gift of God is allowed to keep it forever." Those who think in this way have forgotten that Jesus remains in them only if they remain in Jesus. If you break your relationship with Jesus, you lose everything.

As long as we live in this world we are the occupiers of our salvation and not owners - that is we hold one talent (Matth.25:24). If we boast about our talent as if it was our own, we are in danger of losing it. If we hide it, then we also are in danger of losing it. It is only the merit of Jesus that I am saved!

A proud attitude makes a believer think that his salvation would be in his own power. Just for this reason Paul always remembers to say that everything we have, we have "in Jesus Christ". *"In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* Col.1:14

Humbling oneself

Man is able to spoil everything. Our sinful nature is able to pervert also humbleness, because many are boasting about their humbleness. Jesus says: *"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."* Matth.23:12 When you are asked to humble yourself, do you think you are now high and you suppose that you are asked to come down? It is not so, but you

are asked to open your eyes to the truth, that you are down. You have been down all the time!

What is expected from you, when it is said: Give glory to God! Must you give away the glory you deserved and do the noble and humble thing and say: No glory to me. I give it to God. It is not so, but you are asked to notice that you have had no glory at all. How could you give God your glory, when it never came to you?

Is it easy to humble yourself? You only need to confess the facts. Truth makes you free. Who found humbleness through Jesus has no stress when trying to be humble. Living by the grace of God is easy after you notice that it is the only available possibility.

Outside quarrels

Behind all the quarrels there is man's quarrel and rebellion against God. The mankind picks a quarrel with God, but His answer to us is gentle. He suffered silently for us on the cross so that He could give us the reconciliation. In the gospel there is the possibility to solve the quarrel of sin. Most people have rejected the gospel and want to continue their quarrel with God. Thus the mankind is divided against each other for the sake of Jesus.

I can cause quarrelling with my speeches, but I myself need not quarrel though. The gospel of Jesus causes dispute, but I need not quarrel for it. I can take my stand outside quarrelling and not quarrel back. I am as silent as God before the quarrelsome.

If I don't seek honour for myself with the gospel, it is easy for me to leave objections of men between God and them. I am only a runner of God, who brings His message. *"The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful."* 2Tim.2:24

It is more difficult to take my stand outside the quarrels that are inside the churches. If there is an atmosphere filled with boasting about faith in a church, it is difficult to remain right-minded there.

Paul had to experience how believers judged him. However he didn't start to quarrel with them. *"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court, indeed, I do not even judge myself. My*

conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me." 1Cor.4:3-4

Often a quarrel comes from defending oneself. It is not suitable for a believer of Jesus to defend oneself, but to put one's trust in the defence and judgement of God. If a proud one is blamed for something, although his conscience is clear, he cannot be quiet but tries to defend himself. In this way the quarrel continues. Paul said that his clear conscience doesn't guarantee that he cannot be guilty of some things. However he left such things under the judgement of God and so didn't start to prove his innocence.

Paul also rebuked disobedient believers, but he didn't remain quarrelling with them. Instead he urged to leave them in peace, if they didn't repent. *"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us."* 2Thess.3:6

If we leave ourselves and the others under the defence and judgement of God, we can take our stand outside quarrels. *"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's heart. At that time each will receive his praise from God."* 1Cor.4:5

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Words and heart

Jesus has come to save us from the worthless thoughts and futile words of our sinful nature. In Him we get the pure thoughts of a new man and the words which are full of life. Let the new creation speak and let the old one fall silent!

The circle effect of mouth and heart

A spoken word has always an effect also on the sayer, and not only on the listener. We guide our life with our mouth. Words coming out from a heart go back into the same heart, where they came from. Therefore consider what words you allow to come into your mouth.

By our words we build the thoughts of our heart. Our words feed our heart and our deepest thoughts feed our words. It is a self-feeding circle that causes this thing to live in us like by itself.

Choosing your words is a fateful decision. To tell or not to tell the truth also when it is unfavourable to me? The defending speeches of a guilty person cause that the circle effect of the mouth and the heart silences the conscience. A liar believes that his words have an effect only on his listener and he doesn't realize he is poisoning his inmost heart. Pretending words intoxicate the heart of their sayer.

