



#15

## The 'Overcoming Selfish Desires' Believer

Yim, a young man, began to question the reality of a true living God. One day he decided to test the truth of Scriptures, and prayed asking this God to become His God, through Jesus Christ. His life began to change. The Spirit of God had come into his life.

Yim's hunger for Scripture grew and he read & meditated on it regularly. He desired moral purity and read the Word and books for help, holding himself accountable to those he trusted. His faith in God was deeply tested at one point as he struggled to surrender his first love for the glory of Buddhism, and former attachments he had with various idols. Through corporate prayer & submission to God, Yim was mercifully delivered from the hold they had on his life. His burden for his family to come to Jesus also began to grow.

### What Can We Learn From This Testimony?

What played an important part in Yim's efforts to overcome selfish desires?

(Word of God, books, individuals, prayer, submission to God).

How did his life show evidence of overcoming selfish desires?

(Interest in reading the Word and knowing God, desire for purity, surrender to Him, concern for others).

### A Contextualized Bible Study\*

#### **Lesson #13: The 'Overcoming Selfish Desires' Believer**

**Aim:** To help the believer overcome selfish desires by asking God for help, meditating on Scripture promises and applying them to daily life.

##### **1. Introduction**

We studied some of the ways a human being, newly born into the family of God, and having tasted of His graciousness, begins to grow in behavior, understanding and purification of mind. In this next stage we will see how further purification of his/her mind aids in escaping from the lusts of the world. Read: 2 Pet. 1:4, 1:3-11, John 10:27-29.

## 2. Observations

- a. According to 2 Pet 1:4 how can we escape from the corruption that is in the world due to lust? (by relying on the promises of God in Scripture)
- b. What good qualities need to be added to the initial stage of purification through belief in Christ according to 2 Pet. 1:5-7? (moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly love, kindness, charity)
- c. If we have these qualities what results do they have in our lives according to 2 Pet 1:8? (they show that knowing Christ has produced fruit in our daily lives)
- d. If we lack these qualities what does 2 Pet 1:9 say is our condition? (blind, short-sighted, forgotten we've been cleansed from our past sins)
- e. According to 2 Pet 1:10 will the person who makes the effort to do these things ever fall into the old life of immorality and sin? (No)
- f. What kind of entrance does 2 Pet 1:11 say people who do these things will have in the eternal realm of Christ? (See 1 Cor. 3:11-15) (An abundant/full entrance, receiving rewards.)
- g. If a person hears Jesus' voice and follows him what does John 10:27-28a say He will give them? (eternal life)
- h. Will a person who is in Jesus' hand because he/she has followed Him, ever go to destruction? (No. John 10:28)
- i. Why is no one able to pull someone out of Jesus' hand? (John 10:29,30- He is God, greater than all & not allow it)

## 3. Understanding

- a. In what way do the promises of God our Father deliver us from lust/selfish desires (Ps. 37: 4-5-They promise to give us the desire of our hearts, ie. 'the desire to not want the things that displease God').
- b. How should we attempt to encourage the good qualities of 2 Pet 1:5-7 in our lives? (give our strongest effort to practice these qualities)
- c. What do the Scriptures consider to be the important fruits of a person's life - riches, position, power and fame, or virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity? (Underline the correct answer)
- d. Even if a person is wealthy, has a high position, power and fame, if he/she has not those qualities mentioned in (c), what is their condition according to 2 Pet 1:9? (blind, short-sighted)
- e. If a person does make the effort to do these things, will they ever fall back into the old way? (No)
- f. How does having these good qualities in our lives affect the reception we receive when we enter the eternal realm of God our Father? (2 Peter 1:11) (it determines whether we have a glorious entrance to God's eternal realm or entrance without rewards)
- g. What does a person do when after hearing Jesus' voice, he/she decides to follow Him? (invite Him into their life)
- h. What does Jesus do to protect a person who follows Him from being pulled away from Him?(holds them in His hand)
- i. What other power does Jesus say will hold on to the person who follows Him? (power of God the Heavenly Father) John 10:29-29

## 4. Application

- a. Can you find some specific promises that could help you escape from lust/selfish desires? What are they? (Mt. 7:7 -'ask & you shall receive', Ps. 84:11 'no good thing will he withhold from them who walk uprightly,' Nah. 1:7, Gal 5:16, James 1:13-18, 1 Cor. 10:13,)
- b. In what areas of your life can you make a practical application of the good qualities mentioned in 2 Pet 1:5-7? (hold high moral standards, exercise patience with my children, husband/wife/co-workers; study the Scripture for knowledge of God; use self-control with regard to food, drink, buying things; show kindness & mercy to others)
- c. What can give you confidence that you will never fall back into the old ways of immoral/sinful and selfish living? (striving with all my strength, memorizing Scriptures like Mt. 7:7, John 10:27-29, 1Cor 10:13, asking God to help)
- d. Who are holding you in their hands to keep you from being pulled away from following Jesus? (Jesus & Father God)

## Meditate on 2 Peter 1:4

"...He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

\*(Bible study lessons taken from the book *Self-understanding of Thai: Targeting a Message so it Hits the Mark*, by Marden St. John (Eng.), available from CLC bookstore, Thailand. Same material also available in Thai /Eng. (student/ teacher manual), *Mind Purification* by Marden St. John)

## Prayer Starter

- For Thai believers to make every effort to overcome selfish desires by asking God for help, meditating on Scripture promises and applying them to daily life.