

**THE  
DECIDED  
CHRISTIAN**

**DECIDE TO "DECIDE"**

Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptist until now,  
the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

**Thomas Kelly, in his collection of writings entitled, "THE ETERNAL PROMISE" says:**

**There is a real need for "decided" Christian men in these days. This decidedness in a Christian is not to be confused with the decidedness of the bigot, or the man with a one-string gospel. It is not a decidedness about a particular doctrine. Such decided Christians are plentiful, but they are not the answer to the world's need.**

**True decidedness is not of doctrine, but of life orientation. It is a commitment of life, thoroughly, wholly, in every department and without reserve, to the Inner Guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

**It is not a tense and reluctant decidedness, an hysterical assertiveness. It is a joyful and quiet displacement of life from its old center in the self, and a glad and irrevocable replacement of the whole of life in a new and divine Center. It is a life lived out from an all-embracing center of motivation, which in glad readiness wills to do the will of the Father, so far as that will can be discerned.**

**It is a life of integration,  
of peace,  
of final coordination of all one's powers,  
within a singleness of commitment.**

**IT IS THE FINAL ELIMINATION OF ALL  
TOLERATED DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS.**

**JESUS IS STANDING AT YOUR HEARTS DOOR,  
WAITING FOR YOUR INVITATION FOR HIM TO COME BACK INTO HIS PROPER  
PLACE WITH YOU AS HIS PERFECT COUNTERPART.  
HE IS THE ONE YOU WERE MADE TO CO-EXIST WITH  
AS CREATOR/CREATED,  
SOVEREIGN LORD/SUBJECT,  
INTIMATE FRIEND.**

**DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE??**

**GOD'S TREASURED COUNTERPART  
TURNED REBEL  
DESERVING WRATH**

**BUT GRACED WITH MERCY!!!!!!**

**OUR REBEL CONDITION IS WHAT HE NOW DESIRES TO TRANSFORM**

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **in view of God's mercy**,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God --  
this is your spiritual {Or [reasonable]} act of worship.

**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is --  
his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 8:6-8

The mind of sinful man is death,  
but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

**the sinful mind is hostile to God.**

**It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.**

**Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.**

Romans 7:7-25

What shall we say, then?

Is the law sin?

Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law.

**For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said,**

**"Do not covet."**

**But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment,  
produced in me every kind of covetous desire.**

**For apart from law, sin is dead.**

**Once I was alive apart from law;**

**but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.**

I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me,  
and through the commandment put me to death.

So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, become death to me?

By no means!

But in order that sin might be recognized as sin,

it produced death in me through what was good,

so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

I do not understand what I do.  
 For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.  
 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.  
 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, **but it is sin living in me.**  
 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.  
**For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.**  
 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do --  
     this I keep on doing.  
 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it,  
     **but it is sin living in me that does it.**  
 So I find this law at work:  
 When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.  
     For in my inner being I delight in God's law;  
 but I see another law at work in the members of my body,  
 waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within  
     my members.  
 What a wretched man I am!  
 Who will rescue me from this body of death?  
**Thanks be to God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord!**  
 So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law,  
     but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Cain was an upright, righteous man who had an intimate relationship with his God.  
 At least we can assume that because he brought his gift before the Lord as an act of worship. As  
 God rejects his gift, Cain is hurt, and feels rejected. He becomes angry.

Genesis 4:2-7

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.  
 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to YHWH.  
 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.  
 YHWH looked with favor on Abel and his offering,  
 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.  
 So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.  
 Then YHWH said to Cain,  
     "Why are you angry?  
     Why is your face downcast?  
 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?  
 But if you do not do what is right,  
     **sin is crouching at your door;  
     it desires to have you, but you must master it."**

Quoting again from Thomas Kelly:

**Meister Eckhart wrote:**

**"There are plenty to follow our Lord half-way, but not the other half.  
They will give up possessions, friends and honors,  
but it touches them too closely to disown themselves."**

**It is just this astonishing life  
which is willing to follow Him the other half,  
sincerely to disown itself, this life which intends complete obedience,  
without any reservations.  
Commit your lives in unreserved obedience to Him.**

**Such decidedness is not forced upon us by external circumstances.  
It cannot be whipped up as an artificial intensity.**

