

## The Prize Fighter

February 26, 2012

*Every athlete* who competes for the prize is *self-controlled* in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it *under control*, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27**

## The Inner Clout of Self-Control

### Clout - [Klout]

1. **Authority** - influence, power, weight, sway, leverage, control, dominance, and muscle.
2. **Punch** - smack, slap, thump, blow, hit, box, whack, and wallop.

## Self-Control

First, what it is not

Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle . . . these things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

**Colossians 2:21,23**

## Self-Control

Now, what it is

the fruit of the Spirit is . . .

1. love

2. joy
3. peace
4. patience
5. kindness
6. goodness
7. faithfulness
8. gentleness
9. self-control

**Galatians 5:22-23**

So, How Does This “Authority” and “Punch” Work?

The Sacred Formation of the Inner Clout

Grace

*The Labor of God on Man's Behalf*

But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

For by **grace** are you saved . . .

**Ephesians 2:8**

*Grace is not just evidenced at the Cross, but has been made eternally available through the Cross. This Grace is Ever-Present, Always*

*Available, Always Accessible, Amazingly Sufficient for Every Good Work,  
Potently Efficacious, and Divinely Effective in Procuring its Ends*

## Faith

*The Trusting Gaze of Man upon His God*

For by grace are you saved **through faith . . .**

**Ephesians 2:8**

*Faith is the channel through which Grace flows into the Life of Man and thusly into this Earth. Faith is the response of the soul to beholding the Truth, Reality, and Fact of God's Being. First a man **knows**, and thusly **reckons**, and then **yields and presents** his life unto God, and then **exerts** his soul willfully in absolute and unquestioning **obedience** to the Commands of his new Lord and Master.*

## Love (Agapē)

*The Behavior and Attitude of God Expressing itself in Man*

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh **by love**.

**Galatians 5:6**

*The action of Faith causes Grace to overtake, empower, and renovate the believing life - turning the body of a man into the workshop of God. The result is an alteration of behavior and attitude. The result is that God's divine behavior begins to manifest and demonstrate itself in and through the consecrated saint of God.*

## Agapē . . . The Chief End

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

*Agapē* IS the Glory of God - the full weighty expression of His Person, His Beauty, His Holiness, His Majesty, His Purity, His Justice, His Mercy, His Kindness, His Wrath, and His Power. Agape is God and God is Agape - Agape is God-behavior, God-thoughts, God-actions, God-nature, God-character, God-ethics, God-compassion, and God's manner with Sin. And it is this Agape that reveals God.

*Agapē* is the Great Work of Grace and the Great End of Faith

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your *faith arete*; and to *arete gnōsis*;

And to *gnōsis egkrateia*; and to *egkrateia hypomonē*;

and to *hypomonē eusebeia*; And to *eusebeia*

*philadelphia*; and to *philadelphia agapē*. For if these

things be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall:

**2 Peter 1:4-10**

<b>Agapē</b>
Philadelphia
<u>Eusebeia</u>
<u>Hypomonē</u>
<u>Egkrateia</u>
Gnōsis
<u>Arete</u>
<b>Faith</b>

With all diligence, add to your *Faith* . . .

### *Arete* - The New Man

*(Virtue) The growl for purity, love, and honor. The vigorous exertion towards moral excellence within the soul. A throwing off of an old behavior and the putting on of a new one. A swallowing up in the efficacious merits of the shed blood of Jesus. A newfound thunder and strength within the soul, campaigning on behalf of the new King's way of doing things in the body.*

### *Gnōsis* - The New Map

*(Knowledge) A very real grasp of Truth. A ready agreement with God's Fact. A clear grip on God's thoughts, a hold on God's ways, and an understanding of God's manner. Discernment of what is right, true,*

*accurate, and in alignment with God. All true knowledge comes from the Word of God, revealing the mind of Christ, the fact of God's great plan.*

### ***Egkrateia - The New Strength (The Inner Clout)***

*(Self-Control) The Strength of God made manifest in the Saints in order to garrison the Body - shield it from every fiery dart of the enemy. It's a God-enabled governing of every operation of the body - a divinely empowered control over appetite, sleep, and sexuality. It's letting not sin reign any longer in the body.*

### ***Hypomonē - The New Endurance***

*(Perseverance) Soul unshakability - The immovable, unbreakable, persistent, unswerving strength of a man established and constructed by the grace of God, never growing tired in his faith, never growing weak in his resolve - enduring until the very end.*

