

RULE

OF

Matthew 5:29-30

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LIFE





Ask me anything (AMA)

Text your questions to (608) 836-3236 throughout the Rule of Life series.

Even if we don't have AMA time on a Sunday, we'll include them in the podcast.



Memory Verse

**Whoever claims to
abide in Him must walk
as Jesus walked.**

1 John 2:6

A pattern of life
to focus and shape our practices
around God's revealed will
to live in His life and liberty
and produce His fruit.

Or:

A practical plan to abide in Jesus by walking as He
walked.



Rule of Life



We need to:

- 1. Write it down
- 2. Have objective measurement
- 3. Have a ritualized plan

In order to counter:



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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Category	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Bi-annual	Sabbatical
2	Abiding: be with							
3	Mind and Soul	Bible	Sabbath reading time- Sat		2 day retreat			Reading and reaserch
4	Heart & spiritual	Morning Prayer	Fast- Thurs?		2day retreat	West Hunt		Restoration time
5	Obedience			Elder Accountability				follow plan
6	Become like him							
7	Body					West hunt		
8	Exercise	walking mtgs	3x workout			Hunt Training- Aug-oct		
9	Avoid Sugar	CA						
10	Weight monitoring	CA						
11	Rest	Bed time: 10:15	Sabbath		2 day retreat			10-16 wks 7th year
12	Relationships							
13	Spouse	CA	Date					
14	Children	CA	Coaching	Fish		Canada Fish		
15		Breakfast- 7:20am	Sabbath breakfast					
16					Family outing	Family Vacation		
17	Friends				AA pastors connect	West Hunt		
18	dep. Colleagues							
19	Consultant			Pod with Adam and Mike W				
20	Conseling			Marriage and personal				
21	Spiritual Direction							
22								
23	Do what he did:							
24	Work	8:45-4:30 daily	5am-1:30pm sun, 1 night mtg avg					
25	Money		Tithe	SAI missions	Budget check	Year end Gift		
26	Gospel				SAI and ICS board			India Trip
27	Hospitality			Single friend over				
28	Poor							
29								
30	Subtraction and Restraint							
31	News/opinion		weekly only					
32	Wanter/shopping	CA		Wanter List- 3 month min				
33	Enthusiast vs. leader	CA						
34	Videos/memes	CA						
35	Podcasts	workout & car only						
36								
37								
38								
39								
40	CA- Checklist Accountability							
41								
42								
43								
44								

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2 Parts to walking as Jesus walked

A Plan: Rule of Life

'practicality' is good.
(read: moderation)

Best not to have eyes
"bigger than our stomach."

A Mentality: Spiritual ferocity

'practicality' is ineffective.

Best to be focused,
ferocious, and narrowly
fanatical.

Don't focus on how weird this hand looks.
Pay attention to the sermon.

working piston (ram)

pump piston

hydraulic fluid

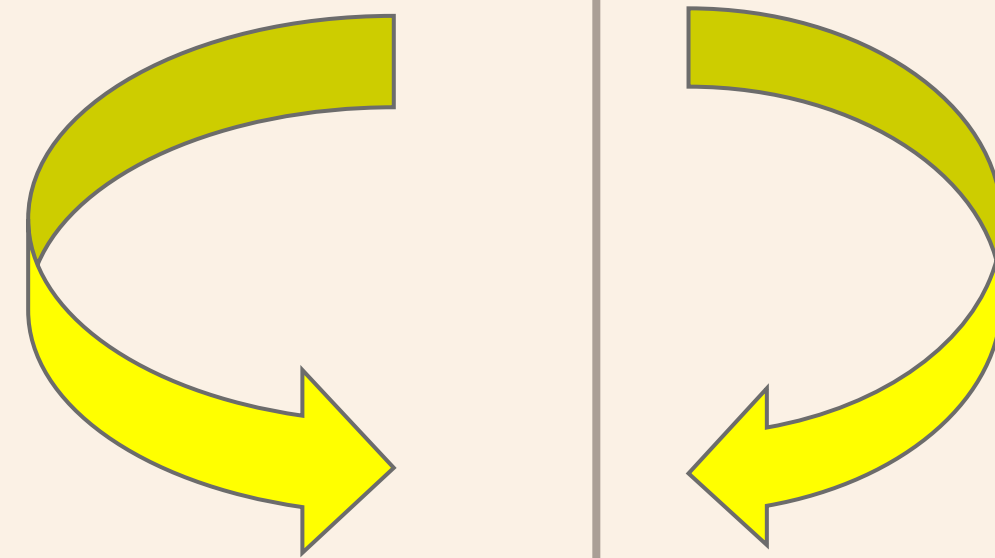
Ferocious faith + Ordered path + God's work = productive working power

