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WHY DIE TO SELF?

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. (Romans 7:18-20 NIV)

ILLUSTRATION: *This is the story of a house where it is said witchcraft, sorcery, drugs, alcohol, prostitution, pornography, lies, bitterness, lack of forgiveness, etc. was felt. This house was full of it, but a man from Eagles CFC came and preached to them, and they took and threw everything out. The home was prayed for and the devil had to leave. Over time, the devil was circling around the house and saw it empty, clean and organized. The devil insisted on returning to the house, since he felt that it belonged to him, and insisted on the owner opening the door to him. The owner told his pastor that the devil was bothering him and knocking on the door. The man that he went out and told the devil that there was nothing there and to leave, but the devil responded, “Look, you took the picture frames out of that room, but if you look closely, there is a small nail in there and that nail is mine.” That nail represents a part of the “self” that we sometimes carry in our hearts and don’t want to surrender to God.*

INTRODUCTION: The Bible calls “self” the “old man”, the “sinful nature”, the body of sin, they call it “the flesh”, etc. The main problem isn’t liberating people. What’s difficult is keeping them free. It’s not taking them out of the world but taking the world out of their heads. People want miracles, they want glory and power, but they are not willing to leave their old way of living. They want the benefits of believing in God, but they don’t want to pay the price of dying to self. They want to continue living as the “old man.” Why do some marriages who once loved each other very

much now fight constantly because of their differences? Because they neglected dying to self. Why have so many people left church offended? Because they didn’t want to die to self. If we want to remain free and continue fulfilling the purpose of God, we need to die to “self.”

1. WHY DIE TO SELF? (Ephesians 4:22 NIV)

- People always want all of God’s benefits, but they don’t like to die to self. They want to continue sinning. God heals them and they get sick again, God frees them, and they get bound again.
- The spiritual realm is not a myth, it’s a reality. There is a battle in the spiritual world, and it is activated by our obedience or disobedience. It’s activated for bad by our disobedience.
- So, something worse doesn’t come to you. The Lord Jesus told the paralytic that He healed: (John 5:14 NIV) “Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.””

2. THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT THE HOUSE IS CLEAN, BUT THAT IT’S EMPTY.

(Matthew 12:43-45)

The believer that has not died to “self” has an empty area. This is an area that he has not surrendered to God or is empty because the Lord has not been there. Every area that has not been surrendered to God is eligible for the devil to reign there.

If someone had a spirit of alcoholism or drug addiction before, and it comes back and finds the house empty, it will bring 7 other spirits with it: spirits of suicide, death, depression, sadness, etc.

- Every area that you surrender to the Lord and where He reigns, the devil cannot take it because the King is Jesus and the devil cannot get in. Example: if you don't surrender the area of finances to God, the devil has a legal right to get into your finances.
- Some people have cleaned their house and the evil spirits have left. They have started coming to church, but they play with church, they play with God, with his Word, and pretend to be Christian when they really aren't. God has started a work in them, but the area of “self” has not been surrendered and that is where things get dangerous.

3. WHAT NAILS DO YOU NEED TO TAKE OUT?

- Sometimes we go to church, but there is a part in our heart that is still hurt, that we haven't surrendered. Some have problems with rage, ego, pride, etc. Nevertheless, the devil returns and doesn't leave them alone. Some have a small “self” and others have a medium “self,” while others have a huge ego. There are some that are very egocentric, and everything revolves around them. Everything is “me” and “me.”
- The devil is knocking on the door, but when we decide to surrender every area completely to the Lord, those nails will be taken out of our house, lives, etc. The nail of pride, rage, and ego will be gone and then the devil will not have a place to go. He won't have any legal right in your home because you have said:

“Lord, it's not about me, its about you reigning in my home, so we all die to self and bow before you. We take every nail out and say that you are King.” Then, even if the devil comes and says he will take away your happiness and finances, you will say, “Lord, my finances are surrendered to you and the devil has no legal right because my house is yours. I serve you; I have a HOP, my house is yours and your presence dwells here.” When a family is surrendered to God, the devil cannot get in.

CONCLUSION: *Christ is only Lord of the areas we surrender to Him. Let's make sure that we have no nail remaining in our homes so that the enemy doesn't have any right in our lives. Let's choose to die to self. The first thing you need to do is give your life to Christ.*

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Is your house full or empty?

What area of your life do you need to surrender to God?

What small nails do you need to remove from your life?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Ask God in prayer to show you all what area you haven't surrendered to Him and choose to do it today.
- If you have battled with the area of pride, die to “self” and ask for forgiveness and forgive as well.

