

The Key to Spirituality – Taking Charge

Introduction

A. God has promised the believer, through a knowledge and practice of the truth – spiritual freedom. The word "know" in the Bible is more than an intellectual grasp – it means "participation in what is known."

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 3:32

B. The freedom, most needed by the Christian, is found within – spiritual freedom. It has to do with the spiritual control of our functions: our will, mind, emotions, and body.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls. Prov. 25:28

I. The Biblical Basis for "Taking Charge."

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Cor. 7:1

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Ii Cor. 10:4,5

But the fruit of the Spirit is ... temperance (self-control). Gal. 5:23

Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true ... honest ... pure ... lovely ... of good report ... think on these things. Phil. 4:8

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (without reward). I Cor. 9:27

Comment: 1. The believer has the ability to "take charge" of his will, thinking, emotions, body, and life.
2. We are not always responsible for the presence of a thought, or emotion, or desire. We are, however, responsible to evaluate and refuse all that may come to us as error in these areas.

II. The Biblical Explanation of "Taking Charge."

A. We are exhorted to "Take Charge" of our thinking.

1. There are three possible sources of wrong thoughts.

a. The sin principle of the old nature

For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries ... and defile the man. Mark 7:21,22

b. The sinful world system

for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:16

c. Satanic suggestion. (Note Rev. 12:9-11)

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread. Matt. 4:3

2. We are exhorted to "take charge" of our thinking, refuse those thoughts that are wrong and aggressively choose to think on correct thoughts.

Wherefore putting away lying ... Eph. 4:25 But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath ... Col. 3:8 Put on the whole armour of God ... Eph. 6:11 Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. II Cor. 10:5

Suggested method: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take charge of my thinking. I refuse to accept that thought of _____. In full dependence on God I bring all my thinking into subjection to the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

B. We are exhorted to "Take Charge" of our emotions.

1. The same Scripture, explanation, and method would apply here.

2. It is wrong to accept our emotions as our authority. When we feel hopeless or depressed or critical – we are being told error not truth. We must reject all such emotions, accept truth, and then practice truth in spite of how we feel. As we do so our emotions will change for good.

C. We are exhorted to "Take Charge" of our body.

1. The same Scripture, explanation, and method would apply here. Study these verses also: Rom. 6:1-18; 12:1,2; I Cor. 9:25-27; Eph. 4:22-32.

2. One of the first steps toward obedience is spiritual control of our body.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body ... Romans 6:12

Present your bodies a living sacrifice ... Romans 12:1

But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection ... I Cor. 9:27

Conclusion: God can only deliver us as we practice the truth by faith. By use of our will we must choose to obey God in spite of how we feel or our desires. As we "Take Charge" God will work with us to set us free.

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