

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

May 26, 2018

## Our Nature

A woman called Brother Leroy Surface, saying that another Pastor told her he could help her. "What is your problem," Brother Surface asked. She said she was tormented by an unclean spirit. At times it would take complete control of her body and contort it into vulgar positions. During these times, the unclean spirit would speak through her to curse God and give filthy hand signs against the Holy Ghost, and she had no power to stop it. She was very honest about the horrid details of her condition, and asked Brother Surface, "Can you help me? I have been to many ministers, but no one can do anything for me. Can you help me?"

Brother Surface asked this woman, "Have you ever in your lifetime been filled with the Holy Ghost?" She answered quickly, "I am filled with the Spirit of God right now! In fact I have a wonderful gift of prophecy. I hear it speaking inside of me night and day. I only have to open my mouth, and prophecy begins to flow forth in the most amazing way." Brother Surface said to her, "I can help you if you will believe what I tell you." "What is that?" she asked. Brother Surface responded, "The spirit that takes control of your body and speaks vulgarities against the Holy Ghost is the same spirit that works in you to prophesy through you. You do not have the Holy Ghost. No one can help you as long as you believe your gift of prophecy is of God, but if you will

reject the spirit that prophesies through you, you can be delivered from this vulgar spirit and go free.”

Religious thought has degenerated to the place that many believe God and Satan, light and darkness, and sin and righteousness can cohabit in the same vessel. The error of spiritual “dualism” has corrupted every aspect of the modern gospel message. Jesus said, *“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.”* Matthew 12:33. God and Satan do not inhabit the same temple. Neither do light and darkness co-exist in the same place. The apostle John said, *“God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”* The tree is either good, or it is corrupt, but there is no such thing as a spiritual tree that bares both good and corrupt fruit.

The belief that a child of God has two natures is absurd. Every person sleeps part of a day and is awake another part of the day, but they do not have one nature when they sleep and another nature when they are awake. It is natural for them to both sleep and wake. It is their nature. The forbidden tree offered the knowledge of both good and evil, but it was one tree. On the other hand, the tree of life has no evil in it at all. A person may appear to do good sometimes and evil at other times. This does not mean they have two natures, but their nature only has the appearance of both *“good and evil.”* The fruit of sin and the fruit of righteousness do not grow on the same tree.

The book of Galatians reveals two covenants. Galatians 4:24. One, the Law, was a covenant of flesh (a covenant of works). The other, the New

Covenant, a covenant of Spirit. The apostle Paul is referring to these two covenants when he asked, “*Are ye so foolish? having begun in **the Spirit**, are ye now made perfect by **the flesh**?*” Galatians 3:3. Although the Law promised a person righteousness through religious fleshly works, the people always ended up in the ungodly “*works of the flesh*” Galatians 5:19-21 because these are both the fruit of the same tree.

The Galatians were being deceived concerning which covenant to walk in. Paul told them with absolute confidence, “*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” Galatians 5:16. If they would simply walk in the New Covenant, they would not be doing any of “*the lusts of the flesh.*” He gives the reason for this confidence in the next verse. He says, “*...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.*” Galatians 5:17. Many people completely miss the point of this statement when they construe it to mean that the flesh and the spirit are at war with each other inside the same person. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The person who walks in the spirit “*cannot do the things they would*” do if they were walking in the Covenant of “*flesh*” because the Spirit is totally different, opposite, and contrary to the flesh. Therefore the desires of the person who walks in the New Covenant (the Spirit) are totally different from the desires of the one who walks in a fleshly covenant (the flesh). One walks in “*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*” The other struggles continually against the desires of their own heart, knowing to do good, “*but evil is always present with them*” Romans 7:21 in the lusts of their own heart.

Your “nature” is simply what is natural to you. When people have to “struggle” to be a “Christian,” it is because they have not received the new nature of a child of God. They have not been “*born of God*” | John 5:1, 4. A person’s true nature is revealed when they cease the struggle to be something different than what works in their heart. Their nature is either righteous, or it is sinful, but it cannot be both. When Christ purifies our heart Acts 15:9, sin is no longer our nature, and to commit sin is no longer natural.