

LIVING FROM YOUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH

Rest in the fact that you as a believer are already reconciled to God, a child of God, a new born creation in Christ, and God lives in you.

Live in the fact that you can do nothing of lasting value except that Jesus is guiding and empowering you. Your source of strength for doing anything worthwhile is Jesus. You are not to live out of your own strength. You are not performing, studying, praying, or giving to gain God's approval.

Live out of your discovery for who you are in Christ. You belong in Christ. You are accepted in Christ. You do not need to earn favor with God. You are already His child. God never pulls away from you. God does not become disappointed in you. God will correct and discipline you. God feels sorry for you when you experience the painful consequences of your actions. God loves you too much to leave you in your painful condition and He will work to bring you back to better experiences.

"Sin" is when you live out of your own resources in your own strength. You are designed to live out of God's resources in God's strength. You should die to sin and live from being a child of God and living from His resources and strength. "Christ in me, the hope of glory" means that you can do nothing good without Jesus living in you. Focus on that which you know to be good. Don't focus on sinful thoughts or actions that may crop up in your life. Don't brow beat yourself over your sinful actions, but divert your attention to Jesus and His thoughts and ways. Exercise the fruits of the Spirit in your relationships. Righteous acts empowered by the Spirit replaces sinful actions as we cooperate. Your sinful actions do not drive God away from you or cause God to be disappointed in you. To please God would mean that you are living from His strength and not continuing to hurt yourself due to the consequences of sinful actions in your life.

God doesn't change. God doesn't change in His attitude toward you. God isn't punishing you when things go wrong. You may be experiencing the consequences of your own sinful actions or the actions of other people. God's discipline is not punishment but restorative correction. Fearing God will punish you is not conducive to obeying Him in love.

Knowing God loves you, and you loving God for His restorative work in your life, is the right motivation for a relationship that is deep and lasting. We should hate sinful actions not because we think God will punish us, but because we know the truth that sinful actions will harm us.