The Pharisees had spoken their hearts into such a state that whatever it happened they couldn't accept Jesus to be the Messiah. When they saw Jesus driving out a demon from a possessed man, they said that *"it is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."* Mt.12:24

They didn't want to accept this good deed as an evidence of the Spirit of God that Jesus is the Messiah. Therefore their words resisted more the Holy Spirit than Jesus. By their words they twisted good into evil and thus they blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered to them: *"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things, out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For*

by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." Mt.12:34-37

What is a careless word? The listeners already knew this: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain." However, now Jesus expands the vain words to concern all words. About all things you must talk truthfully. No words must be misused or pretended.

Have you been trained to speak futile words? Maybe you have even been educated to do so in your work. You must say things according to certain forms, although in your heart you would experience contrary to your words. Your role character can speak fluently about things that touch your heart in no way. Jesus testifies to you that you must give account for these futile words on the day of judgment. Woe to this world of futilities!

Attacks against the truth can be forgiven, but a person who calls good evil and truth lie blasphemies the Spirit of the Truth. Therefore Jesus said: *"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."* Mt.12:32

You cannot be saved, if you resist the words the Holy Spirit spoke to you, because only obedience to His words can give you the faith that saves you. If you have been trained to misuse words in your daily issues, you can easily answer to the reprimand of the Holy Spirit in the same way. So be careful with your words, some day you may say to God something which seals your eternal destiny.

If a lie moves around at a high speed between our mouth and heart, what could stop this endless loop?

Say it in your heart

Preaching to yourself can break the circle effect of mouth and heart. You can resist your heart by saying to yourself the words that are against the lies of your heart. Deny yourself and speak true in your heart. The Truth calls you and says: *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

Mt.16:24

The Gospel of the crucified and up risen Jesus Christ gives us the power to take a stand against ourselves and for God. If you tell the

truth to yourself about your own evilness, then the Truth starts to speak to you about the goodness of God.

God cannot be real for the heart that is dazed with a lie. However sometimes there is a moment of truth in everybody's life when it is possible to start a dialog with God.

When God speaks about Jesus to you, your response to Him determines the future of your relationship. He already takes into consideration what you said to Him in your thoughts. So though you would never pray to God, know, that He has heard all your words.

You, who pray to God and think that He only knows the words you uttered in your prayers, are deceiving yourself. It may happen that He answers to your words which you said at a moment when you thought that you didn't pray and He may leave your pretending prayers without any answer. All our thoughts and words are known to Him.

The Israeli said to each other and to Moses: "Why does the LORD bring us to the desert to die?" Many times they said something like this and God forgave their words, but finally God did for them according to their "faith". *"So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall.'" Nu.14:28-29*

Although the Israeli certainly didn't experience to be speaking to God, however, God heard their words and did to them according to their speech.

Vain prayers

Jesus said that also godless people pray. Often their prayers are empty repetitions. *"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words."* Mt.6:7

Words are empty, if they don't come from the heart of the sayer. They don't mean in their heart, what they say and therefore their prayers are futile. Vain prayers uttered even once are wrong, but repeating such words makes God surely close His ears.

After the previous Bible passage Jesus gives us an example of a prayer, which has a correct content. *"Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ...'"* Mt.6:8-9

Only children of God can pray this prayer where God is called "our Father". A godless one cannot call God his father, because he belongs to his father, the devil. The words, "your Kingdom come", are against the state of his heart. He doesn't wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God, but defends the power of his government until his death. May a godless one call on God so that he would get forgiveness for his sins and would become a child of God.

God wants a relationship with our inmost heart. Our words, which differ from the reality of our heart, prevent us from making contact with Him. It is also impossible to bring two human beings into genuine contact with each other, if they are talking with pretending words. If there is a pretending religious circle effect between our mouth and heart, it must be broken so that our heart could make contact with God. Thus do not repeat to God, "Our Father" in vain, if He is not your Father through Jesus Christ.

