

## John 291“Human Self-Confidence versus Spiritual Self-Discipline”

John 18:10

The plan of God was designed by God in eternity past with His grace in mind which means that each of us benefits greatly from participating in His plan which is exclusively revealed through His Word.

Throughout the magnificent process of God’s experiential plan for us, we must remember that just as the Holy Spirit sustained the humanity of Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry, the indwelling Holy Spirit sustains us in our earthly ministries and every other aspect of life.

The Spirit-filled believer produces a mental attitude followed by a lifestyle which becomes an open letter from God to His creation, the human race.

Peter had plenty of human self-confidence but not very much in the way of spiritual self-discipline at this point and self-confidence is directly linked to self-centered arrogance which is devoid of any genuine humility.

Before Lucifer’s pride showed, his lust for attention had surfaced because apparently, as he paraded around Heaven, everyone there was impressed with his beauty.

And it’s this same type of pride that gets Peter in trouble at Gethsemane; it’s a pride which is nothing more than an unwarranted self-respect, a highly over-valued opinion of self or simply making an issue out of self above and beyond all sound reasoning.

Jesus Christ NEVER lost control and no power on earth could have arrested Him without His permission!

The application for us is to make sure we make the right decisions in adversity as well as in prosperity and for that reason, it’s important to decide beforehand the course of action we will take when the time comes so that we can have a stable mind in any crisis.

The high priest always entered the Holy of Holies alone just as the Lord Jesus went to the Cross alone.

Peter planned to protect the Lord Jesus with human viewpoint, self-confident, inappropriate action but the Lord protected Peter and the others with divine viewpoint spiritual self-disciplined thinking followed by proper action.

Peter was sincere, courageous, educated well in the plan of God and yet he was completely out of line.

Peter would give up his life before he would stand up for what he believed!

Peter had knowledge of the situation and enough of God’s truth in his soul but he lacked the wisdom to apply it at the right moment because his emotion got the best of him.

As a human being, Peter is beyond great but as a believer in Jesus Christ at this moment, he badly misses the point of his Master’s mission.

Peter relied on human viewpoint self-confidence over divine viewpoint spiritual self-discipline.

When we begin on the wrong foot, we start a series of progressive failures.

Peter didn’t begin with denial; he began with loyalty and courage mixed with emotion.

You can be the strongest, most dedicated person in the world but if you don’t operate in God’s plan with His power, your source of human dependence becomes your source of spiritual weakness.

Grace only uses hopeless, helpless, humble people who depend upon God for everything they are and everything they have.

What was Peter’s problem? Confident Peter was very sure of himself.

In order for Peter to be used of God, he has to become grace-oriented and that means he must hit

rock bottom in terms of his human abilities.

If we have a lot of good human qualities, God will have to work harder with us to bring us to the bottom of our selfish pride rope so that we'll take hold of His grace rope.

Misplaced self-aggrandizing loyalty plus sincerity plus courage equals great failure every time.