**If we as Christians hope to be instruments  
of the Divine Life in these days,  
we must be ready to pass out of the stage of mere Christianity,  
to the stage of decided Christians.**

#### **KINGDOM/DEMOCRACY**

**In a Kingdom the King is the authority.**

**In a Democracy the people are the authority (majority rule)**

**Quoting Thomas Kelly again:**

**Decidedness is something wholly different from mild,  
conventional religion which, with respectable skirts held  
back by dainty fingers, anxiously tries to fish the world  
out of the mudhole of its own selfishness.**

**Our churches are full of such respectable and likeable people.  
We have plenty of Christians to follow God the first half of the way.**

**The life that intends to be wholly obedient,  
wholly submissive, wholly listening, is astonishing in its completeness.  
It is the life and power of Jesus of Nazareth.  
It is the life and power in which the prophets and apostles lived.**

### **It is the "single eye" that Jesus spoke about**

Luke 11:34

Your eye is the lamp of your body.  
When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light.  
But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.

### **It is Paul's resolve to not know anything among men except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

Colossians 2:20-23

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world,  
why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

These are all destined to perish with use,  
because they are based on human commands and teachings.

**Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom,  
with their self-imposed worship,  
their false humility  
and their harsh treatment of the body,  
but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.**

### **INTELLECTUAL POWER WITHOUT MORAL CONTROL WAS THE VERY FRUIT OF THE FORBIDDEN TREE.**

Genesis 3:5

**"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,  
and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

*(But have no power to do the good)*

### **MASTERING SIN: THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**

Richard Foster in his book, "THE CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE," identifies 10 spiritual disciplines (prayer, meditation, fasting, Bible study, solitude, service, simplicity, submission, confession, worship, guidance, celebration) that are intended to bring us to a face to face meeting with our Savior and Lord.

These tools that can be used to keep us focused on the Spirit's specific personal message to our condition and spiritual state are not to be used to discipline ourselves so that we will be better

Christians. They are to be used to keep us focused and attentive to the light that Christ is spotlighting on our self-centered natures so that we will be able to identify it, confess it and surrender it to his power so that it can be put to death by Him.

2 Corinthians 4:4-11

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,  
so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,  
who is the image of God.

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,  
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in  
the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God  
and not from us.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;  
perplexed, but not in despair;  
persecuted, but not abandoned;  
struck down, but not destroyed.

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus,  
so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake,  
so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

The light that enlightens us is the heavenly and divine light  
which lets us see all our evil words and deeds and our sins,  
and the same light lets us see Christ our savior, from whom it came,  
to save us from our sin and to blot it out  
so that the wrath of God would not come upon us.

The light that enlightens every man,  
enlightens the wicked also, how else could they hate it.  
And the reason why they did hate it was because their deeds were evil  
and they would not come to it because it reproved them,  
and this light was not the Scriptures  
because the Word came before the Scriptures were written.  
The world did not believe in the light, though they were enlightened,  
but hated the light which they were supposed to believe in,  
and loved the darkness instead.  
This placed them under God's wrath.

**The light of the Spirit of Christ in the heart  
tends to the humiliation of man  
and the exaltation of Christ.  
For it reveals to him his many iniquities,  
and affords him the clearest evidence  
that he is fallen, corrupt, and prone to evil.**

**Today, as you hear His voice, don't harden your heart. (Psalms 95:7)**

**His light, when followed, always softens that which is hard,  
and deflates that which is puffed up.  
As we are fully submissive to His light in our hearts,  
we will of necessity become tender, repenting, humble, submissive,  
toward Him.**

**As we endeavor to follow this light,  
we are again and again instructed  
in the lesson that our own strength is utter weakness,  
and that we can do no good thing of ourselves.**

**As we live in this understanding,  
we can only exalt and worship Christ,  
who supports us in every difficulty.  
Who strengthens and equips us in every temptation.  
Who restores our dried up spirits  
and leads us in the path of right living.**

**Today, let the light of Christ give you an accurate picture of your soul.  
Don't fight what you see.  
Don't push it away.  
Don't ignore it.**

**Allow Him to begin the process  
of applying His power to change your condition  
to that which will please Him.**

**Christ is in the process of chipping away everything  
that does not reflect  
or glorify or look like Christ himself  
from you life.**

**Let Him!!      Today!!  
Now!!**