

Reading: Galatians 5:16-26

Topic: Understanding The Battle
Between Flesh & Spirit

INTRODUCTION: One of the perplexing situations that believers face is the _____ that goes on between the _____ and the Spirit of God.

I. BORN IN SIN:

A. The Sin of Adam & Eve:

1. When God created Adam and Eve, they were created in the image of God, innocent and _____, but with the power of _____ to either obey or disobey God. Gen. 2:16,17
2. Unfortunately, Eve was seduced into believing the lies of the serpent (satan) and did what God _____ them not to do, and Adam followed suit, also disobeying the _____ of the Lord. Gen. 3:4-6
3. This act of _____ and disobedience to God plunged the entire _____ race into sin as Adam and Eve passed on their sinful _____ to their children and to future generations. Rom. 5:12,19

B. Born With It:

1. The first baby that was _____ into this world also became the world's first murderer as he became angry and took out his anger on his own younger _____ and killed him. Gen. 4:6-8
2. When we are born into this world, we do not have to be taught how to _____, for that nature of evil is already in us and we start doing bad things from a very young age. Ps. 51:5
3. The fallen nature that we are born with is described in the Word of God as _____ and corrupt, thus producing all manner of _____. Jer. 17:9; Mt. 15:18,19

II. BORN AGAIN:

A. The Work & Ministry of Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus Christ, who in Scripture is also described as the second _____, came to the world to destroy the works of the _____. I Cor. 15:45-49; I Jn. 3:8
2. The work of Jesus through the Gospel. His _____, His _____ and His _____ made it possible for us to receive a _____ nature. Rom. 5:19

B. The New Birth:

1. Jesus taught clearly that to become a _____ of the Kingdom of God, one needed to be _____ into it through a spiritual process. Jn. 3:3-7
2. When an individual is _____ again, a miraculous change happens as one actually becomes a partaker of the _____ nature of Jesus Christ. 2 Pt. 1:4
3. The Word of God describes this experience as becoming a _____ creature or a _____ creation in Christ Jesus. 2 Cor. 5:17

C. New Creature But Not Yet Glorified:

1. Some people misunderstand that even though we are _____ again and have become a new creature in Christ, we still are subject to temptation and struggles against the old _____, and they begin to question whether they are _____ or not. Rom. 8:23

III. THE BATTLE BETWEEN FLESH & SPIRIT:

A. Two Natures:

1. God did not choose to _____ our old corrupt nature but instead provided the experience of the New Birth to give us an entirely _____ nature, the divine nature of Christ Himself. Lk. 5:36-38
2. God also did not choose to eradicate our _____ nature, but instead He gives us the _____ to deal with it and deny it and put it to _____ daily. Rom. 6:11-14

B. The Battle:

1. The reason why we still face _____ and other ungodly things that try to rise up in us is due to the reality that we are still battling against the old corrupt _____ which is referred to in the Word of God as the _____. Rom. 6:18.22-23
2. This battle sometimes causes believers, especially new believers to feel _____ and to question how can this be and is there a way to _____ this. Rom. 7:24

IV. THE PATH TO VICTORY:

A. Walking In The Spirit:

1. The key to _____ in the battle of the two natures is revealed to us in the Scripture which instructs us to _____ after the Spirit of God. Rom. 8:1-4
2. Whatever of the two natures is nourished and cared for the _____ is the nature that will be dominant In our lives, so the way to victory is to daily _____ the new nature. Rom. 8:12-14

B. Three Essentials:

1. Prayer – our _____ life is essential to our life in the Spirit and if we neglect to take the time daily to pray, we will fall into _____ that can destroy us. Mt. 26:40,41
2. The Word of God – this is our daily _____, our soul food that strengthens us and leads us to better knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we become more like Him, partaking of His divine nature. 2 Pt. 1:3
3. The House of God – going to the assembling of the believers in the Body of Christ is where we _____ spiritual nourishment and nutrition from the _____ of the Spirit of God and the Word of God, plus in addition, we contribute of our own worship and gifts to the ministry of the Body. Heb. 10:25; I Cor. 14:26

CONCLUSION: No one is exempt from the struggle between the _____ and the _____ but those who are wise recognize the battle and will take the necessary _____ to see to it that the flesh does not _____ over the Spirit.