

## **A Lack of Overweening Self-confidence**

Col 2:11

Phil 3:3

God wants us to come to the end of ourselves. We must die to ourselves in order to put our trust in God and not self. There is a great tendency (a driving force) in us to think we can please God on our own. Some of us might be so good on works that we think we don't need faith. But if we don't come to the cross (the one that we die on) and through the gate then it will be impossible to please God (Rom 8:7-9).

Circumcision means helplessness in the flesh. What is the mark of a disciple? The feature that sets apart the people of God is their lack of overweening self-confidence.

Overweening — arrogant, presumptuous, immoderate, exaggerated: a person who comes in and takes over. He tries to win you by his poise and assurance. He makes a point of showing you that he "has it together." He can "pray the heavens down" and make everyone else feel like they don't have any faith. Such a one has not gone the way of the cross. The work of the cross puts a restraint in us — a healthy self-doubt. The kind of prayer that God can use is the one that is exercised in the midst of doubt: the prayer of faith (Heb 4:16).

Mt 12:34

What you say represents your heart; it reveals what is there. One who fears God and who has been dealt with by God will not dare speak carelessly: he knows the seriousness of speech and he will try his best to pass the word on accurately.

Speaking should be objective not subjective in nature. It should be according to truth or fact.

Mt 12:35-37

He who lies, speaks idle words, or speaks carelessly is not of much use to God. Idle words — unfruitful, negative, ineffective, worthless, unfounded. Verse 36 — judged for every careless word of faith unaccompanied by works.

Eph 4:17-18

Eph 5:15-17

[Foolishness: lack of reason, want of mental sanity and sobriety; a reckless and inconsiderate habit of mind; the lack of common sense in the perception of the reality of things natural and spiritual (they go hand in hand); not having understanding; not applying the mind; to be silly, stupid, without discernment, senseless.]

Pr 30:5-6

Lying is speaking according to our own personal preference, according to our own likes and dislikes, instead of speaking the mind of the anointing, which is the truth (1 Cor 2:16; 1 Jn 2:20-21). It is speaking according to emotion or opinion. It's all right to have opinions, but never bring them across as if they were the mind unless you are sure you have the Amen of the Body. Be careful that you don't inject your own thought or overly stress your own opinion and expectation so that the facts are changed and it becomes a lie. This happens especially in the case of negativity or harshness.

Rom 1:25

We exchange the truth of God for a lie when, rather than speaking the objective word, we speak according to how we think things ought to be — according to our own desires. We stop serving the creator (God) and start serving the creature (us). Serving the interests of self is endless and leads to all sorts of impurity and degrading passions.

Don't speak according to what *you* hope for. Discipline your emotions so that your speech is not governed by your own interest or expectation. Many times we do not express the facts, but our words represent what is hoped for. If we have something in our heart against a brother or sister we may find it easy to say critical things to them or to others about them (Gal 5:13-16). Often speaking negatively or critically of someone exposes a secret desire to see the person fall. Instead of accurately expressing the truth about him, you lie against him because actually you in your heart are hoping he will fall because you lack compassion and love.

Sloth is the fear of love's cost. It is unwillingness to pay the high price of loving. This sin of sloth is a reaction to the failure of others to love us. We must respond in love, seeing the need of others and seeing their heart, not in reaction against their faults. Those who have a critical eye must discipline themselves in this way so that they do not lie, by injecting their own opinions, standards, and expectations into what God is saying, especially about someone else's life. Woe to those who mix man's opinion with God's word and man's effort with God's work. We have a tendency (a strong, driving force) in us to enlarge the faults of others and minimize our own. We need strict discipline.

James 1:19-22

We must resist every lie and every inaccurate word before we can say, "I'm an honest person." We need to be so disciplined before God that we will be sensitive to lies and to a lying spirit as soon as we meet it.

The work of the cross in our lives is to produce a people who are free from shame because they are free from blame. Their confidence will come from their conscience, not from their flesh.

Zeph 3:11-13

Rev 14:4-5