

## Leaving a Vacancy

Eddie was a clerk in a hardware store. He made a name for himself as the most inefficient and contentious sales-man ever. The atmosphere when he was absent one day was like the tranquil beauty of summer weather after a bad thunderstorm. One regular customer remarked on the difference. "Eddie ain't just away for the day," said the proprietor, "He don't work here no more."

by Irvin Himmel

"Do you have anyone in mind for the vacancy?" asked the customer. "Nope," said the proprietor cheerfully, "Eddie didn't leave no vacancy."

This little story reminds us of some folks in the church. It is so seldom that they attend services that no one really misses them when

they are absent. They are such that no great loss is felt if they move to another city. Like Eddie, they leave no vacancy. Others can be absent for only one or two services and they are missed. Why? Because they are dependable. When their seat is vacant people take notice.

Church attendance is not the only matter of importance in the life of a Christian. However, it is a pretty good index to the temperature of one's fervor for the Lord. Non-attending members are usually non-participating in other aspects of the Lord's work. One must fill a place, render needed service, and be a participant before he can leave a vacancy.



### Classes This Week

<b>Sunday Evening</b> College Devo and Singing at Larry Lauderdale's home	<b>Monday 7:00 PM</b> Men's class on "How to Change Yourself" at Walker Davis' home	<b>Tuesday 10:00 AM</b> Ladies' class at Anna Miller's house on "Seasoning Your Words"	<b>Tuesday 8:00 PM</b> Truth Seekers in room 2277 of the student center
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### March Birthdays

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Charles Hunt, chuck Hunt's dad
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Charles Cecil (Orie's g'dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	James Palmer (Rachel Hobbard's grandfather)

- 1-Amanda Cagle
- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Angela Fowler
- 2-Joy Powell
- 2-Connell Hodges
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 4-Morgan Cavender
- 5-Sophie Borden
- 7-Josh Pender
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 9-Richard Zacarius
- 9-Austin Bartlett
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 13-Adam Holliday
- 16-Taylor Godwin
- 17-Susan Sullivan
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 18-Alaina Barham
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 21-Rachel Bobo
- 22-Will Hollis
- 23-Sarah Embry
- 25-Sawyer Hall
- 25-Ethan Chandler
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Katie Jasper
- 28-Jacob Hagedwood
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Makenzie Neeley
- 30-Amanda Stephens

### News and Notes

- ☒ - Tonight is singing night!
- ☒ - Sarah Chandler's sister, June, is having knee replacement on Monday.
- ☒ - Congratulations to Scott and Jenna Vaughn on the birth of their son, Benjamin Louis, on Thursday!
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Brooke Perkins' dad, Jay Jennings, as he is experiencing some swelling issues since his hip replacement.
- ☒ - Jared Johnson's cousin, John Duke, is recovering in a rehab facility now.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Fallon Hartsell as she recovers.
- ☒ - Orie Cecil's cousin, Caleb, is seriously ill. Please pray for him and his family.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Brooke Perkins, Fallon Hartsell, and Ingrid Chavez.
- ☒ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, started her chemotherapy at Vandy this week.
- ☒ - Jeremiah Johnson's dad, TJ, had a pacer-maker put in on Monday.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted on [www.auchurch.com](http://www.auchurch.com).

# The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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## Mastering Self - God Demands Self-Denial

By Donnie V. Rader



### Thoughts to Ponder

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls. (Proverbs 25:28)

Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mark 8:34). Self-denial is one of the most basic attributes of Christianity. Yet, it is one of the most difficult to attain. One reason for that is that it requires great strength of will.

Man has a great problem mastering himself. Those who willfully engage in sin have not learned to control themselves. Those who are overcome in a moment of temptation have a problem (at least for the moment) with self-control. When we get angry and let our tempers flare and our words fly, our character is then flawed due to not practicing self-discipline. We exhibit a lack of will power when we overeat, are lazy, or are addicted to alcohol, tobacco or some other drug. Thus, mastering self requires constant work for all of us. The difference in us is that we may need to work on it in different areas of our lives.

Shakespeare wrote, "Brave Conquerors! for so you are, that war against your own affections and the huge army of the world's desires." John Sterling said, "The

The Bible does not picture the Christian void of all passion, drained of all desires or detached from all temptation. Rather, it envisions that all of his appetites, and desires remain, but he keeps them under control and mastery. With self-control man becomes the master and not the slave of his passion.

worst education which teaches self-denial is better than the best which teaches everything else, and not that."

There are more passages that imply the principle of self-denial than we may think at first. To learn and grow in self-denial is to grow in heart, in soul, and in character. This is one quality that we can use every moment of every day in every place.

With this article we begin a series of five articles on mastering self.

### Defining Self-Denial

1. Different words used in the New Testament. There are three different

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**Elders**  
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050  
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**Sunday**  
Bible Class .....9:30 AM  
Worship .....10:20 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
**Wednesday**  
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM  
E-Mail:  
[larryrouse@aubeacon.com](mailto:larryrouse@aubeacon.com)  
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Evangelist and Editor

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words or phrases used in the Bible that point to the same concept of denying or controlling self.

(a) Jesus used the phrase "deny himself" (**Mark 8:34**). (b) The NKJV uses the words "self-control" in **2 Peter 1:6, Titus 1:8**. (c) The word "temperance" or "temperate" is used in the KJV in **2 Peter 1:6, 1 Corinthians 9:25, and Titus 2:2**.