An ungodly person should repent of his evilness, so that he could beg for mercy from God. If he who regrets his wickedness, begs for mercy from God through the sacrificial death of Jesus, his prayer is not vain. *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Ro.10:13 Blessed is he who cries for mercy because he is speaking with his heart.

The words of the new heart

God doesn't only forgive us in Jesus, but He gives us a new heart. *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* 2Co.5:17

Let the new creation speak and let the old one fall silent!

When a new creation starts to speak, it is a great experience for a person who came to faith. The Bible says about it as follows: *"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, ... That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your*

heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Ro.10:8-10

When Jesus comes into your heart, at the same time you will get the assurance that He lives. The new creation says: "Jesus is my Lord and my God!" Boasting about the name of God is "the first voice" of the new born baby of God. The heavenly Father is happy about this voice of life.

The old creation boasts about the things that are destroyed by the cross of Jesus. God has planned the salvation, "*so that no-one may boast before Him.*" 1Co.1:29

The new creation boasts about the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is all in all for the new creation, "*therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'*" 1Co.1:31

Silencing the old creation and allowing the new one to speak depends on our own decisions. Many have lost their way when they have depreciated the importance of their spoken words. They have correctly emphasized the importance of the faith of heart, but at the same time they have forgotten that their words have an effect on their heart. The utterances of the old creation choke the new creation, but the utterances of the new creation put to death the old creation.

Censored ego

The Apostles give us examples of how to silence our old self. "*Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.*" Joh.20:8 John calls himself "the other disciple", although he could have said "I".

When John tells he wrote the gospel, he has again censored his self and expresses the matter as follows: "*This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.*" Joh.21:24

Must I really put boasting away so completely? Yes, it is good to believe, that John knew how even a little leaven spreads easily. Also Paul replaced "I" with the expression "I know a man", when he told

about his great experience. *"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven."* 2Co.12:2

Paul says that many believers of his time boasted according to their sinful nature. He urged them to put off such utterances of the old self. *"In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast."* 2Co.11:17-18

Paul had to give an example of the worldly boasting, so that they would understand where they were doing wrong. How then did Paul boast? It was like a typical sermon or a testimony from a present-day church. Sadly, also they don't realize how wrong they are doing.

"Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again." 2Co.11:22-27

For the sake of the faith of your heart guard the words of your mouth. Jacob, the apostle, testifies to this matter: *"Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."* Jas.3:5-6

Though sinful thoughts rise to your mind, put them to death immediately and don't allow them to have an effect on your speaking. Do not boast about yourself even in your thoughts. Without the help of the Spirit of God you don't manage to do this, but He loves to give you the grace to walk in the Spirit according to His mind.

Putting off and on

Paul says that *"you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your*

minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Eph.4:17,21-24

So carry out these three things: Put off your old self, be made new in your attitudes and put on your new self. What does it mean to put off the old self in practice: *"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."* Eph.4:25,29,31

Whomsoever we speak to, everything what we say, must please the Holy Spirit. Don't forget that He is always present and He hears what you say. If our words made Him sad, then also our new creation gets depressed. If the new creation is weak, then the old one is strong and makes us behave fleshly.

When we put off fleshly words and deeds, it makes the Holy Spirit glad. Then also the new creation revives and our mind is made new. We get new thoughts from God and so we bear fruit for God. If our thoughts are not renewed according to the mind of Jesus, we cannot put on our new self.

Though we already put off our old self and experienced the life of the new creation, we can again be polluted by the words of our sinful nature. Like breeds like, and especially this is true concerning utterances. If we are involved in worldly exchange of words, we experience the reprimand of the Spirit of God in our inmost heart. Then we should immediately repent of our words and ask forgiveness from God. If we harden our heart and don't react to the reprimand of God, our words remain to defile our heart.

Fleshly Christianity

In the early days those who belong to Jesus were boasting more about Christ than about themselves, hence they were started to be called Christians. Later on they have boasted much about pope, saints, biblicalness, baptism, Pentecost and spiritual gifts, and hence have been named according to their boasting. Thus already what we are called can be an evidence against us.

