

December 4, 2022

## The Devoted Heart

by George Slover

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*  
(Matthew 6:24)

The “mammon” here represents anything that is worldly. Actually, the word means “riches,” but the message and application is much broader. Jesus is warning to watch for the divided heart. He says, “You can’t have two masters. You must make a choice: You must be loyal to God or loyal to the world.”

We are all probably more challenged with this than we would care to admit. It is easy to sing “Holy to the Lord” on Sunday, but the real challenge comes when we leave the worship assembly. That is where we feel the pull of the world.

Paul alludes to such struggles in Romans 7:19: “For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.” (Romans 7:19) Notice the difference between what “I will” and what “I practice.” It is easy for the God-fearing to resolve to abstain from worldly actions and attitudes, or resolve to bear the fruits of righteousness only to be exposed to the subtle influences of the world.

God does not want the divided heart. He wants every corner of your life. We must find the places where the world seeps in, close up the gaps, and place our entire focus on the Lord!

## Superman

by Rickie Jenkins

When Superman takes off his Superman outfit, who is he? Clark Kent? The answer is, he is still Superman. It doesn’t matter what clothes he is wearing. He is still Superman on the inside. His strength came not from the uniform he wore, but from the power within.

The power within does not come from us. It comes from God. “If anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability which God supplies...” (1 Pet. 4:11). God supplies the power we need. We are made in God’s image. Our heart, soul, mind, passion, and love exist because God created us in His image. It does not matter how we dress up, on the inside we are still created in God’s image.

One of the greatest tragedies of sin is that we have fallen for the lie we can be someone else. We can change who we are. But when we come face to face with the reality of our sin, we realize all we have been doing is taking off the cape. We are still in God’s image. Sin stained that image, but we are still in His image. The good news is that our stained image can be made pure, white as snow once again. We are not just human. We are made in God’s image. That makes us super.

Satan uses the illusion, and lie, that outside circumstances define who we are. They have power over us. But the truth is, God did not make us from the outside-in.

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

He made us from the inside-out. How many of us have been living like Clark Kent, when in reality, on the inside we are made for far more and there is more within us?

See, to be a child of God there is no cape required. What is required is a heart, soul and mind, single-mindedly devoted to doing His will. No cape, no makeup. We do not have to impress anyone. We must be striving to grow to be who we were created to be. We must strive to have a heart that wants to do all things always that please the Father. We do not have to be superman. It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**Elaine Kersch** is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

**Randall Vanaman** is having difficulties with his feet.

**Keith Trammel** is ill with covid and Darrell and Audria are isolating to prevent spreading it.

**Baby Valor** undergoing continued treatments.

**Remember those who have been sick with covid and may still be recovering.**

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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