2 Parts to walking as Jesus walked

Don't reverse these

A Plan:
Rule of Life

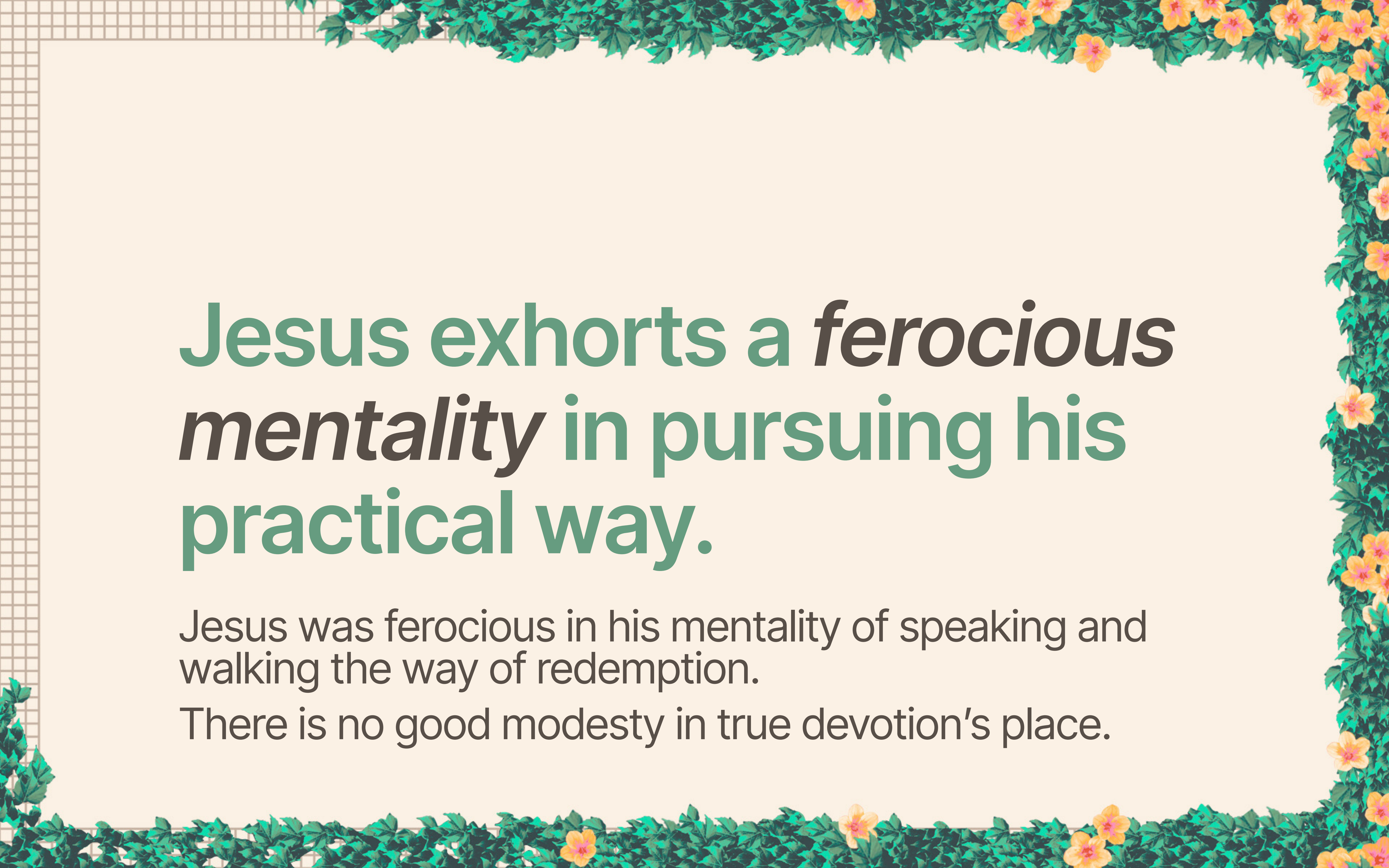
Best to be focused,
ferocious, and
narrowly fanatical.



A Mentality:
Spiritual ferocity

Best not to have eyes
"bigger than our
stomach."





Jesus exhorts a *ferocious mentality* in pursuing his practical way.

Jesus was ferocious in his mentality of speaking and walking the way of redemption.

There is no good modesty in true devotion's place.



Strap in...

2 Areas of spiritual ferocity

6 Key principles

Where does this apply?

How do I do it?

(We're just scratching the surface)



Spiritual brutality in what sense?

1. A ferocious mentality to follow Jesus, not worldliness.

This is true in first becoming Jesus' disciple. It is also true of being his disciple.



Jesus taught a ferocious faith

Luke 9:52-62

- Jesus won't take wrath on Samaritans- he is not vindictive

BUT:

- Are you willing to be homeless?

- Are you willing to reject all other important worldly responsibilities?

- Are you willing to seem indecent and uncaring even to your own family and culture?

