

Ye Shall Afflict Your Souls

The Meaning of Soul Affliction

1. **Lev 16:29, 31**---The call to afflict the soul on the Day of Atonement mentioned twice in Lev 16
2. **Lev 23:27-31**---again, the call to afflict the soul on the Day of Atonement mentioned three times in this passage with an additional mention of a warning of being cut-off, if not done.
3. What is soul affliction? And why is there very little of it taking place among God's people living in the anti-typical Day of Atonement?
 - a. Word in Hebrew carries the idea of humbling self, being bowed down, being in despair because of sin, . .
 - b. NIV says "deny yourself"
 - c. There is very little of it taking place in the church because it is in a Laodicean state (**thou knowest not**)
 - i. Knowledge of one's spiritual condition is needed before conviction of sin can take place
 - ii. Conviction must take place before soul affliction can take place.
 - iii. This soul affliction is a much deeper work than that involved in the day-to-day affliction of soul experienced by every true Christian
 - iv. It is a soul affliction that results after one has become FULLY conscious of the sinfulness of his life as opposed to "thou knowest not"
 - v. Consciousness of and Conviction of one's sinfulness to the FULL extent must first take place
 - vi. This is clearly beyond human ability; the Holy Spirit needed for this work
4. Therefore, the soul affliction required on the Day of Atonement cannot take place unless the eyesalve is first applied
 - a. Spirit of grace and supplication must first be poured out. This led to the state of mourning or soul affliction in Zech 12;
 - b. Who God forgives, He first makes penitent.
 - c. **John 16:7-8**---Conviction for sin is always the first work of the Spirit of God;

Laodicea's Greatest Problem

5. The question now is, why is there very little conviction of sin taking place in the church? Is it God's fault? Is it because He would not and has not poured out the Spirit of grace and supplication to His people?
6. Let me suggest to you that God has already poured out the Spirit of grace and supplication upon His people, but they do not recognize it; better still, they refuse to recognize and acknowledge it
7. The Spirit of grace and supplication, needed by God's people to be convicted of sin and be brought down to their knees in soul affliction on the Day of Atonement, has been graciously provided by God in the writing of Ellen G. White—the Spirit of Prophecy

- a. **Rev 12:17**---The testimony of Jesus is a gift reserved only for those who keep the Law of God in the final conflict
 - b. **Rev 19:20**---this gift is defined as the Spirit of Prophecy and given to s people who have the commission to prophesy again (**Rev 10**);
8. Laodicea's problem is not so much found in her lack of knowledge of her spiritual poverty but in her blindness and refusal to accept the remedy that God has already provided graciously to her.

The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us. **5T 217**