

Characteristics of the Self Life

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A secret spirit of pride or an exalted feeling in view of your success or position because of your good training, or appearance because of your natural gifts or abilities - an important independent spirit?

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18);

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?” (Proverbs 20:6);

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3);

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6-8).

Love of human praise; a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy; drawing attention to self in conversation; a swelling out of self when you have had a special open door in speaking or praying?

“How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?” (John 5:44);

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43);

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up” (1 Corinthians 13:4).

The stirrings of anger or impatience which, worst of all, you call nervousness or holy indignation; a touchy, sensitive spirit; a disposition to resent and retaliate when disapproved of or contradicted; a desire to throw sharp, heated remarks at another?

“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil” (Psalm 37:8);

“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:9);

“In your patience possess ye your souls” (Luke 21:19);

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19);

“...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience” (Romans 5:3).

Self-will; a stubborn unteachable spirit; an arguing, talkative spirit; harsh, sarcastic expressions; an unyielding, headstrong disposition; a driving, commanding spirit; a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed; a peevish fretful spirit; a disposition that loves to be coaxed and humored?

“So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill” (Deuteronomy 1:43);

“If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart” (Malachi 2:2);

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17);

“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities” (2 Peter 2:10).

Carnal fear; a man-fearing spirit; a shrinking from reproach and duty; reasoning around your cross; a shrinking from doing your whole duty to those of wealth or position; a fearfulness that someone will offend and drive some prominent person away; a compromising spirit?

“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice” (1 Samuel 15:24);

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25);

“For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision” (Galatians 2:12);

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

A jealous disposition; a secret envy in your heart; an unpleasant sensation in view of the great prosperity and success of others; a disposition to speak of the faults and failings rather than the gifts and virtues of those more talented and appreciated than yourself?

“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. For all the wells which his father’s servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we” (Genesis 26:12-16);

“And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyes David from that day and forward” (1 Samuel 18:8-9);

“For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance” (Proverbs 6:34);

“A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones” (Proverbs 14:30);

“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased” (Matthew 21:15);

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another” (Romans 12:9-10).

A dishonest and deceitful disposition; the evading and covering of the truth; the covering up of your real faults; leaving a better impression of yourself than is strictly true; false humility; exaggeration straining the truth?

“He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh truth with the heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, not doeth evil to his neighbor, not taketh up a reproach against his neighbor...” (Psalm 15:2-3);

“Wherefore the LORD said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men...” (Isaiah 29:13);

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9);

“Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto me, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (Matthew 23:28);

“But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48);

“And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?” (Acts 5:2-3);

“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:2).

Unbelief; a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition; lack of quietness and confidence in God; lack of faith and trust in God; a disposition to worry and complain in the midst of pain, poverty, or at the dispensations of divine Providence; an over anxious feeling whether everything will come out all right?

“And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established” (Isaiah 7:9);

“If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things” (Luke 12:28-30);

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14);

“Therefore we always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:6);

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6);

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

Formality and deadness; lack of compassion and concern for lost souls; dryness and indifference; lack of power with God?

“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch” (Matthew 15:14);

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5);

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love” (Revelation 2:4);

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead” (Revelation 3:1).

Selfishness; love of ease; love of money; love of your own time?

“And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:19-21);

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness” (1 Timothy 6:10-11);

“Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? Or their border greater than your border? Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David; That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but are not grieved for the afflicting of Joseph...” (Amos 6:1-6).

**Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
and see if there be any wicked way in me...
(Psalm 139:23-24)**

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do MORTIFY the deeds of the body, ye shall live (Romans 8:13).

- Dost thou even know the plagues of thine own heart? (reference: I Kings 8:38),
- The vain thoughts that lodge within thee? (reference: Jeremiah 4:14),
- Wilt thou be cleansed from secret faults? (reference: Psalm 19:12),
- Will you FIGHT against presumptuous sins and be innocent from the great transgression? (reference: Psalm 19:13),
- Will you mortify thy deeds and thy members which are upon the earth? (reference: Colossians 3:5).