

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“WHO SITS ON THE THRONE OF YOUR HEART?”

There are two possibilities, king self or king Jesus. We have to choose either, self gratifying self, self glorifying self or Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour. We are born with self on the throne. He stays there until we invite Jesus into our hearts. Once invited, the Lord comes in and sits on the throne and we begin to serve him. We dethrone self and throne Jesus. But self doesn't completely go away; he constantly harasses us to get back the throne.

He makes all kinds of promises to give us pleasure if we allow him back on the throne. Self, or our old sinful nature is completely under the influence of the devil or, as he is also known as Satan. The apostle Paul gives a good description of our old self in Ephesians 2:1-3.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan) the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.”

Self loves to be flattered, self, loves to be made to feel important, self, and loves to receive the praise, adulation and admiration of others. Self loves to be gratified. The devil knows all this, so he comes to us and tempts us with all these things. Jesus said that the devil is a liar. John 8:44 “He is a liar and the father of lies.” This doesn't mean that self gives into everyone of the devil's temptations. Self can resist some temptations for selfish reasons. Some temptations he does not give into because of fear. Some, because it would lose his reputation, and many other reasons. But in the end self, no matter what he does, is locked into self.

If we are continually giving in to self, it proves, even though we have become Christians, self is back on the throne. Trying to resist the devil when self is on the throne is like pulling the trigger on a gun that has no bullets in it. We can even speak the words, “Bang! Bang!” but without the bullets they achieve nothing. When Christ is on the throne it is like a loaded gun and the noise, “Bang! Bang!” are real bullets and the devil runs for his life.

When self is on the throne, the real you, the essential you just stand by helpless, totally captive to self and its desires. But the real you have the ability to choose. God comes to help you choose Christ first again. However we are so used to living for ourselves that we have a struggle to put Christ back on the throne.

Serving self is sin and sin results in consequences. It's like the boy let loose in an ice cream factory, free to eat as much ice cream as he wished. He loves ice cream and he eats and eats and eats, and then he eats some more. But by night time he is suffering the most excruciating pain which lasts all night long. Just as the bible says that we can enjoy the pleasures of sin. Sin can be enjoyable but the bible says it is only for a short time, then, we have to face the consequences. Hebrews 11:25.

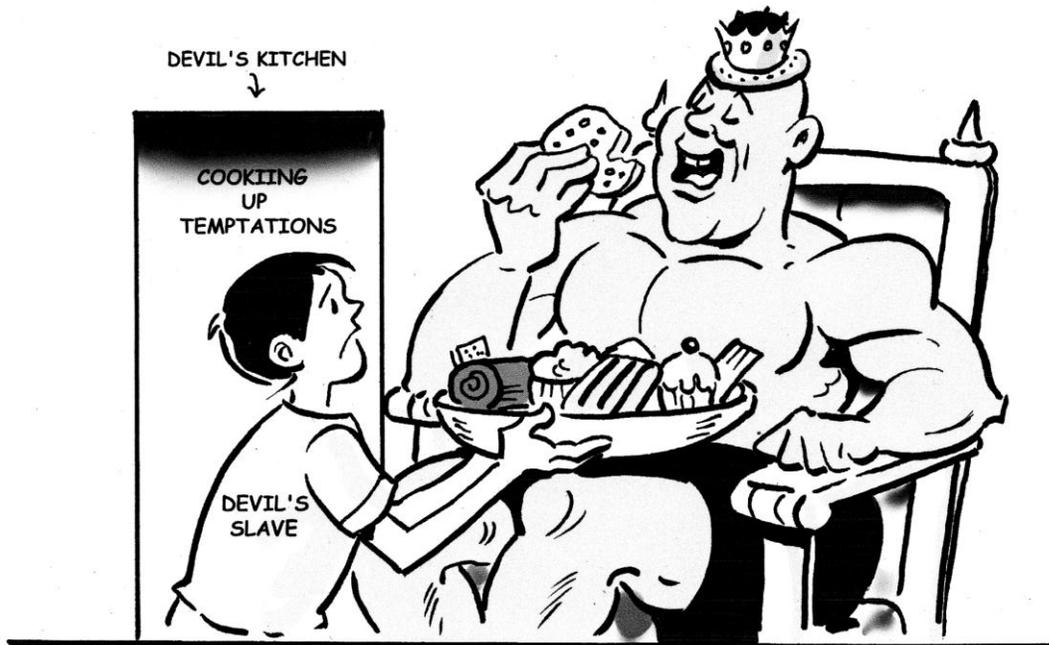
So how do we get Christ back on the throne? James 4:7 gives the answer.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Submit, surrender yourself up to God, Jesus is God, One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit three divine equal personalities. When you do that you enthrone Christ as king and Lord of your life. You devote yourself to serving him. Now you have the power to resist the devil, the power to say, “No” to the devil and desires of self that are contrary from the will of God.

However the devil will get back at you and old self will try to get back on the throne again. It is always our choice, Jesus or self. I think if we are honest self gets back on the throne many times. Each time he does we need to surrender afresh, humble ourselves afresh and let Jesus be king of our hearts.

SELF ON THE THRONE OF YOUR HEART



CHRIST ON THE THRONE OF YOUR HEART
GIVES YOU POWER.



VICTORY OVER SELF GRATIFICATION AND THE DEVIL