- **"No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." vs. 62**



Jesus taught a ferocious faith

Luke 14:15-35: Everyone's invited. But...

- "none of them will have a part of my banquet."
- "If anyone does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brother and sister, he cannot be my disciple."
- "...**Even his own life**...he must take up his cross and follow me..."
- "Who **builds a tower without counting the cost**...or goes to war without knowing he can win?"
- "any who **doesn't give up everything cannot be my disciple.**"
- "how can salt that isn't salty be good for anything?"

Matthew 18:5-10 (AND: 5:26-30- about lust)

Jesus loves the little Children...

Enough to brutally kill you if you harm them.

- Better a millstone and sea than harm a "little one"
- Woe to the one that causes people to sin
- **Cut off, gouge out and throw away even critical body parts to avoid sin**
 - Your eye
 - Your hand
 - Your foot
- Better that, than be "cast into eternal fire"
- See you don't look down on one of these "little ones"

Spiritual Ferocity and Brutality

Mentality of full focus and intensity

Don't be lazy in earnestness, being
fervent in spirit, serving the Lord
Rom 12:11

Full surrender
Having one master
Counting the cost
Undivided interests
Living for the Kingdom

Taking up your cross and following him
Buried in Baptism and raised to new life

Crucified with Christ, I no longer live but Christ lives in me.

Judge for yourself if we should obey God or men.

If I were trying to please men, I would no longer be a servant of Christ



Spiritual brutality in what sense?

**2. A ferocious mentality to kill
indwelling sin, not our enemy.**

"Crucify the Flesh"

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our **old self was crucified** with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Romans 8:13 NT (Nic Translation)

“For if according to the flesh you live, you **are about to** die. But if by the Spirit, the deeds of the body you kill, you **will** live.

John Owen

“...be killing sin or sin will be killing you...If it is your work to kill an adversary, if you stop striking before the other stops living, you have done but half your work.”

Mortification of Sin in the Believer






Keys to spiritual ferocity

1. Spiritual ferocity enables gentleness and peace

Only spiritual clarity and strength can master indwelling sin that destroys peace and foster the virtues of love.



Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ferocity/Brutality

Active combat, wrestling and warmaking against the proper object of spiritual violence

Against: indwelling sin, pretensions against Christ, false Gospels, love of the World

Tenacity/Perseverance

To hold firm, unmovable- yet unaggressive.

Against: devils, temptation, enemies, neighbors, governments, persecution, ideological combatants, the wicked

Spiritual Brutality: Against what?

Against...

Flesh, Sin, Deception, Fear, worldliness, distraction, worry, desire for other things...

We fight: desires of indwelling sin in us, pretensions against Christ in thought

So we can...

Love our enemies, neighbors, and brethren.

To speak plainly and bravely
To be gentle to all, in hope of their repentance.

Through persecution- loss of possession, suffering, and death.



Paradox of Spiritual Brutality

Only ferocious devotion and brutality against indwelling sin can create the strength of virtue and a true orientation toward others.

Virtues of stable love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control all require the uncommon strength of mastery over the sins, evil desires, selfishness, idolatry, ignorance and sensuality.



