

# To Love the Lord Thy God - Spiritually, part 5 quotes

## 1 How does the cleansing process of our inner self or spirit begin?

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness...Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalms 51:6-12.

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleannesses”. Ezekiel 36:25-29.

## 2 Is there anything you have to do in this co-partnership with God in the cleansing of all your emotions, conscience, motives and purposes for living which make up your soul?

“Therefore I will judge you...every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die...? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.” Ezekiel 18:30-32.

It is not just God who is doing all this cleansing work in our soul. But we ourselves have a very important work to do in harmony and in unison with Him!

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him (Jesus), that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin....Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you...

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness....for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness....For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Romans 6:6-7, 11-14, 16-22.

**3** “For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins...did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered...we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter...For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:5-6, 22-25.

Since God has delivered us from sin, and has placed within us a new spirit, then we are to actively work in keeping our fleshly urges and motions of sin under the control of our mind, so that they will not control us.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness....For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:1-10, 13-14.

We are not just to sit back and relax in our new found conversion, but we are to actively walk and live in harmony with the leading of the Holy Spirit, and to no longer live in harmony with the desires of our sinful flesh.

**4** God created every human being with emotions. These emotions include calmness or its opposite emotion anger; love or hate; passion or detachment; contentment or envy; trusting or jealous; kindness or hurtfulness; happiness or sadness; courage or timidity; pitious or cruel; humble or proud; bold or cautious; patient or impatient; relaxed or nervous; hopeful or despairing; respectful or disrespectful; etc. Each of us will have emotions ranging from the more noble ones — such as love, trust, kindness and courage, to the least noble — such as hatred, envy, hurtfulness and pride. And whatever emotions we have will vary in strength and intensity.

Once this cleansing process begins in you with a new spirit from God, then you must actively work in cultivating and strengthening the best and most noble of your emotions, while avoiding the less noble. But even these less noble emotions within you have their purpose at times in your life.

The emotion of hatred is not always wrong for a Christian to indulge in:

“Ye that love the LORD, hate evil”. Psalms 97:10.

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.” Proverbs 8:13.

“Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant”. Amos 5:15.

Also, the emotion of disrespect is not always wrong for a Christian to indulge in:

“And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.” Genesis 4:4-5.

“Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” Psalms 40:4.

But even the more noble emotions can be wrong at times to indulge in. This is because some followers of God received His rebuke when they chose to “hate the good, and love the evil” (Amos 3:2). This means that even the most noble of our emotions can become twisted and indulged in improperly if we are not careful.

**5** If we instead allow our soul through its emotions to control us, then there will be no stability in our life.

“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.” Proverbs 25:28.

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:8.