

The Balance Series - Lesson 2

Natural vs. Spiritual

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God vs. Satan

- Keeping a healthy balance between the natural and the spiritual realms can be challenging. Some of us were raised to believe that everything that happens to us is either from God or the devil. This is not true. **James 1:13** *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.*
- Many of our issues, problems, and circumstances are consequences to our decisions and not the devil or God. Of course, if we take the extreme view of things, we can break everything down to God allowing it, but we must learn to take responsibility for our choices and not blame them on God. **Col. 1:16** *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
- In this life, we make choices. And our lives will develop based on these choices. We cannot just chalk everything up to God or the devil. We play a very important role in all that occurs. This is our God given dominion and whether we want to believe it or not, we have power on earth to choose. **Josh. 24:15** *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

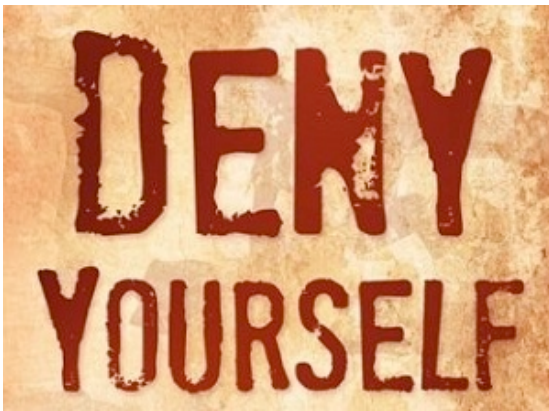
Power of choice

- The bible teaches us that we have choice. **Deut. 30:19** *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: Sure God chooses us to a certain extent, but this is because He knows what our free will is gonna do in the end. In other words, because he knows everything, he knows who will chose him and who will chose the world.*
- **Rom. 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
- He selects his people based on the fact that they will select him. There is not a person in the word that God selected that turned him down. Sure, many of them made mistakes and fell off course at times, because we are human, but ultimately, they said yes. **Matt. 24:13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*



Earthly Living

- God is not a puppeteer. He is not forcing us to do anything, but rather, he desires us to use our free will for his purpose. To surrender our will to his. This is true love and shows that we really desire him. **Rom. 6:19** *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*
- We must be careful what we blame on God and the devil. Just because it was good doesn't mean it was God. And just because it was bad, doesn't mean it was Satan. And just because you thought to do it, doesn't mean God or the devil told you to. We have a conscience mind and we make decisions based on it at times. Though God or the devil may prick our minds or influence us, ultimately, our decisions are ours.
- In the natural, we still have to do things to survive in this realm. Even though we have surrendered to God, we are still subject to this world. Though we are not of the world, we are in the world and we must meet the requirements of this realm to survive.
- Adam and Eve were punished by work and pain. These things are still in play and we must work jobs and suffer pain in this life because of man's fall. We cannot avoid these things because we are saved, but we must endure and comply with these things in the natural to live this life.



The difference between us (God's people) and them (the world) is spiritual. **1 John 5:19** *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.* We still have to work, eat, sleep, take care of ourselves, etc. just like the world. The only difference is our will should be surrendered to God and not ourselves. We practice self denial daily because of this and we do not seek to do our own thing. **Matt. 16:24** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

It's all about God's will and doing things to please him and not just pleasing ourselves. Many modern day preachers and churches don't emphasis this anymore and they have lost the

whole point in being in Christ. **2Cor. 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* Being a new creation means you are not the same as you were. This is what makes us different from the world. We do things that exemplify Christ and we do not support the enemy's plan.

Summary

When we don't know the balance between the natural and the spiritual realms, we will look silly. We will make decisions and say "God said to" and then when we fall flat, we look as if we don't know God's voice. And when God's word says go right and we go left, we are made to look as if we don't know the word. We must find the balance between what is us (human emotions, good decisions, etc) and what is God (kingdom principles, his Word, Holy Spirit unctons). If we cannot separate the two, we will end up falling a lot more than we have to. And worst of all, we will began to lose confidence in our own ability to hear God.

John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*