HOW TO OVERCOME EGOISM?

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (Romans 7:24 NLT)

ILLUSTRATION: *If there is a place where we can truly prove whether or not we've died to self, it is in marriage. If there is a place where we truly practice the Bible or not, it is in the home and the house of God.*

INTRODUCTION: *Nowadays, sacrifice is not taught in many churches. Commitment is not spoken of, dying to self is not taught about, and teachings are based on what people want to hear, what they are comfortable with and if something offends anyone, we cannot preach it. A gospel is taught that teaches that we shouldn't lose anything and receive all of God's power and miracles without losing anything. In many churches, a gospel is taught that consists of tolerance, casual gospel, mediocre gospel, a gospel that does not demand changes in people's lives. What happens when no one offers anything to God? People become egotistical and always wants to sin more and purify themselves less. The result of this egotistical self is that when there is no death to self, the church can lose its supernatural power.*

1. EGOISM.

- The term "egoism", according to the dictionary, is excessive and immoderate love that someone feels for oneself and causes them to excessively tend to their own needs. Therefore, an egotistical person does

not interest themselves in the benefit of their neighbor and bases all of their acts on their own convenience.

Everyone has egoism, even Jesus' disciples had it, but every time egoism manifested in them, Jesus would lead them to die to self, teaching them through His word and He also wants us to die to self. (*Philippians 2:3*)

2. THE DISCIPLES WERE EGOTISTICAL AMONGST THEMSELVES. (Mark 9:33-35)

- It is not bad to be first, it is not bad to be the owner of your own business, it is not bad to be the best student at school, and it is not bad to stop working in a casino to open your own business. But whoever wants to be first: Must die to self by serving others. When fights arise in a marriage, instead of pointing fingers at each other, you must die to self.
- Jesus knew their hearts. When they would start fighting along the way, Jesus knew what they were arguing about, but he led them to die to themselves. Everyone needs to die to self. (*Matthew 18:3-4*)

3. THEY WERE EGOTISTICAL WITH OTHER GROUPS (*Luke 9:49-50*)

- Jesus' disciples were egotistical even though they walked with Jesus Himself. They could touch Him, hug Him, they slept in the same place as Him, John even laid his head on Jesus' chest, they were all very close to Him. But every opportunity He had and saw ego in them, He led them to die to self. You would think that these

men were holy and perfect, but they were egotistical. Imagine us!

- These disciples were angry because they saw others doing miracles and casting out demons and they said – But this person is not from our group, so we should prohibit them. The problem was their ego, because they were not willing to die to self, their ego was not willing to so others do the same thing they did. These disciples were not interested in expanding the Kingdom of God, they were interested in their ego. The disciples did not want to die to self, they were egotistical, wanted to preserve their reputation, be first, remain full of themselves, and they didn't want to get rid of their past, jealousy, envy, or revenge. But Jesus led them to die to self.
- If you want to be a successful Christian, don't be envious when God uses other people. Don't be envious that others receive inheritance, blessing, a house, a resolved legal case, and don't be envious if someone receives a scholarship, miracles, healing, etc. because that person is not your enemy. He or she is your brother or sister in Christ and the same Father that blessed them is the same Father that will bless you if you learn to die to self.

Solution: We need to recognize the necessity of dying to SELF. (*Romans 8:1*)

We need to recognize the need to empty ourselves of ourselves and of egoism and leave behind envy and jealousy, lack of forgiveness, and long to be like a child, filled with the Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

CONCLUSION: There are 2 types of people: those who **don't** want to die to self and others who die to self so Christ can live in them. The "self" wants to be in the flesh, but when we deny ourselves, we are more full of the Spirit and there is no condemnation for us. Leave your worries in God's hands, be like a child and die to self, be like a child to conquer God's heart and love. With His grace, we can die to self.

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died on the cross for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Do you battle with egotistical feelings?
Do you feel jealousy at others' success?
What fruit of the Spirit do you think you need?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Renounce to the spirit of egoism and ask God for forgiveness in prayer.
- Si tenían sentimientos de celos o envidia contra alguien, comiencen a bendecirlo en su oración para vencer ese espíritu. If you had feelings of jealousy or envy toward someone, start to bless them in prayer to overcome that battle.

WHAT DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE TO?

