

## **A Mighty Servant of God** **- Ron Stullenbarger -**

*“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Ephesians 4:17-24, NASB)*

To become God’s mighty servants, we must decide whether to base our life on His priorities or the world’s. The two are incompatible. Before salvation, people typically live according to whatever the flesh desires. Promoting self gratification, our culture maintains that everyone is the center of his or her own universe and can decide what is right for himself or herself.

Scripture teaches the opposite: to put God above all else and *“regard one another as more important than yourselves”* (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 2:3). So how do we give God top priority? Jesus says it means loving Him wholeheartedly, denying ourselves, and following Him (Matthew 16:24; 22:37-39). That includes generosity. Instead of encouraging us to acquire money in positions, he teaches it giving brings far more blessings and receiving (Acts 20:35).

How can we know we are becoming spiritually stronger? First, we will be less attracted to the ungodly practices of our world and will yearn to be more like Jesus. Next, we will start replacing ungodly habits with activities that please the Lord. Then, we’ll begin to comprehend some of the deeper biblical truths and apply them to our life. Finally, our spiritual discernment will improve. With the Spirit’s help, we will more easily recognize unrighteous ideas and behavior.

Do you want to become mighty in spirit? If so, spend time in the Scripture learning what is important to God. Then ask Him to transform you into the person He wants you to be.