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DAILY DEVOTIONLIFE IN THE SPIRIT

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Ephesians 4:25-27 NKJV

[25]Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

[26] "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

[27] nor give place to the devil.

In this section, we see the results of the Spirit-controlled life. This is similar to what is listed in Galatians 5.22-23 as the fruit of the Spirit and the commands in Colossians 3.. Comparison of these passages reveals that true spirituality is a joint effort between the believer and the Spirit.

In Galatians, the virtues are produced by the Spirit, in Ephesians and Colossians we are told to do these things. We also see that spiritual life includes both positive and negative commands.

II Corinthians 7:1

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

The first command is both negative and positive. "Put away lying / speak truth." Lying is among the worst of sins for several reasons.

Satan is called "The father of lies" and we imitate him when we lie. Lying is listed among the sins that God hates in Proverbs 6.16-19.

"These six things the Lord hates, indeed, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue....."

Proverbs 12.22

"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD"

Colossians 3.9

"Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices."

Truth is one of God's major attributes, we are to imitate Him by being truthful and honest in all of our speech. Lying is never justified.

Proverbs 8.7

"For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips."

The second admonition is in regards to anger. Anger is an emotion that is all-consuming. It can block many positive emotions like love and happiness. It often leads to violence. It must be controlled. Sustained anger is dangerous because it can lead to other sins such as bitterness and revenge.





Proverbs 16.32

"He who is slow to anger is better than a warrior, and he who controls his temper is greater than one who captures a city."

Ecclesiastes 7.9

"Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger settles in the lap of a fool."

Yet there is a place for righteous, controlled anger because we hate evil. Jesus was angry when he saw the corruption and abuse taking place in the temple, His Father's house.

The third warning reminds us that we have an adversary who wants destroy our spiritual life. Satan appeals to our fallen nature (the flesh) to draw us away from God and into sin.

I Peter 5.8

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

James 4.7

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Ephesians 6.11

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes."

PRAYER: I receive grace to live in the Spirit of God.