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. (Matthew 4:1-2)

INTRODUCTION: *What did Jesus have to die to? How many know that our Lord Jesus was tempted? The Bible says that our Lord Jesus was tempted with everything, but the great difference is that He never sinned. He had to go from being God to being a man all while not acting as God here on earth, but as a man. Here on earth, Jesus was 100% God, but he was also 100% man. He left a heavenly realm to come and live in an environment like ours. He left a place where He was worshiped, where He was perfect and had to die to self and say, "I am going to leave my heavenly realm, my divine nature and become a man so that my children do not get lost, but have eternal life."*

THE DEVIL TEMPTED JESUS IN THREE AREAS, IN THE WORST MOMENTS OF HIS WEAKNESS:

1. FOOD. (Matthew 4:3-4)

- The Devil tempted His identity as God, the Devil was expecting Jesus to react in order to deviate Him from His purpose and not save us, but He responded with Scripture.
- When temptation comes to a human being that does not know Scripture and hasn't died to self, hasn't wanted to surrender and still carries pride, they don't die to their culture, thoughts, and desires. So, when temptations come, there is no Word of God and they end up falling and can't do as Jesus did when Satan came, "It is written." There are others

who die to self and have the Word in their heart so when temptation comes, they say, "It is written in 2 Timothy 1 that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. That is why I will not fall, but I will spiritually live."

2. MANIFEST HIS POWER AND TEST HIS DIVINITY (Matthew 4:5-7)

- Jesus said: "I am going to die out of love for my creation. I will not use what I have as God, I will go as a man." He did not fall into temptation.

In that moment, not only did Jesus know Scripture, but Satan also knows the Word. If you don't know Scripture, the Devil will want to confuse you. He will take them and

twist the words to distortion it and confuse you. Thank God that Jesus also knew Scripture. We must die to self and read more of the Word of God.

3. TEMPTATION WITH POWER.

- Satan revealed what he wanted, he wanted worship. (Matthew 4:8-10).
- Satan only wanted worship; he has not died to self because he was the first one to reveal himself in Heaven. He brought the root of sin to Adam and Eve and that is why you and I battle with the flesh and say as Apostle Paul in (Romans 7:24) Oh, *what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?*

- He is the one who caused this disorder and that is why we live the way we do and why there is no death to self. He wants worship.

without you asking and God’s Word is fulfilled where it says, “Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life.”

WHEN JESUS OVERCAME TEMPTATION AND DIED TO SELF, TWO THINGS HAPPENED:

- **The Devil left Him alone** at some point in your life, you will overcome that temptation or habit that had tormented you for years. There are people who, for years, were depressed, chronically sad, full of rage, carried wrong things in their minds, etc. but the more you die to self, then the more Christ lives in you. The more deeply you descend, the more God lifts you up. The more you humble yourself; the more God exalts you. The more we die to self, a moment comes where the devil says, “I can’t anymore, the fear of death has died, depression has died” and those spirits leave. When you die to self, God empowers you.
 - When He overcame, not even Jesus had to call the angels, because the angels came and served Him.** (*Matthew 4:11*)
 - When we overcome, God sends His blessing. There are people who are battling in their family, marriage, with their children, etc. but it is because they have not died to self.
 - When you begin to die to self, something happens, God’s response manifests. When you die in a certain area, it’s the area where God has empowered you. When you don’t die to self in a certain area, that is the area where the Devil enslaves you. However, the Devil must leave you alone when you die to self in a certain area. The angels will serve you

CONCLUSION: Jesus was the first to die to self, He denied Himself and took form of a man and as a man defeated the Devil on the Cross. He defeated death, and no one took His life. He gave His own life and took it back to give us that same authority, so that as men and women ourselves we can say, “I no longer live, Christ lives in me and there is no condemnation for me because I am in Christ. I am not conformed to the flesh, but the Spirit and I come with Jesus’ authority.” Christ bought a victory on the Cross of Calvary when He died, and He took that victory, authority, and power and gave it to us so we can overcome and die to self.

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

What area of your life do you need to die to self in so the devil can leave you alone? Do you know Scripture? What did God speak to you through the lesson?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Within the group, share what area is difficult to die to self in and what changes you’ve already begun to make and the results that you’ve seen.

