

SELF, SELVES

When God provided quails for the Israelites, they didn't act with any kind of constraint or **self** control. Instead each person gathered 400 to 500 pounds of quail (which was crazy), and then immediately began eating it without giving thanks to God. (That's why God was angry with them.)

- **Numbers 11:32-33:** "And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague."

Soft words, spoken with great **self** control, have great power. They can persuade those who are in positions of authority.

- **Proverbs 25:15:** "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone."

If you seek to avoid ruin then you must learn **self** control. Those who have no self control are defenseless.

- **Proverbs 25:28:** "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

God cares about our inward **selves**. He cares about whether we're full of wickedness, or are clean and holy.

- **Luke 11:39-40:** "And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye

Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?"

We must not be wanton. We need to exercise **self** control.

- **Romans 13:13:** "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

It takes a lot of **self** control to remain single. (Those who lack that control but remain single anyway open themselves up to sexual temptations.)

- **1 Corinthians 7:37:** "Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well."

Our bodies might be dying, but our inward **self** is not. (Instead it's being renewed each day.)

- **2 Corinthians 4:16:** "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

God doesn't forbid **self** control. (In this verse "temperance" refers to self control).

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

In order to learn **self** control we need the Holy Spirit in our life. (In this verse “temperance” refers to self control).

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

It's dangerous for Christians to be around people who have no **self** control. (In this verse “incontinent” means lacking self control.)

- **2 Timothy 3:1-3:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,"

In order to gain control over our own body (**self** control), we must learn to control our words.

- **James 3:2, 5:** "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. ... Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

James pointed out that horses are controlled by putting something in their mouth. He did this to point out that people are controlled by their tongue. The key to **self** control is learning to control our words.

- **James 3:3, 5:** "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. ... Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

Christians are commanded to have temperance (**self** control).

- **2 Peter 1:5-6:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"

The path of a Christian is first faith, then virtue, then knowledge, then temperance (**self** control), then patience, then godliness, then brotherly kindness, then charity. Christians must diligently pursue all of these things.

- **2 Peter 1:5-7:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

Faith, virtue, knowledge, **self** control, patience, godliness, kindness, and charity should abound in the life of each Christian.

- **2 Peter 1:8:** "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."