### ***Eusebeia - The New Behavior***

*(Godliness) It's Heavenly Honor, empowered and made possible by the Spirit life within. It's thinking God-thoughts, speaking God-words, behaving with God-behavior. It's a life that beholds the thrice Holy God. A life lived in constant worship, bearing the attitude and the mind of those dwelling in the Throne Room.*

### ***Philadelphia - The New Affection***

*(Brotherly Love) Washing the feet of the saints. Seeking the benefit of those who believe. Laboring to see the Body of Christ built strong. Carrying those sick with the palsy to the feet of Jesus. Honoring others*

*above yourself. Seeking the profit of the saints, even if it means you go without. It means, deep abiding affection for those considered brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.*

## **Agapē - The New Creature**

*(Love) It's God's very nature revealed. Not just His behavior, but His unsullied attitude in all circumstances. It's the perfect excellence of Christ's behavioral action combined with the perfect excellence of Christ's extraordinary affection. It is the great end of the Spirit work within us - to conform us into the image of our Christ - to make us expressions of His agapē. For agapē is what He is. This is His very Person, and when this agapē is evidenced in the saints of God, it is the single greatest demonstration of the Glory of Almighty God on earth. This is what a Christian is to be known by.*

## **Egkrateia - The New Strength (The Inner Clout)**

A Work of Grace, A Result of Real Faith, An Evidence of Love

## **Aggressively Exerting the Claim of God upon the Soul**

And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

## Set up a Garrison

### *Egkrateia* - The New Strength

*The Strength of God made manifest in the Saints in order to garrison the Body - shield it from every fiery dart of the enemy. It's a God-enabled governing of every operation of the body - a divinely empowered control over appetite, sleep, and sexuality. It's letting not sin reign any longer in the body.*

## Miserable Living in Unconquered Canaan

But if you will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which you let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein you dwell.

**Numbers 33:55**

Else if you do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

**Joshua 23:12-13**



## The Hope of a Completely Conquered Canaan

Order my steps in thy word: and **let not** any  
iniquity have dominion over me.

**Psalm 119:133**

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; **let them not**  
have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent  
from the great transgression.

**Psalm 19:13**

**Let not** sin therefore reign in your mortal body,  
that you should obey it in the lusts thereof.

**Romans 6:12**

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the  
prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that strives for the  
mastery is *egkrateuomai* in all things. Now they do it to obtain a  
corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as  
uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beats the air: **But I keep**  
**under my body** (*my body under*), and bring it into  
**subjection**: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I  
myself should be a castaway.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

## The Anatomy of Self-Control (*Egkrateia*)

- First, “I” (Self) must be controlled, submitted, subjected to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Rule of the Spirit of God, and the Authority of the Word of Scripture
- Then, it is no longer “I” (Self) who lives (controls the Body) but Christ who lives within the Body. Thusly, “I” is now in its proper position (crucified yet alive - denied and yet yielded) to behave as it ought. It is now able to exert the authority of Jesus Christ over the body, its impulses, its weaknesses, and its fleshly longings.
- Self is now controlled by Jesus in order to now control the Body as it ought.

## The Sentinel - The Body Guard - The Inner Clout (*Egkrateia*)

1. **The Inner Alarm** - It’s constant examination of motive, inspection of behavior, and evaluation of the spiritual thermostat in the soul
2. **The Ready Response** - It’s sword drawn readiness to respond to any sign (no matter how small) of soul deterioration, moral lassitude, or the encroaching nearness of sinful pollutants.
3. **The Decisive Blow** - It’s the exertion of presidential authority - it’s a license to kill, a governmental mandate to spiritually “take out” that which threatens the Christ-life forming in the soul.

## Testing Your Personal *Egkrateia*

*Are you ready to defend the Body of Christ?*

## How is *Egkrateia* Measured?

1. *By how quick you notice the invader (Is your spiritual alarm working?)*
2. *And by how quick you exert your position in Christ and make right what the enemy is attempting to make wrong (Are you strong to respond quickly and decisively?)*

## The Measurement of Humility

*How well do you handle personal error?*

Humility is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial recognition of your personal error (the alarm sounding) and then the actual confessing with your mouth that you have erred and the seeking of forgiveness for the fault. The Purest form of Humility does not allow the alarm to sound twice.

## **The Measurement of Courage**

*How well do you respond to the suggestion of fear?*

Courage is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the Truth is made manifest to your understanding (the alarm sounds and the command for obedience has been issued and discerned) and then the actual faith-filled, resolute, Truth-empowered response arises to willingly and joyfully accept the challenge. The Purest form of Courage does not allow the alarm to sound twice, no matter if it is a call to great pain, torture, and death. If it be for the glory of our King, the alarm must not need sound twice.

