

## **The Battle Within** The Need For God in Our Lives

How many times have we thought that someone must truly be happy only to find out they were too proud to reveal how they were, in reality, suffering inside emotionally? And are there any among us who might fit that category? Sometimes we might experience things that don't give cause to be announced publically because they may be something minor and in those cases it probably would be wise to keep it to ourselves and work through it personally. We don't want to be known as someone who whines over everything. But what may seem a slight rumble to one may well be earthshattering to another, psychologically. Can anyone understand what another is going through unless they've been in their shoes (*1 Cor 2:11*)? Should we judge someone we might think of as weak if what they're struggling with would be a piece of cake for us to handle? Obviously, there are differing levels when it comes to physical and mental fortitude. We all have our own personal battles we wage within that involve decisions which are basically between what would be the right thing to do verses the least beneficial. But there are very deep rooted struggles based on good and evil where lines can be blurred **if** there's no real guide to speak of. In that case, God has provided the moral compass that has within it the answer for any and every problem that man will face at one point or another in his lifetime. He's the Creator so why wouldn't He have the ability to fix anything? He only requires something beforehand in order that we might benefit from such peace within.

Psa 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit (*Heb.7307- life; spirit, but only of a rational being*): a broken (*Heb.7665- broken [hearted]*) and a contrite (*Heb.1794- to collapse*) heart (*Heb.3820- intellect*), O God, Thou wilt not despise.

In body building there is a necessity to first break down muscle in order to then build it back up, and then some. As is with anything. For an enlisted man in the armed forces to become battle ready he has to first be reprogramed in his mind before his body can respond to the discipline necessary to meet the requirements expected of a soldier. He has to be broken before he can be rebuilt. But what does this have to do with being a Christian?

Eph 4:21 If so be that ye have **heard** (*Gk.191- to hear: -understand*) Him, and have been **taught** by Him, as the **truth** is **in Jesus** (*something you won't find in the world*): 22 That ye **put off** concerning the **former** conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed (*Gk.365- to renovate, that is, reform*) in the spirit (*Gk.4151- mental disposition*) of your mind (*Gk.3563- intellect*); 24 And that ye put on (*Gk.1746- to invest with clothing [literally or figuratively]*) the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (*Emp. added*)

We can't understand the words of Jesus as long as the world is shouting nonsense in our ears. Once again, garbage in garbage out. So before we can hear and understand the message of righteousness we first are to stop practicing, break down the old behavior and become deaf to the world's confusion, in order to rebuild the inner person, but only then with a clear conscience. Only then in fairness of character and true godliness.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand (*Gk.1097- to "know" [absolutely]*) My speech (*Gk.2981- talk: -saying*)? even because ye cannot (*Gk.1410- to be able or possible*) hear (*Gk.191- to hear: -understand*) My word (*Gk.3056- reasoning*).

"Why don't you know what I'm saying?" Answer: "Because you are unable to understand My reasoning." So why is it that so many don't understand the message of salvation? Don't we all

have some element of good within us? If we've been created in the image of God, as spiritual beings, the answer is a resounding yes, everyone who's ever existed was created good!

Gen 1:27 So God created man **in His own image**, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. (*Emp. added*)

Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, *it was* **very good**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (*Emp. added*)

Not only was everything that God created good, it was very good. But then in time the outer influences began to take effect.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Being created in God's image has nothing to do with our outer appearance, it has nothing to do with our human nature. Therefore, being created in His image has to do with the spiritual aspect that resides within us all.

1Pe 3:4 But *let it be* the hidden man (*Gk.444- human being*) of the heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts and feelings [mind]*), in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit (*Gk.4151- **rational** soul*), which is in the sight of God of great price.

Just as no one can see God, so is man's inner spirit which is the spiritual DNA we have from Him. Obviously, we know it's there and is a soul that will one day answer to God for the deeds it permitted the human side to participate in. Sadly, that inner person that cannot be tempted by evil **can** be overpowered by the carnal side that even the most righteous among men who ever lived still possess.

