

INDEPENDENCE

It is important that we learn to be *responsible*,
not *independent* from others!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE ALL NEED HELP!

Independence is an attitude of mind
With which we have been instilled.
We struggle and strive to reach it,
Because, to us, it means we are all grown up, fulfilled.

But, then, there comes a time in life
When it becomes “too much.”
Then, I have conflicts within because I realize the pain
Of trying to live life “untouched.”

Untouched by the love, comfort, and joy
That comes only from letting God and others share their lives with me.
Therefore, unknowingly, angers and fears have set in.
From these, please Lord, set me free.

Life is teaching me that *freedom* does not mean
Doing my own thing,
as I thought.
Rather, I'm learning that freedom to love, give, and serve
Others, not self, holds the happiness I've sought.
God and others are willing to help me to begin this change.
Though hard it may be,
I must all remember, life is not meant to be lived alone,
But to be shared with others continually.

For only in this way,
can I learn to believe in, follow,
depend upon, trust, love
and obey my Creator,

If I will but follow
Your leader,
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

NEGATIVE THINKING

SATAN'S COCKTAIL

This attractive, crystal-like container contains nothing but deadly poison.
Why? It is grounded in negative, dead soil. Some recognize it as “stinkin’ thinkin’.”

Do your conversations and thought patterns follow these lines?

Someone else can do it better than I can.

I don’t want to embarrass anyone else.

Nobody can help. Leave me alone.

There is nothing I can do to help.

I don’t want to be embarrassed.

God does not care about me.

I don’t need anyone else.

Nobody will listen to me.

I don’t have any talent

I can’t trust anyone.

I’m not good enough.

They are hypocrites.

They don’t need me.

I don’t have time.

It is not my job.

It is too hard.

It won’t work.

God is dead.

Impossible.

“Poor Me.”

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All of this grew
from a single basic
thought—“I just can’t.”

Although these thoughts may form
what appears to be an attractive container,
something desirable, they will poison our mind.

BEING A WORKAHOLIC

THE QUESTION TO BE PONDERED

Why are you working so hard?

Is it to use some training from the past or

Have a better life in the future?

Has someone fed you a line of baloney?

It goes something like this:

“Only money will bring you the happiness you want and need!”

Have you ever considered—or perhaps you’ve learned—

This is one of many lies Satan has told you as you walk the path of life?

The truth is

Following the devil’s guidance leads only to mega problems and strife.

Could it be there are more important goals to be achieved?

The answer is yes, and in pursuing them,

Peace of mind, happiness, and contentment will be received.

Can’t do it your way though.

It must be God’s way, for no other will bring you what He wants for you.

So,

Slow down,

Take a deep breath,

Decide to read and obey God’s Word each day,

Oh, yes, don’t forget to pray along the way

Follow the guidance He gives to you as you

travel life’s road.

Then, you will experience the

peace of mind, happiness, and contentment

as you walk the path He lays before you.

MATERIALISM

LESS IS BEST!

Put it to the test.

When I have less,

I have a greater appreciation for what God has already given me.

When I have less,

My creative juices have greater opportunity to be utilized in meeting family needs.

When I have less,

It is easier for others to buy gifts because I don't have everything.

When I have less,

Many rich memories will linger from times when I "Waited on the Lord."

When I have less,

I develop greater empathy for the poor.

When I have less,

I do not overindulge in food or expenditures, which result in problems sore.

When I have less,

It helps me to look to Christ and depend upon Him more and more.

Do not allow the problems of society to be repeated in your life because you have not learned "Less is Best" thus creating problems o'er and o'er.

"Lord, please teach me to be content and stop wanting
more and more."

This only leads to greed, expensive storage places, too
Expenditures exceed my income—frustration and depression run high.

You want me out of debt, not deeper in—
free from "stuff" that kills within.

Oh, if I would only listen to the wise counsel You have given,
Then financial peace of mind would be mine.

As you travel life's road, wherever it may lead,
May you take the time to help others, this important message to heed.

COMPETITION MAN'S DISTORTED VIEW

For someone to win, others have to lose.

The players are chosen by a process of “pick and choose.”

If you are good enough, you are “picked.”

If not, you lose.

Many competitions on the playing field of life

Result in example after example of man's strife.

We are told “Winning is everything.

It is all that matters in this life.”

But, in the eyes of God, this is absolutely not true.

Cause after winning trophies on earth, you die.

Perhaps, because you have performed so well on earth,

Surely, you think, God will treat you as a winner in like kind.

He will accept you into heaven based upon your performance on earth.

Oh, the disappointment when you learn competition's real worth.

God is not impressed with our big accomplishments in life.

In reality, they offer no meaningful fulfillment—only stress and strife.

Competing to be part of the best in first place

Just takes our eyes off the goal as we run with haste.

Competition in this life is sin.

Because it takes our focus off Jesus and promotes men.

The real goal of life is not to win as you push others aside.

The true prize to win, most important of all,

to live life to the full, according to His plan.

Then Jesus will escort you to the Promised Land.

Any other endeavor one may seek

Leads only to endings that are empty and bleak.

So, before it is too late,

Let's live the purpose of life each day.

Jesus says, “Come, just as you are, as I show you the way.”

Then God will allow us to enter heaven on that day.