3 STAGES OF DEATH TO SELF

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. (Luke 9:23 NLT)"

INTRODUCTION:

We have been speaking about death to self, and Jesus went through three places:

1. The Jordan River which represents denial.
2. The transfiguration mountain which represents transformation.
3. Gethsemane represents death to self. (Galatians 2:20)

1. THE DENIAL IN THE JORDAN RIVER.

The Jordan speaks to us about Jesus denying Himself. (*Matthew 3:13-17*)

- After our Lord Jesus came out of anonymity around age 30, the first thing He did to begin His ministry was to be baptized in the Jordan. No one forced Him to come.
- We should have the same attitude and come to surrender and deny ourselves without anyone telling us to do so.
- It represents death to self and death to past life to begin a new life. This is the place where Jesus died to life in anonymity and began a new public life. In the Jordan, He died to his comfort and said, "It's time for me to start my ministry."
- There is a moment in our lives where we must deny ourselves, get baptized and say, "I have now died to my old life and am going to start living another way."

The Jordan represents various things:

- The Jordan represents a portal to Heaven, that is where the Heavens were open.
It represents a place of miracles because miracles occurred there. That is where people were healed and the waters parted for the people to cross.
- It represents a point where a new generation begins.

- It represents a place of transition to a new life, and for it we must die to self, to what we think, want, etc.
- It represents a place of new beginnings, because that is where a new generation crossed and entered the Promised Land.
- It represents a point where His identity is revealed. That is where God's voice was heard, "This is my beloved Son."
- It represents transformation.
- It represents a place of maturity. When the people of God crossed the Jordan and entered into the Promised Land, they needed to mature. God had already sent them mana from heaven, gave them water from a rock and told them, "Go, take the land, cultivate it, and be fruitful."
- We need to go to the Jordan River, descend, and die to self and mature in our lives. Before, we depended on others' prayers, but now we will mature and pray as well.
- So, the first thing that Jesus did was deny Himself. When He did that, the heavens were opened.
- While we continue to demand our rights and not know how to serve, the heavens will be closed. But, as we begin to deny and die to ourselves, then we will begin to see how God intervenes for us. We begin to see how the heavens are open, we hear God's voice in our Spirit, we begin to understand the Bible, God begins to fight for us, open doors for us in our jobs, schools, scholarships, promotions, business, etc.

2. WHAT BROUGHT CHRIST TO THE JORDAN RIVER?

1. **His frustration with the religious system as the time.** The Pharisees would speak about when Moses parted the waters, and when mana fell from

Heaven and water came out of rocks, but they couldn't do any healings. They would speak about how Moses would go to the mount to pray with God and come out shining in God's glory, but they wouldn't pray and if they did, there was no transformation in their lives.

- Christ was frustrated with the church because they would preach and wouldn't practice what they preached. There was no transformation of the heart, and the people would just go to church to chat, gossip, but there was no transformation.
- As long as you don't grow tired and frustrated, you will not want to die to self and change. Every change begins with a frustration with the present situation, because that situation leads us to die to self.
- *We don't like the pain of death, but there is no change until the pain of not changing is greater than the pain of changing. Human beings do not change until the pain of not changing is greater than that of changing.*

2. Because He had more hunger for God.

Jesus wanted more of God. If you are not hungry or are satisfied with your level of relationship with God, you will become stagnant and have old wineskin. Jesus said that new wine is not placed into old wineskins. Many leaders have become stagnant in the good times because they have stopped being hungry for God.

- A great obstacle to dying to self is the attitude of, "I made it." There are people that think they have achieved everything with just a small success. They believe there is nothing else to achieve, and a person who conforms is destined to be old wineskin.
- Someone who does not want to do more, is only thinking of their comfort and not on the Kingdom of God, is not interested on what's happening in the city, how

many marriages are falling apart. Their hearts are centered on themselves. But, there are others that say, "Lord, it doesn't matter that I have come to a certain level of anointing, because you still have another level of anointing. I want to be better, not for myself, but to advance the Kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION:

Are you tired of not seeing the power of God in the Bible? Is there someone who is tired of a sickness that has not healed? Is there someone who is tired of living in depression, frustrated of not seeing God do new things? If any of you are frustrated, at the point of making a changing, of dying to self and saying, "I no longer live, Christ lives in me," then God will open the windows of Heaven. When one dies to self, they qualify to have God to a miracle. If you have come to the point of frustration and are willing to die to self, you will voluntarily come to Jesus and seek the areas you need to die to self in. Love your Jordan because it is true, you will die to self in the Jordan, but you will go through the Jordan and into your Promised Land. Descend to the Jordan and love your Jordan!

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Are you frustrated in an area of your life? Are you hungry for more of God? Are you tired of living your life in the same way? Are you willing to die to your desires?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Ask God in prayer to place a hunger for Him in everyone and help you all die to self.



There is a place for you