

Overcoming "The Self"

God brought Israel out of Egypt in order that they might be at one with Him. He enables this nation the ability to accept a specific calling of being leaders by their Creator rather than followers of man. They were participants in the call to be **like God**, conforming to His righteous instructions for living thus opposing a life dedicated to **self**. They would become His instrument to the Gentile nations around them in displaying His righteousness. Yet history tells us after forty years in the wilderness this generation called to follow His instructions had limited success. Why? Because the generations that left Egypt were not able to shift from its slave paradigm in order to see the world through God's eyes as a giver.

A slave is one that serves at the cost of bondage, not of free will. A slave is one that resents being caged or imprisoned, and whose primary function is to serve others without freedom of choice. Yet that is not what Yah called us to be. He called us to be free from the world and from self. We that are called, have His power, His Holy Spirit available to us, giving us the ability to overcome.

In overcoming the world, one achieves a physical success. As one changes from being a follower of error to one who promotes truth, overcoming is achieved. This is done outwardly and results in overcoming the world's idea of truth. Whether it is of religion, national doctrine and or family traditions, it's all external to the self. As one change's from following the traditional pagan holidays like Christmas, Easter, etc. and begins to celebrate Yah's sanctified Holydays that our Creator set down for us, showing His "**Plan of Salvation**" one begins to overcome the world physically. Biblical Holy Days are recorded in the Book of Leviticus Chapter 23. When we refrain from following the immoral life as promoted by the world, we begin to follow the true moral direction according to Yah's law; the direction of one true purpose of life.

When it comes to overcoming, there are many aids to help achieve success. There are many books and video's to aid and teach one "**how to**" accomplish the walk of success. The first step in that walk is to address the cause of the problem head on. Example; I can overcome a weight problem with proper eating habits and exercise. One needs to physically apply a better response and control by eliminating the self-desire to satisfy the craving for unhealthy food. The desire, craving to satisfy the inner self is met with an equal if not greater response to obtain a better self. Until that desire to squelch "**The Self**" is achieved, no success is possible. One must have a stronger desire to be healthier than to be physically satisfied in order to be successful.

Again, the desire for whatever one wants to overcome must be met with an equal or greater desire to conquer "**The Self**." This principle stands true for any desire, want, craving, yearning or need. The person's character, referring to the will of **Me**, **Myself** and **I**, must be subdued in order to enforce a greater desire in conquering "**The Self**."

"**The Self**" is the individual person as the object of his or her own reflective consciousness. Its appearance seen by one's actions seeks to describe essential qualities that constitute a person's uniqueness or essential being. "**The Self**" can be considered that source of inspiration; the agent responsible for an individual's thoughts and actions; and or the extensive nature of a person which endures and unifies mindfulness over time. "**The Self**" is often seen as a self absorbing entity that thinks of no other. Its purpose of being self-satisfied is centered on the pursuit of **...one**. Human beings are the only creatures in the universe having a reflective self; that is, they are able to look back on themselves as both subjects and objects. They are able to discern their past actions according to its harvest. Ultimately, this ability brings questions about who we are, the nature of our own importance, and as our being made in the image of Yah.

As we are called to repent and to conform to the image of our Creator, "**The Self**" must take on a different roll, no longer being the dominating force in our lives controlling our thoughts and actions. We, as new

born creatures must now transform our nature into a Christ like entity. David shows us this quality as noted in the Psalms.

Ps 40:8 I delight to do **thy will**, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Ps 143:10 Teach me to do **thy will**; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

*David speaks of the **will of Yah** as the dominating force in his life and asks for Yah's instruction according to **His will**. David is called a man after Yah's own heart, because his desires in pleasing Yah are; at the cost of "self." At some point David declares submission of **self** to conform to the greater will of Yah. Weighing the advantages of serving the living God verses the momentary thoughts and desires of "**The Self**", David learns that Yah's will allows him to succeed much further than he could imagine. Through this learning there were times of despair, only because David was not willing to submit fully. As his life unfolds before us, as revealed in scripture, we see the submission process working as "**The Self**" is quenched and extinguished, creating a powerful useful servant.*