Many believers boast about the biblicalness of their church. It is fleshly boasting that leads to quarrels and destroys the assembling congregation. The meetings that are full of fleshly boasting are dangerous places for the children of God, because fleshly mind is spreading in a group as a souring agent in a dough.

Though fleshly Christians have quarrels they also experience unity with each other. When they again find a common subject of boasting that pleases their old self, they settle their quarrels. In this way all roads of fleshly Christianity lead to Rome.

Woe to those believers who have a liking for the thoughts of the old self! They refuse to adopt the mind of Jesus although they say that they keep their faith in Him. Sooner or later this causes them to violate the word of God. Because they don't live the life of the new self, they distort the words of Jesus pleasing to the old self. In this way they throw truth to the ground and trample Jesus under their foot.

Woe to them who have lost the truth and have changed the grace of God into a licence for immorality! He who has lost the truth says that he does right when he is doing wrong. That utterance insults the Spirit of grace. Such a blasphemer doesn't fall in sin, because he fails to resist a temptation, but he does it deliberately. *"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left."* Hebr.10:26

However not all our protests against the Holy Spirit have so serious consequences. It is obvious that almost every believer has lost some part of his eternal reward that he could gain by grace, because he resisted something which God proposed to him. It is true that also these are losses whose effect reaches eternity. First of all be careful that you don't resist what is right and what is wrong.

Woe to those Christian leaders who depend on flesh for their strength and wisdom. There are blasphemers among them! If the leaders of an assembling congregation have insulted the Holy Spirit, those who belong to Jesus had better leave such a place. *"Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure!"* Isa.52:11

The Way of the right-minded Christians leads to the heavenly Jerusalem. Though the congregation would outwardly be poorly organized and scattered, this cannot prevent Jesus from controlling those who walk in the Spirit of God.

Grace of saying

Man of God can speak words that come from the heart of God. Thus he is not speaking out of the overflow of his heart, because he doesn't speak the words of his own heart. This kind of speaking is a prophecy in the name of God and it is a spiritual gift.

Often the Holy Spirit speaks through a prophecy the same thing that He has earlier spoken directly to a person. For example He tells that He became sad because of something that the person has said. Therefore the believer who is sensitive to obeying the Holy Spirit doesn't need prophecies.

So Paul says that a prophecy is needed, if there are persons present who are not able or don't want to listen to the speech of the Holy Spirit. *"If an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare."* 1Co.14:24-25

God can cause the new creation to speak things of which the old one understands nothing of. That speaking is called the gift of speaking in tongues. He who speaks in tongues edifies himself in the same way if he spoke to God with the language that he understands. The difference is only there that they are secrets between the new creation and God. *"Anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no-one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit."* 1Co.14:2

Speaking in a tongue refreshes our new creation and gives it power, although we don't understand what we say. However the secrets spoken can be revealed, if someone has the gift of interpretation of the tongue. *"Anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says."* 1Co.14:13 The interpretation is not a direct translation of the spoken words, but it tells the content of the message of the Holy Spirit.

A word we heard from the mouth of God creates something new in our heart. It is no wonder because the whole world exists from the power of the word of God. Therefore also our own words have more meaning than we understand. May God give you words which change your heart to produce good words.

The Bible version used in references is NIV

Right-minded life

Right attitudes produce good and wrong attitudes bad deeds. Therefore aim at good thoughts and attitudes rather than good deeds. The repentance from a wrong-minded to a right-minded is a miracle of God! God is upright. You can adopt His mind in Jesus Christ.

Glory

Many resist killing, but don't fight against pride, although proud mind produces violence. Deeds of the lust of glory are obvious and they are: arrogance, rudeness, impudence, violence, lies, intrigues, parties, honorary titles, badges of honour, nationalism, terrorism, wars and the like. Proud thoughts are wrong!

Seeing the glory of God makes one humble. Worshipping God nourishes your spirit better than joy of your own honour. I wish you could genuinely praise God! Then the humble attitude could overwhelm your mind.