2. "Deny self" means "to forget oneself, lose sight of oneself and one's own interest" (Thayer, p. 54). Literally it means to say "No!" to yourself. It is hard to say no to others, but even harder to say no to ourselves.

3. "Temperance" means "self-government" (Thayer). Strong's says the original words translated "temperance" comes from a word that means "to be strong in a thing (i.e., masterful)." It means dominion, power or strength.

Thus, temperance means to have power of dominion over self. William Barclay suggests that it is the "ability to take a grip of oneself."

4. Aristotle proposed that there are four states of man with reference to the battle between reason and passion. (a) Perfect Temperance: This is where reason rules over passion. The fight is won. (b) On the other end of the spectrum is Unbridled Lust: This is where passion rules over reason. The fight is lost. In between these two states is where the battle within ourselves takes place. (c) Incontinence: This is where reason fights, but passion prevails. The battle is on, but at the moment reason is losing. (d) Self-Control: This is where passion fights against reason, but reason prevails. The battle is still on, but at the moment reason is winning. (Taken from Barclay's comments on **2 Pet. 1:6**.)

The principle of self-denial or self-control deals with the reality of life. The Bible does not picture the Christian void of all passion, drained of all desires or detached from all temptation. Rather, it envisions that all of his appetites, and desires remain, but he keeps them under control and mastery. With self-control man be-

comes the master and not the slave of his passions.

### Passages That Require Self-Denial

1. Passages that specifically mention self-denial or self-control. Jesus said that those desiring to be his disciples must deny self (**Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23**). Paul preached to Felix about righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come (**Acts 24:25**). Peter lists "temperance" as one of the "Christian graces" which we are to add to our faith (**2 Pet. 1:6**). The fruit of the Spirit includes self-control (**Gal. 5:23**). Those who run the race and compete for the crown must be temperate in all things (**1 Cor. 9:5**). The comparison in this text is that we are to be self-controlled and self-disciplined just as athletes are. Elders are to have self-control (**Tit. 1:8**) and aged men should be temperate (**Tit. 2:8**).

2. Passages which deal with self-denial and self-control in principle. Paul urged the Romans not to continue in sin (**cf. Rom. 6:1**) by telling them not to let sin reign in their bodies (**Rom. 6:12ff**). That requires self-control. The same writer said that it was no longer himself, but Christ who lives in him (**Gal. 2:20**). He had said "No!" to himself. Those who are God's people willingly submit to Christ in everything (**Eph. 5:24**). That implies self-denial.

3. Any passage that forbids the following requires self-control: lust (**2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 5:28**), lying (**Eph. 4:25**), immorality (**1 Cor. 6:18**), covetousness (**Col. 3:5**), retaliation (**Rom. 12:17-21**), laziness (**Rom. 12:11; 2 Thess. 3:10**), self-willed (**Tit. 1:7**) and hatred (**Gal. 5:20**).

4. Any passage that commands the following requires self-control: meekness (**Matt. 5:3**), gentleness (**2 Tim. 2:24**), patience (**2 Tim. 2:24**), soberness (**1 Pet. 1:13**), contentment (**Heb. 13:5**), and chastity (**Tit. 2:5**).

### This Is An Area In Which We Need To Grow

The Christian life is a continual growing process. We should always be growing in grace and in knowledge of the Lord (**2 Pet. 3:18**). Each day and each year we should be gaining more and more spiritual maturity (**Heb. 5:14**).



## A Convenient Doctrine ...

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The doctrine that the Holy Spirit in the Christian directly guides his steps or directly "speaks to his heart" on a day to day basis is becoming more and more popular among professed Christians. By "directly" I mean other than indirectly that is that of getting the Spirit's word through a study the Scriptures. It is a false doctrine, not taught in the Bible.

It is also a very CONVENIENT doctrine.

1. It takes away the need to diligently search the Scripture for guidance – just listen to what the Spirit is saying to the heart.

2. It provides one with the assurance(?) that about anything he really wishes to do is right – after all, that urge that he feels must be coming from the Holy Spirit.

3. It relieves one of the burden of having to wrestle with making the right choices – the Holy Spirit will guide him to the right way.

4. It relieves one of having to give objective evidence to his critics for his

The Scriptures, inspired of God (Holy Spirit) comprises the complete guide for the Christian (2 Tim. 3:16-17), completely furnishing him unto every good work. He needs to look to the apostles doctrine (N.T. Scriptures) for guidance and not to feelings, hunches, etc. that he can attribute to the Spirit's guidance in his heart.

course of action – he can just claim that he doesn't need objective evidence because he has the Spirit in his heart guiding him.

5. It give him an "out" in explaining any weird thing that he might do – he was just following the urging of the Spirit.

6. It can give one an excuse for "unity in diversity" – after all the Spirit in each one will surely guide him in the best course for HIM. Without a common objective standard, then who is to say that another is wrong when he is following what the Spirit in HIM is saying. This can also explain why different people claiming to be directly guided by the Holy Spirit can contradict one another and still be right.

Yes, convenient, indeed. But it is not right. The Scriptures, inspired of God (Holy Spirit) comprises the complete guide for the Christian (2 Tim. 3:16-17), completely furnishing him unto every good work. He needs to look to the apostles doctrine (N.T. Scriptures) for guidance and not to feelings, hunches, etc. that he can attribute to the Spirit's guidance in his heart.

