

Feelings are the Fruit, Not the Root of Salvation

LESSON ONE IN THE SALVATION SERIES

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SCRIPTURE:

22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:22-24)

Introduction:

There are two natures (also known as the dual nature) of mankind that are very pertinent to the faith and existence of every Christian Believer. Due to a lack of knowledge concerning this dual nature, when the zeal of new converts runs low and they find themselves reverting to old habits, they begin to doubt the authenticity of their newfound salvation. Upon discovering that many of their fleshly desires have not died, they become discouraged and more inclined to trade in their good fight of faith for an old lifestyle that provided carnal pleasures yet yielded no spiritual rewards. This is the beginning of what we term as “backsliding.” In order to avoid this condition, we must first gain a clear meaning of what “salvation” is all about.

6That which is born of the flesh is flesh; [natural man] and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit [spirit man]. (John 3:6)

Natural Man	Spirit Man
His understanding is darkened due to alienation from God through ignorance because his heart is blinded from the truth. (Eph. 4:18)	<i>20And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true...(1 John 5:20)</i>
Because he can't perceive the things of God, he is limited by human ingenuity.	The spirit man knows that we “can do all things through Christ Jesus...” (Phil. 4:13). He, therefore, unctons mankind to exist and to accomplish the impossible by relying on the higher power of Christ Jesus.
His conversation differs from that of the Believer (Eph. 2:3)	The conversation of the Spirit Man reveals matters concerning the kingdom of God and a renewed heart.
He is spiritually dead...(to argue with a natural man concerning spiritual matters is like picking an argument with a corpse and waiting for it to respond; it can't hear you)	The spirit is alive...it is eternal...and can not sin.
His parentage is natural—mother and father	Parentage is Spiritual—Holy Spirit, the Father.

When we sin, it is not our spirit that sins, but our natural man. We must denote that God does not accuse the natural man of having the inability to be kind, well-mannered, generous or display other

positive attributes. But his life is not eternal, his understanding is darkened, and his limitations are many.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The spiritual man is not something that develops out of the natural man. Rather, the spiritual man is a “new creation.” The spiritual man, which is the new creature, is directly opposed to the character and ways of the natural man.

The *Natural Man* and *Spiritual Man* compose **one personality** in the Believer which we refer to as the *Regenerated Man*.

Regenerated Man

17For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Gal. 5:17)

The regenerated man houses two natures that are fighting for possession of one body. Herein lies the struggles of most who find themselves questioning their salvation due to the struggle that is taking place between spirit man and carnal nature. Many things about ourselves are not realized until after we receive salvation. This is what I often refer to as the “shock factor.” It can be a rude awakening to discover some of the things that have been secretly dwelling within us and this is what shakes us, gives us a reality check, and one of the things that causes us to sometimes doubt our salvation.

WARFARE BETWEEN THE TWO NATURES....

How do you get rid of the Old Nature? You don't. It is a fight 'til death. You have to feed the New Nature with the sincere milk of the Word of God and starve the Old Man by denying it of the things in which it desires to indulge. Resist the devil and he has to flee!

Though you will never get rid of the flesh, there are ways for you to overcome it:

1. **Cut off the things that cause you to sin.** *8Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. (Matthew 18:8-9)*
2. **Destroy or kill those things that threaten to hinder your eternal life.** *3For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (Romans 8:13)* **Mortify** means...
1 : to destroy the strength, vitality, or functioning of
2 : to subdue or deaden (as the body or bodily appetites) especially by abstinence or self-inflicted pain or discomfort
3 : to subject to severe and vexing embarrassment : **SHAME**
3. **Lighten the load.** Don't try to carry things that are too heavy for you to bear. Know when to let it go. *1Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...(Hebrews 12:1)*