Ownership

Many resist stealing, but are not against greed, although greedy mind causes stealing. Deeds of the lust of property are obvious and they are: enviousness, frauds, stealing, flattery, workaholic life, stinginess, stress, contamination of nature, slavery and the like. Greedy thoughts are wrong!

Receiving the gift of God makes one grateful. Trust in God gives your soul greater safety than your property. I wish you could with all your heart be grateful to God! Then the God dependent and generous attitude would overwhelm your mind and you could put your trust in God's maintenance.

Enjoyment

Many resist drugs, but however don't oppose selfishness, although selfish mind leads to perverse phenomena. Deeds of the lust of enjoyment are obvious and they are masturbation, sexual intercourse outside marriage, paedophilia, adulteries, debauchery, homosexuality and lesbianism, drunkenness, alcoholism, overeating, drugs and the like. Selfish thoughts are wrong!

Receiving the atoning sacrifice of God makes one patient. The experience of God's grace gives you greater and longer lasting joy than a sin. I wish you could love God with all your heart! Then patient and unselfish attitude would overwhelm your mind.

Struggle against injustice

There are two front lines in the struggle against injustice. Mind is the real front line and deeds are the back front. If your mind were filled with injustice, yet you can try to resist sin by avoiding bad deeds. However the only real possibility to live without sinning is to reach the right mind and keep it.

Your wrong thoughts drive you to bad deeds, although you know that it is wrong what you are doing. Knowledge of good and evil doesn't help to win a temptation, because the bad lust living in your heart will win the knowledge.

Jesus had been tempted in every way, just as we are, but He was never forced to retreat to the back front. His mind was tempted to adopt wrong attitudes just as we are, but He maintained always the right attitudes. When He was tempted to become proud, He exclaims to His Father in anguish: "*Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour!'*" John.12:27 Jesus got strength of mind and so will you also, if you want to be right-minded.

If you have received the atonement work of Jesus, you have experienced God's grace. This experience creates in you the will to live without sin. God forgave you your sins and therefore you are grateful to Him. The attitude of fighting against sin appears in you and you want in everything to live according to God's will.

If you surrender yourself to sin without a battle, your mind is not compatible with the gospel. The attitude, that wants to continue in sin and in the same time to own God's grace, comes from blaspheming thoughts. "*If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.*" Heb.10:26 Sin is an enemy of God. If you make peace with an enemy of God, you yourself become an enemy of God.

God's mind

All the thoughts of God are right. He has expressed His attitudes to us in Jesus Christ. Who has attitudes like He has! Nobody is like Him! He gave His one and only Son to suffer for His enemies. If you see the Son of God in Jesus, your spirit is nourished with the glory of God. If you are obedient to Jesus in everything, you will experience perfect maintenance of God. If you came to the faith, you shared the Spirit of God. He will guide you to adopt the right mind.

Jesus commanded His apostles: *"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."* Matth.28:20 They carry out this command of Jesus with the letters of the New Testament.

The law of Christ is written on the minds of His own. A follower of Jesus doesn't obey the collection of negative and positive commandments but his right deeds come from his right attitudes. A believer must have the mind of Jesus Christ. God already promised this to the prophets of the Old Testament: *"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord, I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."* Hebr.10:16

Putting to death your wrong mind

Jesus calls you: *"Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me."* Matth.10:38, Mark.8:34 Denying yourself means that you give up your natural pride, greed and selfishness. Taking up your cross means that you give up everything which prevents you from obeying Jesus. Following Him means that God's mind produces His deeds in you.

Paul, the apostle says: *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."* Gal.5:24 This sentence expresses the same thing as the words of Jesus when He speaks about "denying yourself". Paul emphasises the importance of guarding your mind by saying: *"Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds."* Eph.4:22-23

Jesus was tempted to lose His right mind. In Gethsemane His sweat was like drops of blood when opposing the change of His mind from right-minded to wrong-minded. Then He said to His disciples:

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Matth.26:41 So watch yourself! Guard your attitudes!

