

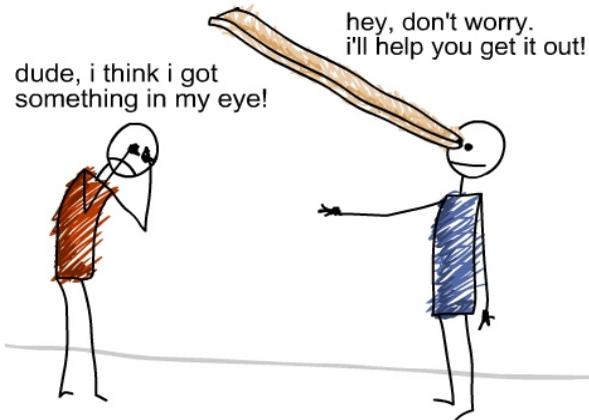
The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

Published weekly by a group of God's people in the Monrovia community and meeting at:  
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For additional information about us, visit our website  
<http://spreadingtruth.org>

a "different gospel." It is clear that Jesus was not forbidding the rebuke of wrongdoing. However, Jesus observed that we will be measured by the same standard that we apply to others.

I don't believe that it was an accident that in the verses following (Matthew 7:3-5) Jesus addressed



the subject of hypocritical judgment. It may be that Jesus had harsh and hypocritical judgment in mind when He spoke the words of verse two. Jesus identified as a hypocrite the man who would attempt to correct his brother of some small fault while ignoring a much larger fault in himself. Jesus used the figure of a man trying to remove something caught in the eye of another to illustrate such hypocritical judgment.

The scene which Jesus described is almost ludicrous. One man is peering into the eye of another man, trying to locate an extremely small splinter which has become lodged in his eye. What makes the scene so ridiculous is that the first man has a large log protruding from his own eye. Obviously Jesus was describing a physical impossibility, using hyperbole to emphasize His point. We are no less ludicrous when we are quick to correct fault in the lives of others without any consideration of the need for repentance and correction in our own lives.

Was Jesus suggesting that a man must be perfect, i.e., sinless, before he can legitimately rebuke and correct another? Certainly not. Yet such is a frequent defense of sinners - "You are not perfect yourself. How dare you find fault in me?" Pointing out mud on my neighbor's face doesn't make my face any cleaner! The difference between a "speck" and a "log" (Matthew 7:3) is critical to understanding the intended lesson of Jesus. It is hypocritical to act as though we are qualified to correct others if we are not giving diligence to correcting even greater faults in our own lives.

### **Bible Challenge Question - Answer**

Ishmael was named even before he was born. His mother Hagar was instructed by an angel of the Lord what to name him. His name means "God hears"; he was given that name "because the Lord has listened to your affliction" (Genesis 16:11). Hagar was treated harshly by Sarai, wife of Abram, because Hagar had "looked on [Sarai] with contempt" (16:4).



Volume 10, Number 3

January 15, 2017

## **Mentally Strong People Don't**

By Amy Morin, adapted

Mental strength isn't often reflected in what you do; it's usually seen in what you don't do. It's about controlling your thoughts, behaviors, and emotions.

They don't waste time feeling sorry for themselves. Feeling sorry for yourself is self-destructive. Indulging in self-pity hinders living a full life. It wastes time, creates negative emotions, and hurts relationships.

They don't give away their power. People give away their power when they lack boundaries. Stand up for yourself and draw the line when necessary. If other people are in control of your actions, they define your success and self-worth.

They don't shy away from change. Rather, they embrace the inevitable. Making changes can be frightening, but shying away from them prevents growth.

They don't focus on things they can't control. Instead, they focus on what they can do. Trying to be in control of everything is likely a response to anxiety.

They don't worry about pleasing everyone. Judging ourselves by what other people think of us is the opposite of mental toughness. People-pleasing is a waste of time. People-pleasers are easily manipulated.

They don't fear taking calculated risks. Instead, they prepare for what's ahead. A lack of knowledge about how to calculate risk leads to increased fear. To better analyze a risk, ask yourself the following questions: What are the potential costs? What are the potential benefits? How will this help me achieve my goal? What are the alternatives? How good would it be if the best-case scenario came true? What is the worst thing that could happen? How bad would it be if the worst-case scenario did come true? How much will this decision matter in five years?

They don't dwell on the past. They do take time to reflect and learn from the past, but the past is in the past. There's no way to change what happened, and dwelling on it can be self-destructive, preventing you from enjoying the present and planning for the future.

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# So You Want To Be A Husband...

By Allen Dvorak



Text: \_\_\_\_\_

## Responsibilities of the husband:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. \_\_\_\_\_)

### Passages:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ means \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. \_\_\_\_\_)

### How?

a. "As \_\_\_\_\_..." (v. \_\_\_\_\_).

1) Christ loved the church \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Christ loved the church \_\_\_\_\_.

b. "In \_\_\_\_\_..." (v. \_\_\_\_\_).

c. "As \_\_\_\_\_..." (v. \_\_\_\_\_).

## Two important words for husbands:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an \_\_\_\_\_ way, showing  
h \_\_\_\_\_ to the woman as the \_\_\_\_\_, since they  
are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your \_\_\_\_\_ may not be  
hindered.

-- 1 Peter \_\_\_\_\_; ESV

"Too many married people expect their partner to give that which only God can give, namely, an eternal ecstasy."

"Infatuation may come suddenly, love takes time."  
-- Roland Lewis

They don't make the same mistakes over and over. They accept responsibility and change behavior. Study what went wrong, what you could have done better, and how to do it differently next time.

They don't resent other people's success. Focusing on another person's success will not pave the way to your own, since it distracts you from your path. Even if you become successful, you may never be content if you're always focusing on others. You may also overlook your talents and abandon your values and relationships.

They don't give up after the first failure. Success isn't immediate, and failure is almost always an obstacle you will have to overcome. Thinking that failure is unacceptable or that it means you aren't good enough does not reflect mental strength.

They don't fear alone time. They make time for solitude. Solitude can increase productivity.

They don't feel the world owes them anything. No one is entitled to anything. It must be earned. The key is to focus on your efforts, accept criticism, acknowledge your flaws, and don't keep score.

They don't expect immediate results. They do take small steps toward the goal. Develop realistic expectations and an understanding that success doesn't happen overnight to reach your full potential. Mentally weak people are often impatient. They overestimate their abilities and underestimate how long change takes.

Reprinted from *Sound Doctrine*, Vol. 10, Num. 21; edited by Bryan Dockens

## What Is That In Your Eye?

By Allen Dvorak

One of the first scriptures impressed upon my memory as a child was "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1; KJV). Usually I heard it from members of my extended family as they defended their religious practices from the criticism of others. The intended message was that no one should ever "judge" (criticize) anyone else in the matter of religion. Practically speaking,

there is no wrong as long as one loves Jesus (whatever that means!). I have since heard that passage used in the same fashion many times.

That's not actually what Jesus was saying. Jesus was indeed forbidding a certain kind of "judging" but not all forms of rebuke and correction. There are numerous passages in the New Testament that charge us with the responsibility of correcting those who are in error for their spiritual good (e.g. Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14). Jesus corrected those who were involved in religious error (see Matthew 22). The apostles also rebuked those who either were not following the commandments of the Lord or were teaching

### Bible Challenge Question

What is the meaning of the name Ishmael?

The answer to this question is on the back page.