Ac 13: 17~24 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will**. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Yahshua: When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

*David's life was shaped by following the character of his God. Using the Lord as his example, David learned how to submit himself for the good of others, with the ability to serve Yah as he served the nation of Israel as their King. This is the same attribute Yahshua had shown in His walk among men on earth; the desire of submitting, overcoming "**The Self**" in order to serve the will of the Father.*

Mt 26: 36~46 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt**. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **thy will be done**. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

*The success of these witnesses which went before us, demonstrates how one succeeds in this life, to become Christ like, and that is by overcoming "**The Self**."*

In 5:30 I can of mine **own self** do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will**, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Yahshua speaks not of His "Self Will" but the will of The Father. He is relinquished from judging, discerning right from wrong as He executes according to the will of the Father. One is freed from the responsibility of judging the law as one executes according to its word. That responsibility lies on Our Creator, the giver of the law. We are called to submit to its word as one following in the likeness of Christ.

Ps 14:12 There is a way **which seemeth right** unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Jas 4:7 **Submit yourselves** therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

From the beginning as one answers the calling to walk this walk with Yahshua, we have been taught this principle of relinquishing "self" to do the Father's will here and now on earth as we wait as servants for His return.

Lu 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done**, as in heaven, so in earth.

The submission process starts with the overpowering of "The Self" leading us into sacrificing of one's will to serve the will of another. As a physical sacrifice is given to overcome a sin so a spiritual sacrifice must also be given to overcome "The Self Will" in order to be acceptable to Yah. Once again Yahshua shows us the perfect way.

Heb 10:1~10 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) **to do thy will, O God**. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come **to do thy will, O God**. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The instructions through The Word are filled with warnings; "Take up your cross," "Lean not on your own understanding," "Trust in the Lord in all your ways," "Be holy," all in the mastering and control of "The Self."

The person's character, referring to the will of Me, Myself and I, must be subdued with a greater desire in overcoming "The Self." The desire to serve Yah and to become as Christ, in His image, must be the goal and of the utmost importance if "Self" is to take a back seat to one's calling. It is only when a greater more powerful desire is present, does one submit to its authority.

*Thoughtlessness must be changed into thoughtfulness, getting into giving; the act of being served must be transformed into a desire to serve. The focus on me, myself and I must be altered into one of outgoing concern for others. Loneliness changing into love, the experience of selfishness being exposed, viewed by the mirror of reality. The desire for attention verses creating a cherished moment for another. Notice one most important fact; **in every situation "you" were there**. You always have the opportunity to make a*

lasting moment or a regretful action. A truly good day is felt; not when all goes well with me, but when I have made someone else's day go well, for then a blessing has occurred in my life.

*One needs exercise to strengthen our ability of **submitting** in order to become master over the destructive force within us called "**The Self**". The law shows the way of truth in overcoming "**The Self**." As one applies the law in their lives, one learns to master "**The Self**." In refusing to submit, a constant battle erupts between choosing the application of the law and mastering "**The Self**" verses satisfying **Me, Myself and I**.*

Ps 51:1~19 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, **thou desirest truth in the inward parts**: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know **wisdom** (*the application of knowledge and understanding*). 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; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 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. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the **sacrifices of righteousness**, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

*We started by stating that one must shift from one's slave paradigm of serving "**The Self**" in order to see the world through God's eyes as a **giver**. A slave is one that serves at the cost of bondage, not of free will, a slave to **Me, Myself and I**. A slave is one that resents serving others freely against their own will. Yet that is not what Yah called us to be. He called us to be free from the world and from self. We that are called, have been given His power, His Holy Spirit availing us the ability to overcome "**The Self**" if we choose to fight.*

The act of being Christ like is first a matter of controlling one's self to pursue the will of the Father. Proof that you can control yourself shows forth that you are a wise man; without this, all other education is good for nothing. Those who desire to transform the world must be able to first transform themselves.

*It is by the presence of mind in untried crisis that "**The Self**" of a man is tested.*

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