Man's sinful nature is described in the Bible with the trinity: *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life."* 1John 2:16 Human culture consists of these three things. These three are the same as selfishness, greed and pride. These three wrong attitudes are described in the Bible as the one concept of "the body of sin". Although they are three, they are one and the same "old self". *"For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."* Rom.6:6

Although you would not be overwhelmed by pride and you are not a pleasure-lover but you are greedy, your greed causes pride and selfishness in you. Although you would not be greedy but you desire to get glory, your lust of glory inspires also selfishness and greed in you. The entire wrong mind must be put to death so that you could have a right-minded life. *"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."* Rom.8:13-14

By the gospel we can share the Spirit of God. Obedience to the Holy Spirit puts to death our wrong mind and we get the mind of Jesus instead of it. *"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."* Rom.8:5

Every believer has a different cross, because our different circumstances of life define the things that we are allowed to give up for Jesus. . Therefore Jesus says: *"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."* Matth.10:37

Have you taken your cross that the Holy Spirit offered to you? Paul, the apostle had been led by the Holy Spirit and he said about it: *"For His sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."* Phil.3:8

Humbleness of your spirit

The kernel of the world of your ideas expresses the activity of your spirit. When you are honoured you experience satisfaction in your heart. You think that this is I want to experience more. You adopt the desire to be something great. You start dreaming of gold and glory. If you will be put to shame, the lust of glory causes a depression in you. Then you can get help from entertainment industry that offers you heroes to whom you can identify yourself with. You can nourish that hunger of your proud spirit by being something great in your imagination, although you are not great in reality.

Glory is a drug that makes your spirit addicted to it. Jesus says to the proud: *"How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God."* John.5:44 Does God accept you? What does God say about you? You must refuse praises coming from man, so that your spirit could be nourished by the words of God that He says about you when accepting you as His own. God honours you, if you receive His testimony about Jesus. He accepts you as His own, if you confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

If you make efforts to obtain the acceptance of God, Jesus is the answer. Shame not glory belongs to you, because you have sinned. Jesus suffered your shame on the cross, so that God could accept you. Look at the suffering and the shame of the Son of God for your sake. Approach God through the sacrifice of Jesus and your spirit will be satisfied. Before you were satisfied by praises of men, but now God's grace revives your heart. Is God's grace sufficient for you?

Humbleness doesn't stay in you, if you forget to watch the honour and the glory of God. Therefore worship God all the time and praise Him in Jesus Christ, so that your spirit could get strength of mind for humbleness.

Living in ambitious dreams alienates the dreamer from the reality. Stay away from all fantasies, if you want to see the glory of God. How could you get visions from God, if the daydreams of your heart are running without limits! So whatever is true think about

such things. Imagination is a planning tool, not an instrument of mental indulgence. Adopt the attitude of truthfulness in everything you think.

Gratitude of your soul

How you experience the world surrounding you expresses the activity of your soul. Your soul wants to see many beautiful objects, to hear wise thoughts and to feel sweet feelings. Your eyes never have enough of seeing, nor your ears their fill of hearing, nor does your sense of feeling become torpid to good atmosphere. Greed blinds you to truth. It makes you mishear. It can overwhelm you with absurd feelings.

Sensuality is a narcotic and makes your soul addicted to it. Jesus says to the greedy: *"I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."* Matth.19:23 Do you own something imperishable? Do you want to see the face of God?

If you seek imperishable richness, Jesus is the answer. Your earthly richness lets you down, but God offers you in Jesus the eternal fortune that is imperishable. Behold, God offers you eternal life as a gift in Jesus Christ. Be ready to give up everything for the sake of Jesus. Consider Him most important and your soul will be nourished with His riches.

Gratitude doesn't stay in you, if you forget what good God has done for you. Therefore watch everything good that you have as a gift from God.

Train yourself to look at everything from the viewpoint of God. Through the faith fix your eyes on unseen reality. Be trained to own things not by eyes but by the faith that God affects in you. Adopt the attitude of faith concerning ownership.