## **The Measurement of Purity**

*How well do you respond to temptation?*

Purity is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the temptation strikes the human soul to the moment when the soul issues forth its command to “*destroy that intruder.*” Never should the Purity alarm need to beep twice. The soldier of the Cross expresses his great faith and love by maintaining a constant, vigilant watch over his soul. Enemy messages are never entertained, never read, never pondered, and certainly not allowed to remain in and amongst the congregation of the saints of God. Hit these thoughts, these intruders, these tempters with the aggressive resolve of the twice born to remain untouched by this world. Whether it be visual temptation, emotional

temptation, or physical temptation - the answer is always the same.

*“NO!!!”*

## **The Measurement of Industry**

*How well do you respond to tiredness and physical weakness?*

Industry is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the physical, emotional, spiritual, and/or psychological tiredness strikes, and the moment that the Grace of God is beckoned forth to ensure soundness of body, mind, soul, and spirit. If the Spirit is working and in need of your watchfulness and energetic givenness, then the alarm should not need sound twice. Rise up in the strength of Jesus Christ, Oh valiant soul! Stay focused, stay sharp, stay sober minded, and stay watchful! Ply your energies until the moment that God gives the word to cease from your labors.

## **The Measurement of Attentiveness**

*How well do you respond to Distraction?*

Attentiveness is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the side-swiping, distracting thought niggles at your mind. It need not be a sinful thought to necessitate being quickly addressed. Anything, no matter how important it may seem, mustn't distract you from the Spirit-engagement and Spirit-assigned work that you are currently engaged in. Stay focused, stay on target. Do not let the alarm go off twice. Command your mind into order, and if need be, keep a pad of paper handy in order to disengage from the thought quickly so that it can be addressed at a more appropriate time. Don't let anything usurp the God-priority of your life. A newly arrived email beep, a cell phone buzz, a phone ring, or even a knock on the door - if you are writing the King's Name, do not budge from your position.

## **The Measurement of Faith**

*How well do you respond to the bait of doubt?*

Faith is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that your soul beholds the seeming contradiction to the Truth of God's Word, the efficacy of His Promise to His Saints and when your soul cries out with unshaken, unstagged confidence, "*Here I stand, I will not be moved! My God has Promised and He CANNOT Lie!*" This is the believing man's soul responsibility - to believe His God even when the entire world and all its illusions attempt to confute and refute the realities of the Great Cross Purchase. The alarm must not beep twice.

## **The Measurement of Joy**

*How well do you respond to trials?*

Joy is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the trial of your faith, the false accusation, the betrayal, or the harsh, demeaning treatment begins and the moment the soul shouts out, "*Rejoice, Oh my soul! Find your satisfaction, your confidence, and your delight in God Almighty! Consider this pure joy!*" The Joy of the Lord is the saint's secret strength. And, therefore, the alarm must not beep twice, in order that the enemy not gain any advantage in and through his wily attack.

## **The Measurement of Peace**

*How well do you respond to the bait of anxiety, fretting, and foreboding?*

Peace is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that the "bad news" or the "anxiety-baited information" arrives in your mental inbox until the moment when you deliberately choose to exclaim within your soul, "*My hope is fixed on the Rock of Jesus Christ - and since He is not shaken, and He is not moved - neither*

*will I allow my soul to disgrace Him by showing even the slightest measure of anxiety in this moment!”* Anxiety has no legal right to engage a believer’s soul, no legal right, that is, unless the believing soul chooses to entertain it and listen to its counsel. In other words, the alarm must not beep twice.

## **The Measurement of Kindness**

*How well do you respond to the needs of those around you?*

Kindness is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment you comprehend the need of another (recognizing also the leading of the Spirit to give yourself practically to the situation) and the moment you engage in being a practical answer to that need.

## **The Measurement of Gentleness**

*How well do you respond to harsh treatment from others?*

Gentleness is measured as the span of time that is allowed to pass between the initial moment that you are poorly treated, offended, or otherwise harmed by another person and the moment in which you choose to respond in an opposite spirit, extend love in return, and choose to forgive their behavior with a blessing-drenched attitude.

## **The Flesh bait**

- Give it another look
- Give it a little longer
- You deserve this
- God knows you need a little break
- God will forgive this

## **The Sentinel’s Ready Response to Every Bait of Darkness**

“No!”