

## GOD CANNOT DENY HIMSELF

We are studying the five Trustworthy Sayings found in the Pastoral Epistles.

1 Tim.1:12-17 (v15) - God Saves the Worst Sinner      2 Tim.2:11-13 - God Cannot Deny Himself  
1 Tim.3:1-7 (v1) - Honorable Office of Overseer      Titus 3:1-11 (v8)  
1 Tim.4:1-11 (v9) - Virtue of Godliness

A Trustworthy Saying is an important doctrine that was either being attacked or was not being followed correctly or was an infrastructure doctrine of the church.

**It is believed that the fourth Trustworthy Saying is four stanzas of the “The Martyr’s Hymn or Hymn of Suffering.”** This was written during the time of Nero’s persecution.

These four stanzas are based on four Greek (1cc / if) clauses. [The Greek (1cc) means that what is true in the apodosis is also true of the protasis.]

### Protasis

### Apodosis

### Loyalty

- § For if (1cc) we died (apothnesko / **a.a.ind.1pl**) with Him, we shall also live (suzao / **f.a.ind.1pl**);  
§ If (1cc) we endure (hupomono / **p.a.ind.1pl**), we shall also reign (sumbasileuo / **f.a.ind.1pl**);

### Disloyalty

- § If (1cc) we deny (arneomai / f.m.ind. 1pl) Him, He also will deny us (f.m.ind.3ps);  
§ If (1cc) we are faithless (apisteuo / p.a.ind. 1pl), He remains (meno / p.a.ind.3ps) faithful;

Emphatic Conclusion applies to both groups of 1cc clauses: **For HE cannot (ouk dunamai / p.p.ind. 3ps) deny (arneomai / a.m.infin) HIMSELF.”**

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of GOD CANNOT DENY HIMSELF.</b>
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God is unable to do anything that is contrary to His nature or character. For example, God cannot lie because He is veracity (Heb.6:18).

1. The Greek word for deny is arneomai. Arneomai is generally used to deal with a negative attitude towards someone or something. It is usually translated refuse, reject, disown as well as deny.

**Denial can be when one refuses to confess the revealed truth.** This is often motivated by cosmic fear used as a defense mechanism to avoid or evade dealing with the truth. Peter’s denial of Jesus Christ is an example of it (John 13:38; 18:25; Matt.26:69-75).

**Denial can be when one rejects a rightful claim to something or someone (disowned).** “Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” (Heb.11:24) Note how it is used with Moses in Acts 7:35.

**Denial can be when one disowns an established doctrinal teaching (1 Tim.5:8).** “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.” (Acts 3:14) “Who is a liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.” (1 John 2:22)

2. **In our lesson text, the believer's denial of Christ or His teachings in the CWL will result in Christ's denial of the believer's rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Tim.2:11-13).**

We know that Peter did this twice. Peter denied the teaching of Christ in Matt.16:21-23. Peter also denied the person of Jesus Christ in Matt.26:31-35, 69-75.

Jesus didn't release His grip on Peter's hand although Peter chose to release his grip of Jesus' hand.

**“And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.” (John 10:28-29) [God cannot deny Himself]**

“For we must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor.5:10) (1 Cor.3:12-15)

3. **Spiritually advancing believers are warned against denying spirituality as the sole ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

Some were denying the teaching of the indwelling Holy Spirit as being the absolute source of spirituality (Gal.3:2-3).

“Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied (perf.p.ptc) its power; and avoid such men as these.” (2 Tim.3:5)

4. **Let me restate an important point - “When the subject of a verb is a person who has an established faith in Jesus, denial means unfaithfulness in the relationship, an abandoning of fellowship.” (Expository Dict. of Biblical Words, pg.219)**

Peter's three denials of Jesus are an example of this principle (aparneomai) [to utterly deny or to disown] (Mark 14:26-31, 66-72).

Paul distinguished between knowledge of BD and the application of it in Titus1:16. Right knowledge is extremely important because it leads to godliness (Titus 1:1).

Example: “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Tim.5:8)

5. **Christians, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century must understand that following Jesus Christ involves self-denial.**

**Protasis**

**Apodosis**

“If (1cc / true) anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”  
(Luke 9:23)

[Note that the three things underlined are necessary to bring the truth of the (Protasis) into (apodosis) truth.]

Self-denial is saying NO to someone or something that would distract you from faithfully following Christ (His word, will or work). For Peter, it was cosmic fear. For Paul, it was old man cosmos diabolicus thinking. (Acts 21:10-14). “Cease to make self the object of life and actions.” (NIV, Mark 8:34)

Self-denial precedes taking up our cross daily and following Christ (Matt.10:38). It refers to being obedient to God's will **in every area** of the CWL no matter what the circumstances or how we emotionally feel about it (Phil.2:7-8; Heb.11:17-19).