Unselfishness of your body

Your body is the tent that connects you to this world. Through it you express your thoughts and feelings, but the needs of your body also control your soul and even the thoughts of your spirit. Because God has cursed the nature due to the Fall you have fears concerning the needs of your body. You worry whether your body

gets what it needs. This fear leads easily to selfish actions. Mistrust and rebellion against God change the necessary desires to bad lusts.

Enjoyments of the body are drugs that make your spirit addicted to them. Jesus says to the lustful: *"If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."* Math.5:29-30 Do you know the real needs of your body? Are you only afraid of hunger and thirst but cannot be afraid of the fire of hell? Do you want a new immortal body, where you never die?

If you seek the welfare of your body, Jesus is the answer. Living for the lusts of your body leads you to eternal suffering, but life in Jesus Christ gives you one day a new tent that connects you the world of God. So be ready to die together with Jesus and you will experience also the resurrection in Him.

Unselfishness doesn't stay in you, if you have a different attitude to your body than Jesus had. Trust in the maintenance of God and He will meet all your needs.

Don't think too much of your own convenience, but take voluntarily pains to benefit of others. Put into death your murmuring and grumbling and make yourself a servant of everybody. Adopt a serving attitude for all trouble and everything you do.

Adopting the right mind

Do you want to adopt the mind and attitudes of Jesus? You cannot follow Jesus, if you have not come to faith first. Forgiveness of your sins and peace with God is the foundation, from which you can pursue the right mind. The first renewal of your mind is the experience where you change your mind according to the Gospel. God is good; you are bad; Jesus is the Son of God, died on the cross for your sins, rose up from the dead and sits now on the Throne of God. Has your mind become one with this message? If it has, then you are able to adopt the mind of Jesus and get forward on the road of God.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus advises us to right-minded life. The apostles teach the same things in their letters. However the Holy Spirit leads everyone individually to experience the death of one's wrong mind. Only He can give the new spirit to our mind.

Jesus said that everyone must take one's own cross. This means that every believer has different experiences. We are allowed to give up different things for the sake of Jesus. Different kinds of things crucify our sinful nature according to what the Holy Spirit sees best for us. Agree with the treatment God wants to do for you. He will do it well. You will be as right-minded as Jesus.

The Bible version used in references is NIV

You tasted something good and you wanted to get more of it. What you wanted once you almost always want forever. If you tasted something to be good although it is bad, you started to want what is bad. How could you get rid of it?

Evil thoughts are learnt. A baby gets a pure mind as a birth present. When growing a child abandons the thoughts given by God and learns wickedness, which overwhelms one's mind. The mind of an adult is like a wall filled with evil writings and pictures. Jesus Christ calls you to adopt a childlike mind, for He has the power to wash clean your mind. He presents you with new attitudes and thoughts.

Training of attitudes is more important than training of manners. Behaviour that is not based on attitudes is pretence. Parents who teach their children to learn only manners but not right attitudes are training pretenders. Schools, which only give knowledge without training of attitudes, educate only formally qualified people. Congregations which teach only knowledge of the Bible but not the attitudes of Jesus are training their members to be pretenders. Hypocrisy is an essential feature all through societies.

What does it mean to be worldly-minded? Do you want to live with a worldly or a godly mind? Why does somebody want to be godly? How do you get godly thoughts? Or do you rather want to be worldly-minded?

Jesus Christ is the true hero, because He has experienced all the human temptations and has overcome them. In Him there is proven purity of which also you can be a partaker.

Christianity has been overwhelmed by the proud attitudes of the society. Therefore many Christians quarrel, although Jesus doesn't. They have wanted to live as the other people. Therefore they have abandoned the humble attitudes of Jesus.

Jesus has come to save us from the worthless thoughts and futile words of our sinful nature. In Him we get the pure thoughts of a new man and the words which are full of life. Let the new creation speak and let the old one fall silent!

Right attitudes produce good and wrong attitudes bad deeds. Therefore aim at good thoughts and attitudes rather than good deeds. The repentance from a wrong-minded to a right-minded is a miracle of God! God is upright. You can adopt His mind in Jesus Christ.