

The Myth Of Human Self-Sufficiency

When people boast of being self-sufficient, they are indulging a fiction that can be proved fictitious just by taking a quick look at the physical creation.

Wherever there is life there is a constant expenditure of energy and for a constant renewal to keep the organism active.

To sustain life, a right balance must be maintained between the outgoing and the intake of energy.

When an organism is forced to expend more energy than it can create and this is continued past a certain point, life ceases and the whole structure falls apart.

We call this condition death.

This elementary law of life is taken for granted by the human race and provision is made within the social framework for the intake of matter from which the body can create energy to replace that lost by normal activity.

This matter we call food, and we refer to its reception into the organism as eating.

The whole thing is an accepted phenomenon of human life, so we tend to overlook the profound lesson it teaches us.

No living thing is self-sufficient.

The human body cannot live on itself.

To live we have to have a constant help from outside ourselves.

Though humans are filled with pride and overflowing with self-assurance, we must humble ourselves to receive aid from the lower creation, plants and animals.

Genesis 1:26 [King James] *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”*

We have dominion over all these things but we are also dependent on their existence.

Even a genius must look to bees, shrubs, seeds and berries to continue to exist!

From these come the energy without which all people would die, the great as well as the lowly.

In one sense everyone lives by faith.

There is a kind of natural faith necessary before we sit down to eat.

Those who scorn faith must nevertheless exercise it or they cannot receive the necessary food to continue to live.

They eat regular meals in complete confidence that the hens, cows, grain and bees will **not** let them down.

Life and energy are the reward of such faith.

God's Word, the Christian Bible, tells us that what God has created in this world, on which we are so dependent for this present limited physical life, are there for us to learn about our Creator God Himself.

Romans 1:18-20 [NIV] *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

This lack of self-sufficiency is one thing we are to learn about the Creator God's plan for all humanity.

When we apply what we have just seen about physical life to a future eternal spiritual life, we find the same is true.

John 15:5-8 [NIV] *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

Our future life, the other side of death as well as now in this limited physical life is dependent on what is outside of our own being.

What we may forget is that this physical body is just the dwelling place of the "human spirit," that is the only part of our physical existence that will pass through physical death.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *"But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding."*

The Hebrew word translated "understanding" is "bîyn" meaning discernment, perception, ability to think and choose.

This "human spirit" cannot live on itself, for life it must look outside of itself.

The "human spirit" sees through our eyes, hears through our ears, speaks through our mouth.

1 Corinthians 2:11 [NIV] *"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."*

Our thoughts are the result of what the "human spirit" sees, hears and physically experiences.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 [King James] *"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."*

At the time of death, see context, the "human spirit" returns to God who gave it.

Just as our human bodies need to eat to continue to live, so our "human spirit" needs life-giving food if it is to mature and bear spiritual "fruits," essential for our lives the other side of physical death.

John 15:1-5 [King James] *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

Only by our intimate relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ can we develop these spiritual fruits.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

It is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that these fruits are produced.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

It is Jesus Christ in us that feeds us spiritually, [John 6:32-35, 38, 48-51, 58]. We are fed when we read, study and live by the words of Jesus Christ, and have faith in Him for our salvation, that is being saved from eternal death.

Through the natural faith we have in our physical food to keep alive, by faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ will preserve our spiritual eternal life.

The tragic history of humanity is that most have been deceived into believing that they can live on their own resources and never succeeding because they are ignoring the most simple law of creation, **no living thing is self-sufficient.**

The Creator God has made us dependent on Him for our physical and eternal spiritual life.

Either we recognise our need for our Creator God, or we adopt the false philosophy of independence and go our stubborn way to die at last, physically and everlastingly, [Romans 6:23].