

THE JOYS OF BEING DEAD

Most struggles result not from our circumstances but from our own selfishness.

How do we break free? Only by dying to selfish desires and inviting Jesus to live in our hearts.

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

1. "It is the love of self that destroys our peace. While self is all alive, we stand ready continually to guard it from mortification and insult; but when we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God, we shall not take neglects or slights to heart. We shall be deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult." (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 16)
2. "Those who are dead to self will not feel so readily and will not be prepared to resist everything which may irritate. Dead men cannot feel. You are not dead. If you were, and your life were hid in Christ, a thousand things which you now notice, and which afflict you, would be passed by as unworthy of notice; you would then be grasping the eternal and would be above the petty trials of this life." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 425)
3. **"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.** All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to His service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible." (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 159)
4. "We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under the control of the Holy Spirit. **No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self.**" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 485)
5. **"If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties."** (*Early Writings*, p. 119)
6. "In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. . . . It is the love of self that brings unrest." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 330)
7. "The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ." (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 51)
8. **"There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency.** Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 154)
9. "Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did, self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. . . . And He bids us, 'Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.' 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself' (Matt. 11:29; 16:24); let self be dethroned and no longer hold the supremacy of the soul. . . . The independence and self-supremacy in which we glory are

seen in their true vileness as tokens of servitude to Satan. Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We have no ambition to crowd and elbow ourselves into notice; but we feel that **our highest place is at the feet of our Savior.**" (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 14, 15)

10. "The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God; for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 30)
11. **"If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.** But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Savior is waiting for us to do this." (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pp. 189, 190)
12. "When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Savior and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices. Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory. **We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved.** All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him. **Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him.**" (*Steps to Christ*, pp. 71, 72)