

Connection

Knowledge is powerful!

I took a flight last year with Darlene, and we were upgraded to business class. The seats were larger and had more leg room; they were amazing.

As we were sitting in these wonderful seats being handed drinks and food, I thought about John Wesley, who traversed the Atlantic in the hold of a ship.

It took him a couple of months one way, and the conditions were terrible.

My flight from Dallas to Hawaii only took 6 hours, and I had luxuries he couldn't have imagined.

All of this is possible because of knowledge.

Man hasn't created anything new; he's just discovered the laws that the Lord established from the beginning.

"Birdbrains" have been flying from the start. And from birds we created flight and airplanes!

The same is true with communications, electricity, computing, and a host of other modern breakthroughs.

Man is just discovering the laws God created.

Although mankind has made huge discoveries that have totally changed the way we live, it seems like

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we know less about ourselves than previous generations.

While our ancestors didn't have all the modern conveniences, they had a peace and strength that eludes most of us today.

As our knowledge of our natural world has increased, our knowledge of spiritual things has decreased.

Darlene and I are enjoying our new home, but it's God's home that he gave to us!

In man's arrogance, he blindly believes all of life's problems can be solved by himself.

But there can be no peace **without** if there isn't peace **within**. AMEN!

There is a whole universe that man, in all his wisdom, is ignorant of.

That is the world of the **SPIRIT!**

And I'm not just talking about the spiritual realm outside of us but also the spiritual being inside of every person.

Genesis 1:26

New American Standard Bible

26 Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth."

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We aren't evolved animals; we were created in God's image and likeness.

We are spirit beings.

The ultimate way to control bad behavior isn't by more laws, metal detectors, or social engineering; it's changing the hearts of people.

Only Jesus can do that!

Who Are You, Really?

Sadly, even many Christians have lost this spiritual point of view.

Very few Christians know who they are in the spirit.

In fact, they have been taught by religion that they are sinners by nature—just the opposite of what the Bible teaches.

It's true that we **WERE** all born sinners and **HAD** the nature of the devil working in us.

But when we came to Christ and received salvation, we became a new person in the spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

This isn't talking about your body. If you were a man before you accepted Christ, you are still a man today.

Your body didn't change. And your soul, which is what the Bible calls the mental-emotional part of you, didn't automatically change either.

It's subject to change, but you have to renew your mind to experience change in your mind and emotions.

Your emotions don't validate truth, your emotions validate what you believe.

- ✓ **In the spirit, you became a brand-new species of being.**
- ✓ **Your spirit is totally new.**
- ✓ **There isn't an old sin nature left in you.**

Nature

Most Christians have been taught to believe that after salvation, they are still the same at their core, and they live the rest of their lives trying to restrain this old nature or old man....

They believe they have two natures. That's schizophrenic, and it produces Christians who are nothing like Christ.

Paul dealt with this issue in Romans 6.

He had so powerfully proved in the preceding chapters that God deals with us by grace through faith that the logical question was,

Romans 6:1 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?"

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Of course this is not what Paul was saying, and he gave two reasons in this chapter that Christians should live holy.

The first reason Paul gave was this:

Romans 6:2

Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

What a **AWESOME** statement!

This is not believed by the majority of Christians today.

They believe that they are alive to sin and that it is with much effort, frustration, and failure that they battle this sin nature the rest of their lives.

That's not what Paul believed.

If you are truly born again, God has changed your nature.

Stop focusing on what you think you are and start focusing on who God says you are.

You are no longer a child of the devil who loves to sin. You do still sin, but it's not your nature anymore.

Your spirit has been changed, and you no longer enjoy it.

I heard Wendy Backlund say, I was happy until I became a Christian.... That's because she was approaching her Christianity from the law not from grace.

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1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Every born-again believer has a built-in desire to live holy. You might not be fulfilling it, but it's there.

The second reason to live holy is to avoid giving the devil access to your soul and body through sin.

While how you live doesn't affect your spirit's righteousness, it greatly impacts your life.

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of that same one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Satan wants to bring death into your life any way he can—sickness, disease, poverty, shame, depression, discouragement, and all sorts of other nasty things.

Why give your enemy an opportunity to come against you?

MIND

Our minds are similar to computers in the sense that they can be programmed.

And once programmed, they will continue to function as programmed until we reprogram them.

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We were all born in sin, and our old sin nature programmed our minds how to be selfish, bitter, angry, how to lust, etc.

When we are born again

John 3:3

Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

we become totally new in our spirits.

This old nature has been completely changed

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

It's not in the process of becoming new; it's already as **PURE** and **PERFECT** as Jesus.

Paul called this **RESURRECTED LIFE**. In *Romans 6:5*, he said,

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

But in the very next verse, he said we have to know something in order to experience this.

The first thing he mentioned is that "*our old man is crucified with **CHRIST***".

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This isn't something that has yet to happen or that has to happen over and over; it's a done deal.

In our new, born-again spirits, we are dead to sin.

Then Paul said,

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

Our sin nature is dead and gone,
but it left behind a body.

That body is the carnal mind.

It will still function as programmed until we reprogram it.

That's what the Bible calls the renewing of the mind.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Our lives are transformed by the renewing of our minds!

See Yourself in Christ

Therefore, victory in the Christian life is as simple as renewing our minds to who we are and what we have already received in Christ.

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Proverbs 23:7

*For as he thinks within himself, so he is.
He says to you, "Eat and drink!"
But his heart is not with you.*

It's not the struggle of two natures inside of us; **we are the way we think.**

If we see ourselves as old sinners, saved by grace, then we will continue to struggle with sin.

But when we see the total change that took place in our nature, we will manifest that change in our actions.

This is where you get your identity from, you now know who you are created to be!

When we see yourselves as being part devil, we act like it.

But when we see who we are in Christ (i.e., in our born-again spirits), we become like Him

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

The way we see ourselves becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The *Spirit, Soul & Body*. That's not a catchy phrase, but it's descriptive of the way the Lord revealed these truths to us.

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I've come to know I'm a spirit being who has a soul and lives in a body.

But the real me is my spiritual person.

And it's in the spirit that I've been totally changed and **made just like Jesus.**

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Since God is a Spirit and He deals with me on the basis of who I am in the spirit, this has changed everything.

I now worship God based on who I am in the spirit and not on who I am in my flesh (i.e., how I act or feel).

I now understand how our holy God can truly love me, because in my born-again spirit, I'm totally righteous and holy

Ephesians 4:24

and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Identity

I've discovered that I'm redeemed from the Law because the Law wasn't made for a righteous person

1 Timothy 1:9

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realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and worldly, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,

The Law was given to show us our need for salvation, but it couldn't save us

Romans 3:19-21

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God;

20 because by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin.

Justification by Faith

But what the Law couldn't do, Jesus did

Romans 8:3-4

3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

and I'm now the righteousness of God in Christ!

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This entitles me to everything God is and has.

I have His authority to use and live!