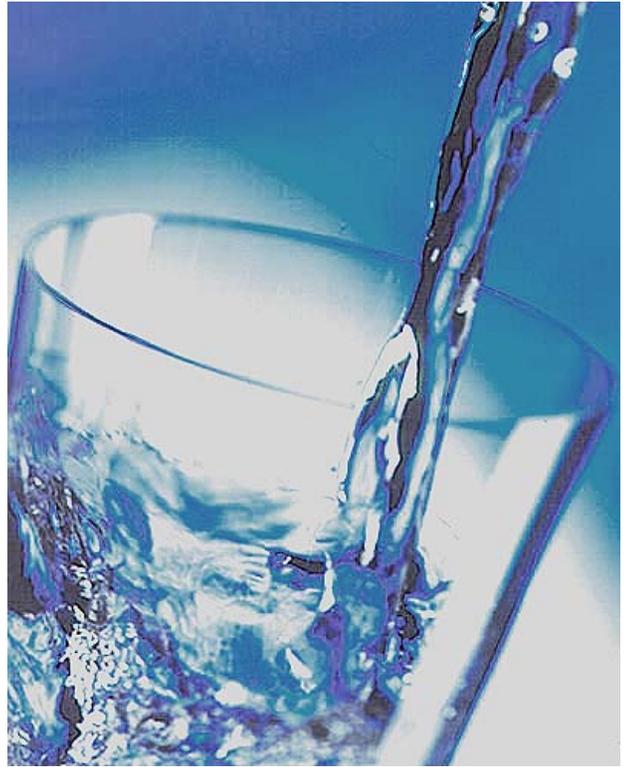


"Seeing ye have *purified* your souls in obeying the Truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:" *1 Peter 1:22 KJV*

Water must be heated so intensely that it vaporizes and separates into its smallest particles and then cooled to purify it. Impurities will be carried away or burned off. The purification of our souls is no less rigorous. Obedience to Truth is never easy, because our flesh lusteth to sin and will ferociously battle to maintain dominance over our soul. You are not your body; you are an eternal soul with a body and spirit. When our spirit unites with God who is a Spirit through repentance which is obedience to God's Word by faith, then we are a "living soul" by virtue of God's presence with us and in us. God is in us through His Word in our thoughts directing our deeds and desires by our willing choice. God's Word says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present *YOUR BODIES* a living sacrifice, Holy (pure), acceptable unto God, which is your *REASONABLE* service." The desires of the body, lusts, are sacrificed to the obedience of God's Word. The indwelling Spirit of Truth, God's Word in thought, is what strengthens our soul for the ever wearisome conflict between spirit and flesh. Paul said, "So fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under *MY BODY*, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be *A CASTAWAY*." Conflict must be waged continually for it is a struggle for Life. To give up is to die, or be apart from God, but we are not alone; because "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world, for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do (God's Word in thought) of His good pleasure." It's called "the good fight of faith." This is the reason for the armor of God: The helmet of Christ's salvation; the breastplate of Christ's righteousness; Christ's Truth to gird our loins; the shoes of Christ's Gospel; the shield of faith (obedience); and the "Sword of the Spirit," God's Word. Notice none of these pieces protect our body but our soul. The true warrior does not "entangle himself" with lustful desire. He cannot afford to let bodily feelings temper his choices. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." The believer is a warrior of, for, and by Truth. If you think not, then try living according to Truth and you will find "all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"; your body being your worst enemy! Living right is a fight to the death of lust. How hard is it just to overcome the impulses of appetite for food when you decide to lose weight? Your body is a powerful foe and Satan is a master at using it to his advantage. "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith (obedience to God's Word)." You can only survive his attacks if you're wearing God's armor. Your armor (willpower) will not do! Satan is lying in wait for the unarmored warrior. Believers find the battle much easier the closer they get to God. We can fight WITHOUT our KING or we can fight WITH Him. We can be "a castaway," or "more than conqueror." Christ has already won. We are just rescuing as many POW's as we can while staying beside Him!



Obey the Truth, it purifies.
It keeps us safe from Satan's lies,
Love all your brethren in the strife,
And you will wear a Crown of Life! ~CGP

It's the heat of the battle that strengthens your soul for the conflict. The heat of battle is when our flesh desires something we KNOW is sinful. The fight is in the choosing. Your strength of choice lies in the amount of God's Word occupying your thoughts. Every time we choose lust we are wounded! We lose Peace, Joy, and fellowship with God! We never lack for supplies because our source, God's Word, is infinite. We need only meditate (think on God's Word) and pray (ask for wisdom). I love the words of this old hymn; "And when the battle's over, we shall wear a crown, in the New Jerusalem!" Remembering our example, Jesus; "*Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the Joy that was set before Him (eternity with His beloved) ENDURED the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.*" We joy in what is coming, not in present circumstance!

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16 KJV

C. G. Palmer