

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“THE OLD SINFUL NATURE VERSUS CHRIST IN THE HEART BY THE HOLY SPIRIT”

In a previous lecture we saw how Christ comes to live in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit, our sins, past, present and future are forgiven as far as getting to heaven is concerned. Now we should live a life of gratefulness to God. Our aim now should be to please Him, serve Him, glorify Him in our human bodies while here on earth.

But we have a problem, our old sinful nature remains in us. That self gratifying, self glorifying nature, that got us into trouble before we were converted, is still in us. So we have a battle on our hands. As it says in Galatians 5:17. “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

Paul writes of his own personal battle in Romans 7:15-20. “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do: no, the evil I do not want to do- this I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

Paul is saying that the law of God is good but he finds it impossible to keep because of his sinful nature dwelling within. In verse 24 he cries out, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” Then in verse 25 he gives the answer, “Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

He found that as long as he let Christ by the Holy Spirit be first in his heart and fill his heart he had victory over his old sinful nature, but the moment he let something come between him and Christ his old nature raised its ugly head again and he would lose his victory.

So it will be with us too. Let’s look at some verses where he explains this. Galatians 5:16. “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” Romans 8:5. “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” Ephesians 5:18 “-be filled with the Spirit.”

It is only by letting Christ fill our hearts by the Holy Spirit that we can have victory over our old sinful nature, or self pleasing nature. Here are some illustrations that may help us understand better.

Imagine a room in darkness. Getting a broom and gathering all the strength you can muster, you vigorously try to sweep the darkness out of the room but to no avail, we can't do it! It is impossible for self effort and a broom to get victory over darkness. In the same way it is impossible by self effort to get victory over the darkness of our self pleasing nature.

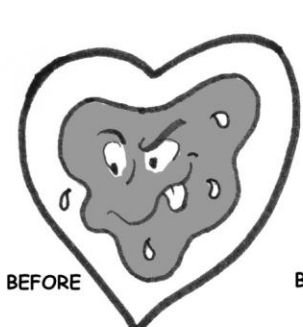
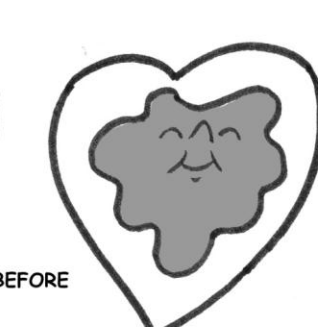
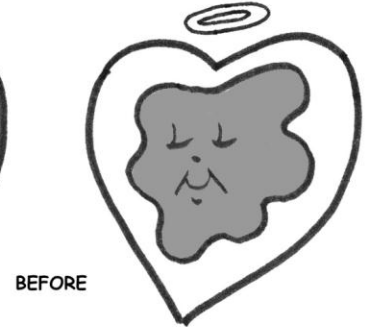



So what is the answer as far as the room is concerned? Why we simply go to the switch and turn the light on and let the light make the darkness disappear and in the same way we let the light of the Holy Spirit fill our hearts and give us victory over our old sinful natures.

If we take a drinking glass and place it on a table, how do we get the air out of it? Well, we can try to shake it out, or we can try to blow it out, but we will have no success, the air will still be outside the glass as well as inside the glass. So what is the answer? Why we simply fill the glass with water and the air instantly goes. As long as we keep the glass full so the air is kept out.

In the same way if we let the spiritually refreshing Holy Spirit fill our hearts we will have victory over our old nature. A glass will wobble if a wind comes through the window and some of the water will spill out and some air get back again so we have to top it up with water to keep it filled. As Christians we will wobble as we face the temptations of this life and as a result lose some of the fullness of the Spirit in our lives and the old nature will start winning victories again, but if we keep on being filled after every time we wobble we will have a more constant victory over our old nature.

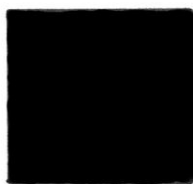
We need to realize that living by our old nature doesn't mean that we will necessarily commit the most vile and horrible crimes. We can be regarded as good living people, kind even religious, full of good works but doing nothing for the glory of God. In fact the old nature is incapable of doing anything for the glory of God. All it can do is for the glory of self, or to make a good impression on others or give itself a good feeling. Only the Holy Spirit living in our hearts can enable us to do things for the glory of God.

THE HUMAN HEART BEFORE AND AFTER CONVERSION

 <p>BEFORE</p>	 <p>BEFORE</p>	 <p>BEFORE</p>
<p>FULL OF SELF GRATIFICATION, AND SELF PLEASING.</p>	<p>CAN BE KIND BUT ONLY TO MAKE ITSELF FEEL GOOD.</p>	<p>CAN BE RELIGIOUS EITHER TO EARN SALVATION OR IMPRESS OTHERS.</p>
 <p>AFTER</p>	 <p>AFTER</p>	 <p>AFTER</p>
<p>AT CONVERSION THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES IN BUT THE OLD NATURE REMAINS.</p>	<p>IF WE GIVE CHRIST FIRST PLACE THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS AND GIVES US VICTORY OVER THE OLD NATURE.</p>	<p>IF WE LET SOMETHING COME BETWEEN US AND CHRIST THE OLD NATURE GET'S THE VICTORY AGAIN.</p>

THEN WE NEED TO CONFESS OUR FAILURE AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS AND A FRESH FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE LIGHT

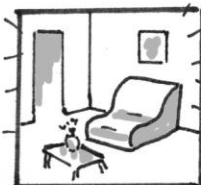


A ROOM FULL OF DARKNESS.

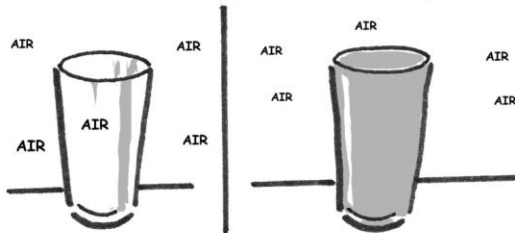


YOU CAN'T SWEEP OUT THE DARKNESS WITH A BROOM BUT YOU CAN SWITCH ON THE LIGHT AND IMMEDIATELY THE DARKNESS GOES.

LET THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKE AWAY THE DARKNESS OF THE OLD NATURE.



THE HOLY SPIRIT LIKE WATER



TO GET THE AIR OUT OF A GLASS FILL IT WITH WATER. TO GET THE OLD NATURE OUT OF THE WAY, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.