

## Ruling Yourself

(1Jn 5:18-21) <sup>18</sup>We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps (guards) himself, and the wicked one does not touch (fasten to) him. <sup>19</sup>We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. <sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

We Know we can live Free from sin - **if** we Guard ourselves from Handles

Agreement is Access (Amos 3:3) - lies, wounds, feelings, ignorance

Ruling Ourselves is the First Priority of Spiritual Warfare

(Ga 5:16-17) <sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts (wars) against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

We War for Rule of Ourselves (Gen 4:7, Rom 6:12)

(Eph 6:10-18) heavenly powers war for influence in us, stand in Him

Our Responsibility - Impossible without His Spirit (vs Law)

Repentance - break Agreement (remove handle) in His authority (deliverance)

(Lk 10:19) can't avoid harm without taking authority

We Know there are only Two Sources of Influence (surprised?)

Love People while Guarding ourselves from their Influence (21, 1Jn 2:15) - compromise

We Know we have **Truth** (Jesus Jn 14:6, Word Jn 17:17) to Keep us Free (Jn 8:32)

(Ps 51:6) Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

We cannot Control our Outward Actions without Ruling our Inner Man

ex: Conflict - Emotions vs Truth about our Hearts

God gave us **Emotions** (He has them), but they are unreliable Guides (Jer 17:9)

Rachel's Dream: Faith in Feelings, Truth in Experiences

World: Express & Validate Feelings (children)

(Pr 29:11) A fool vents all his feelings (spirit), but a wise man holds them back.

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

first training of children is emotional self control (fruit of Spirit)

Maturity - Ruling or Venting?

Church: Rule Emotions by Expressing and Validating Truth (2Thes 2:10)

ex: youth anger story

Truth sets Free (Jn 8:32) - worldly lie: expressing feelings is freeing (bondage)