

feb 19

do you need a washing

"that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word." eph 5:26

have you ever watched something or done something that just made you feel dirty all over?in a way, i guess that's a good thing because it means your sensibilities are still intact. you are still able to be moved by the gentle urgings of the Holy Spirit; the urgings that whisper, "your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'this is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." isa 30:21

that's the leading that guides us through this life; those convictions of conscience and the disgust at deeds of darkness. i can't believe that any child is born with desire for evil. certainly we are all born with a fallen nature and tendencies would drive us in that direction if left unabated. a little dabble here and a little dabble there and before one knows it their conscience has become seared. even a child is prone to be possessive and declare something "mine."

our Lord came into human flesh so He might also be, "tempted as we are, yet without sin." heb 4:15 He overcame sinful flesh that we might obtain victory in Him. i read a hard passage this morning. "if anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple." luke 14:26

no, Jesus doesn't want us to hate those closest to us. He does want us to get our priorities in order and what is the greatest commandment? "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." matt 22:37 it may well cost us all we love and more. many a families have been torn asunder by one coming to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

yes, we must love the Lord Jesus with all our heart. we must be willing to lay down even our life if need be. how does one stand against all the trouble and turmoil facing each of us daily in this advancing darkness? a world that preaches tolerance has become the most intolerant of all. they are tolerant of everything but Jesus. i know Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. no one comes to the Father except through Me." john 14:6 but we, expounding that fact, don't force anyone to accept it as they want us to accept their truth.

so how do we overcome and endure to the end as we are commanded. where does one find the strength? we take another bath. yes, a daily and often hourly bath in the water of the word. we soak in His Presence and allow the One who holds all things to hold us too.

"whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things." phil 4:8

the more we scrub and wash, the more Christ-like we become; the more christian we become.