Self-pity

Causes, results and cure for self-pity

Introduction

- Our faith challenged by many external sources
- But, our greatest challenge to faith may be ourselves
- Wrong attitudes about self cause us to have distorted faith in God producing a disobedient life
- On the one hand, the Bible warns against thinking too much of ourselves

On the other hand, we should be careful not to pity ourselves, become ungrateful or embittered because things in life do not work out our way
- Or, we feel sorry for ourselves because we feel we do not have the ability to do what the Lord commands us to do
- Although self-pity not specifically mentioned, the principle is in the Word and also its cure

Principle of Self-pity and Its Cure

2Ti 3:2  For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Gal 2:20  "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Self-pity

1. Some causes of self-pity
2. Areas in which we pity ourselves
3. How can we overcome self-pity?

Ungrateful To God

Rom 1:21  For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22  Professing to be wise, they became fools,
Ungrateful To God
Rom 1:23  and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Forget Who We Are
1Pe 2:9  But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Forget Who We Are
1Pe 2:10  for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Compare Ourselves To Others
2Co 10:12  For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

Become Bitterly Disappointed With Life
Heb 12:15  See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;
Heb 12:16  that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Ahab Covets What He Does Not Have
1Ki 21:1  Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
1Ki 21:2  Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money."
Ahab Covets What He Does Not Have

1Ki 21:3  But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

1Ki 21:4  So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

Moses Doubting His Ability To Do God’s Will

Exo 4:10  Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Exo 4:11  The LORD said to him, "Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

Moses Doubting His Ability To Do God’s Will

Exo 4:12  "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

Exo 4:13  But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

Moses Doubting His Ability To Do God’s Will

Exo 4:14  Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

Exo 4:15  "You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do.

Elijah Feeling Alone And Discouraged Under Persecution

1Ki 19:1  Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

1Ki 19:2  Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

Elijah Feeling Alone And Discouraged Under Persecution

1Ki 19:3  And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

1Ki 19:4  But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."
Elijah Feeling Alone And Discouraged Under Persecution
1Ki 19:9 Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1Ki 19:10 He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."
1Ki 19:18 "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Always Be Thankful To God For All Things
1Th 5:16 Rejoice always;
1Th 5:17 pray without ceasing;
1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Remember Who We Are
1Jn 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Rejoice and Use Our God-given Abilities To His Glory
2Co 8:12 For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
Eph 3:21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
Rejoice and Use Our God-given Abilities To His Glory
Php 4:13  I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Focus On Serving God and Serving Others
Php 2:3  Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
Php 2:4  do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
Php 2:5  Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Focus On Serving God and Serving Others
Php 2:6  who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
Php 2:7  but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
Php 2:8  Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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