Rom 7:18 For I know that **in me** (that is, in my **flesh** [*Gk.4561- human nature*],) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. (*Emp. added*)

Paul understood he had a choice. But to perform the good that he sought to do he couldn't find within his own human nature. The natural man only wants to serve self. Performing what is right, what is godly, cannot be found to exist outside the inner man which is made up of God's spiritual DNA. Both sides need to be fed. But unlike a pet we feed that will then follow us everywhere, the side we feed most is the side **we** end up following. We all possess the part of God within us that cannot sin because as it is written, God cannot even be tempted with evil let alone sin.

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man:

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is **of** the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (*Gk.4160- to make or do: -continue, exercise*) sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (*Emp. added*)

It becomes our own personal choice as to which path we chose once we understand the difference between good and evil. We choose to either serve Satan and thus self, or to serve Christ and thus our neighbor. Even Jesus “said, It is more blessed to give than to receive”. (*Act 20:35*) Remember, what goes around comes around. A selfish person who never gives will never receive. Being born of God obviously gives us the status of being His children who serve Him after the inner man.

Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh (*Gk.4561- human nature*), to live after the flesh. 13 For 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. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

We don't have to give in to our human nature. And not that it would be impossible for a child of God to sin either. That is not what the word commit in the original Greek is conveying. This word in the original Koine Greek means to **continually practice** what is forbidden by God. It defines an all but absolute **unwillingness** to **displease** the Father that all His faithful children possess within.

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not (*has no desire to continue in sin*): whosoever sinneth hath not seen (*Gk.3708- to discern clearly*) Him, neither known (*Gk.1097- to “know” [absolutely]: -understand*) Him.

So what is this seed (*Gk.4690- σπέρμα- something sown*) that the faithful possess that originates with God?

*“The word ‘seed’ means properly seed sown, as of grain, plants, trees; then anything that resembles it, anything which germinates, or which springs up, or is produced. It is applied in the New Testament to the word of God, or the Gospel, as that which produces effects in the heart and life similar to what seed that is sown does.”*

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Therefore, whatever we chose to be influenced by, will be what becomes our spiritual and moral guide in whatever decisions we make in life. It all goes back to the spiritual parent we wish to follow. There only two choices we can make as to which one that will be.

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** and her Seed; He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel. (*Emp. added*)

A person's moral understanding originates from either the seed of the serpent (*Satan*) or the Seed of Eve, which is Christ.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of **your father** the devil (*Satan's seed*), and the lusts of **your father** ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh the lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and **the father** of it. 45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe Me not. (*Emp. added*)

Truth will either humble or harden a heart. The “enchantments” of the world that effect the human nature that exists within us all, has imprisoned the majority among us so that they refuse

to understand, and thus accept, the ultimate peace that comes in knowing and understanding the truth.

Exo 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments (*when Moses turned water into blood*): and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said. 23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart (*Heb.3820- the will and even the intellect*) to this also.

Pharaoh chose to believe a lie and suffered the consequence. He constituted what Jesus characterized as a child of the Devil. We either follow, thus are led by, Christ or Satan.

Mat 13:37 ... He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

A "tare" is a "false grain" (*Gk.2215*) which looks like all the other crops it grows up with but is in fact empty. It thus shows that the person whose heart, mind and soul that are not influenced by the word of God, to live accordingly, is a person who is living an empty existence and that has no hope. The only way to reach the full potential of the inner, spiritual being that everyone possesses, is to understand why we are here, the true purpose for which man was created and how each of us can personally fulfill the ultimate destiny to obtain the only real, true peace.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear (*Heb.3372- morally to revere*) God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole (*Heb.3605- all, any or every*) of man.

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: **not as the world giveth**, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (*Emp. added*)

The world has nothing to offer but, in the end, a mental and physical torment that will last for all eternity. Obviously, there's no denying that we all have within us the tendency to yield to our human nature. No one is immune to temptation.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but **sin** that dwelleth **in me**. (*Emp. added*) So...

Mat 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit (*Gk.4151- rational soul, mental disposition*) indeed is willing, but the flesh (*Gk.4561- human nature*) is weak.

What Jesus was saying in this passage is so applicable for all time and for every Christian to heed. He was saying the inner man that could not be touched with evil was ready and willing to suffer the approaching trials but it's the outer, carnal, self-serving nature we all possess that convinces us to fear and that we are too weak to bear any confrontation that would test our faith. But...