Keys to spiritual ferocity

2. Don't identify with indwelling sin

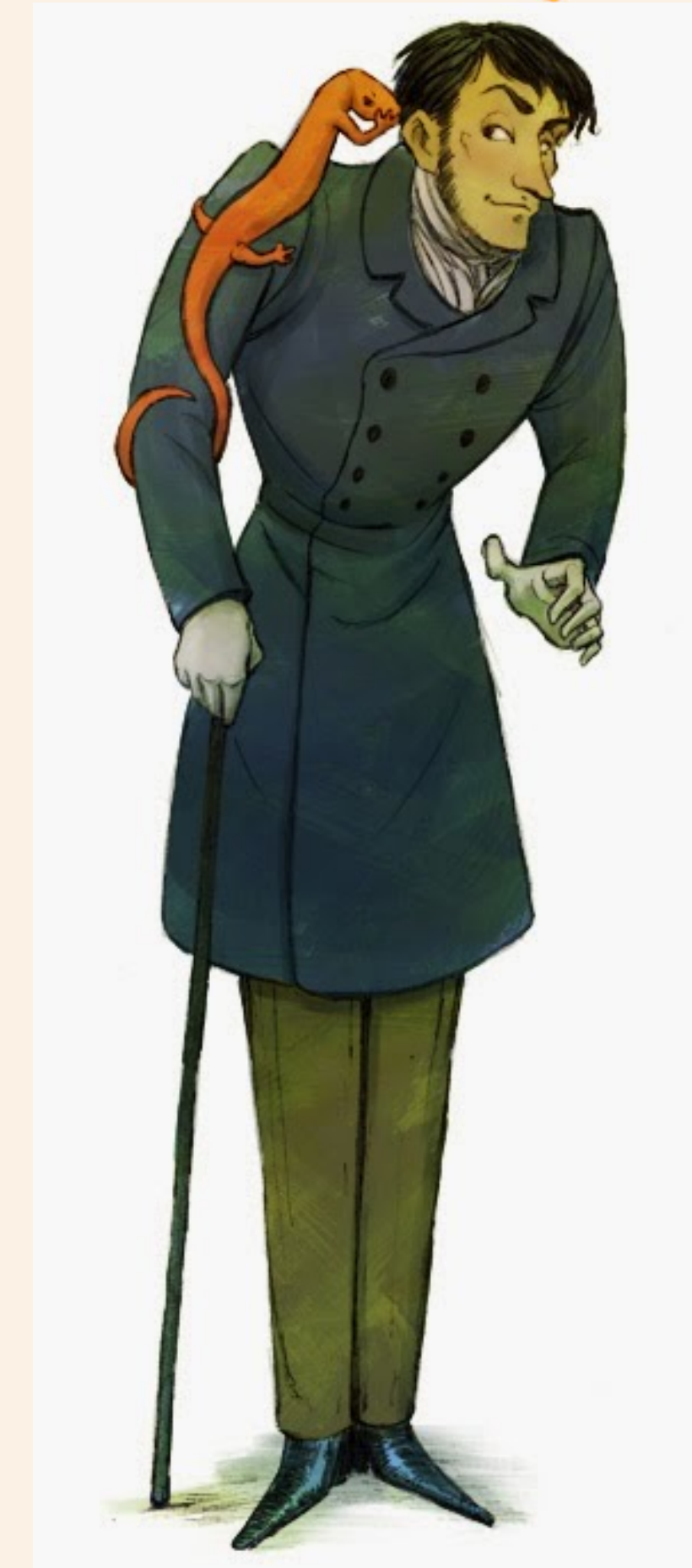
Not everything working on you or in you is part of you. Distinguishing between sin, Flesh, World and Devil allows you to hate the opposition to your growth without hating yourself or your neighbor.



The Flesh is not an integral part of you.

Nor is it what we need to survive or experience joy.

Fleshly mentalities and pretentious logics like:
self-pity, inordinate worship, self-righteousness,
false intellectualism, moral evasion...etc.
(false operations of the mind that are not us)



False loves: Lust instead of pleasure, selfish ambition, anger, vanity, sloth...

(bad habits of character that are false versions of the goods God has created)



Keys to spiritual ferocity

3. Align your feelings with God's judgments

Torn emotions and relational resentment undermines our motivation and divides our focus. Nothing kills courage like self-pity.

By judging things as God judges them, we can have energetic emotions and an undivided heart toward him.


Lot's wife looks back longingly on the thing so bad that God destroyed it with fire from heaven.



Genesis 19:26

Lot's Wife
becomes a pillar of
salt **when she
looked back**
fleeing Sodom.

(Luke 17:23-37)



Psalm 139:19-24

If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!

²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.

²¹ **Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you?**

²² I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ **See if there is any offensive way in me,**
and lead me in the way everlasting.



Keys to spiritual ferocity

4. Look for foxes in the absence of monsters.

After great sins and wounds are addressed, most of what harms our joy and progress are distractions that chew up the living shoots of our future.

A **few sins look like monsters.** Especially in others.
Most forms of sin, flesh and worldliness **look like something cute-**
that destroy the tender shoots of real abiding and fruit.



Song of Songs 2:15 "Catch for us the foxes,
the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our
vineyards that are in bloom."



Keys to spiritual ferocity

5. Ferocity doesn't mean impatience.

Being **ferocious doesn't mean going berserk.**

Ferocity is compatible with strategy. You can have ferocious discipline and brutal restraint.

The point of a plan (Rule of Life) is to break progress down into doable pieces.



Intensity can be strategic and methodical

Philippians 1:25-26

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you **for your progress and joy in the faith,** ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.



Keys to spiritual ferocity

6. Worship is the indispensable discipline

Worship is the unification of heart, soul, mind and strength in enjoying and professing the worth of God, thus attuning and strengthening our faculties to what is truly valuable, right, good, noble and praiseworthy- in God and for ourselves. Seeing and savoring the true God is the wellspring of spiritual devotion, ferocity, and brutality that pursue virtue and enable faith, hope and love. Spiritual brutality is rightly against inhibition in worshipping God.



The place of spiritual brutality and ferocity

1. In coming to Jesus in the first place
2. In continually rejecting the moderation of worldliness and retractions of fear
3. Practically: in embracing rejection, want, and diminishment
4. In putting to death Indwelling Sin/the Flesh
5. In taking progressive steps in Jesus' way with Joy
6. In loving God and seeking his Kingdom and Righteousness
7. In loving the brothers, our neighbors and our enemies

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