

## FROM FAITH TO SELF

### Matthew 6:25-34

**Introduction:** In the past 40 years or so, the importance of Christian belief has been increasingly neglected with the result of our spiritual life tremendously lowered. Therefore our country has become bewildered, perplexed and has fallen away from its Christian beliefs and foundation. It is impossible for people not to believe in something. There must be something that people center their lives around, something to base their hopes in and that something has become THEMSELVES.

### I. THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE HAVE BEEN ABANDONED

1. We have not exactly stopped believing in God, we have just accepted other ideas and other faiths wanting to "be fair" to all who come into our country, therefore pushing out biblical truths.
  - We have exchanged the God of our foundation and of our Fathers for other things.
  - We have exchanged the loving, powerful, wise, redeeming God for SELF and second-hand ideas, systems and beliefs.
2. We believe without question in the unseen powers, such as electricity, atomic fission, radio signals, and such, but do not see the need, therefore do not believe as once our nation did in the unseen power of prayer.
3. We believe in ourselves and what WE can do, but do not believe nor need the things that the creator of this world can do for us.
4. We believe the extravagant claims of the modern advertisements and make them our guide for living and at the same time have forgotten that "*...A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth...*"
5. We believe in the powers of evil so greatly that we live our lives based on the belief that the powers of evil are greater and stronger than the power of God.
6. We believe in satisfying our IMMEDIATE wants and desires, but do not believe in God's eternal standards for Christian conduct.
7. We say we believe in Jesus, but we believe in our own terms and definitions, not His.

### II. AMERICANS WANT NOTHING WHICH DOES NOT FIT THE PATTERN OF OUR OWN DAILY LIVES

1. We want to omit everything that is not exactly in accordance with what WE want. We are doing away with all "God-like truths" and have reworded them to become "made-made" truths and bend them to fit our own standards and needs.

2. We want nothing at the center of our living that cannot be handled with ease and certainty.
  - We want nothing that cannot be understood by our own unaided senses and limited, narrow minds.
  - We want nothing that is not "natural" or not made by anybody but people.
  - We want nothing to do with the supernatural or any mystery, such as the workings of God.
3. The result of our warped, selfish living is that America is away from God, spiritually and poverty stricken, having a "faith" but without power, without fullness of life, confined to the little that we can do for and by ourselves. America is now on it's own, without God.

### III. AMERICA IS INADEQUATE AND POWERLESS

1. America's present state of second-rate Christianity has come from its half-hearted belief in God.
  - If we would give the same attention and efforts to understanding what God wants us to do as we do to understanding the problems of every day life, America would become strong again, strong enough to overcome all the forms of evil in control today.
    - Wars would cease, scientific knowledge would be combined and disease conquered
    - Efforts to help mankind would be united.
  - However, there is a common, strange, human trait that stands in the way and that is the unwillingness to take the time or make the effort to know and understand God. America doesn't want to return to the God who founded this country.
2. What can be done? What is the answer?
  - America, one by one, can start saying and putting into practice, "I believe in God, the Father."
    - We can put God back into the center of our love.
    - We can put God back into the center of our homes.
    - We can put God back into our leisure time.
    - We can put God back into the center of our business.
    - We can stop and look up and ask God WHAT He wants done and how.
3. America must put Jesus back into the center of all things, "***I believe in Jesus Christ!***"
  - God stands ready to forgive and to help our country when it sincerely calls upon HIS name as Jesus said.
  - Jesus showed that He is loving and affectionate and forgiving.
  - If YOU believe this, then do it!

### CONCLUSION:

1. Will YOU put God at the center of everything in your life? Will you tell others about Jesus?
2. As a Christian, you should have God at the center of your life, your very all. The Bible tells us that God must come first if we are to inherit the Kingdom of God.
3. American, put God back where He belongs in YOUR life.