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect (*Gk.5046- complete*) love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect (*Gk.5048- to complete, that is, accomplish, or consummate*) in love.

Complete benevolence throws out the tendency to be afraid. Those who fear haven't been consumed in a selfless love. Where does that completeness come from?

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy (*"speculations respecting the nature of the divine existence"- A.B.*) and vain (*Gk.2756- empty*) deceit (*Gk.539- delusion*), after the tradition of men, after the rudiments (*"ceremonial requirements esp. of Jewish tradition" Thayer*) of the world, and not after Christ.

*"The world is fading, unsatisfactory, temporary." "...like the things of the world, they ("the rudiments of the world") were transient, temporary, and of little value. They were unsatisfactory in their nature, and were soon to pass away, and to give place to a better system - as the things of this world are soon to give place to heaven."*

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Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts [mind]*) be also.

Where is our focus? The temporal things of life, including customs and other self-serving spiritual traditions that so many people pursue, will never satisfy their emptiness like the truth will.

Joh 8:31 ... If ye **continue** (*Gk.3306- to stay*) in My word, *then* are ye My disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.** (*Emp. added*)

As we remain anchored in the truth we understand how **that** freedom, found only in the Bible, leads us to a complete state of inner satisfaction.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete (*Gk.4137- satisfy*) in Him, Who is the head of all principality and power:

Our completeness, our ultimate innermost contentment can only be found in the Godhead by Whom we were all created. And if created by God, how could God **not** know how to take care of our inner spiritual needs? Christ completely understands us because He, as God Incarnate, once became us. Therefore, no one can say "God doesn't know how I'm feeling, He just doesn't understand what I'm going through" because God **does** understand us, maybe even more than we might like to think He does.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who **through fear of death** were all their lifetime **subject** (*Gk.1777- liable to: -in danger of*) **to bondage** (*Gk.1397- slavery*). 16 For verily He took not on *Him* the nature of angels; but He took on *Him* the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that **He Himself hath suffered being tempted**, He is able to succour (*Gk.997- to aid or relieve*) them that are tempted (*Gk.3985- to test*). (*Emp. added*)

“Been there, done that” could be the answer that Christ might give to such an un-thought-out assertion. He understood our temptations having been tempted by “the lust of the flesh, and of the eyes, and the pride of life”. (1 Jn 2:16) So what is it then that would bring about such fear of death?

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally (*Gk.4561- human nature*) minded **is death**; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity (*Gk.2189- hostility; opposition*) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (*Emp. added*)

The human side doesn't understand spiritual things because its focus is on self. To fear death a person obviously doesn't care to know the truth about the eternal afterlife.

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of **sin unto death**, or of obedience unto righteousness? (*Emp. added*)

Whomever we chose to follow, to obey, will determine, not only our eternal existence, but will make a huge effect on our present spiritual, emotional and moral state.

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation (*Gk.390- to busy oneself*) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and **of the mind** (*Ever wonder why we have so many mental hospitals?*); and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (*Emp. added*)

The world offers nothing that will provide peace within. But we can all change that if we are willing to live according to the word of God and deny the human nature within us that opposes it.

Gal 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For 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.

No drug, including alcohol, no relationship, carnal or otherwise, can compare to the peace of knowing, and being obedient to, the truth. It fulfills what's missing that the world cannot satisfy. Why search in vain for the ultimate “high” in places that it cannot be found?

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

Joh 14:15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to **observe** (*Gk.5083- to fulfill a command*) **all things whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. (*Emp. added*)

In keeping the commandment of Jesus, if we love Him, we are to **teach, baptize** and then continue **teaching** each new babe in Christ so that they too then, in time, will do the same. If we can alleviate the battle within that vexes the minds all people outside the protection that God offers through His Son, if we can help people understand that their only source of true inner peace can be obtained through obedience to His word, only **then** can we change the course of mankind's future and head us in the ultimate direction of inner spiritual peace with God.

Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

If you're not a child of God, you don't have inner spiritual peace. If you are a child of God, but don't have that peace within, maybe you've given up looking in the right place to find it.

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