

ATHE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT@

**AThat which is born of the flesh is flesh;
and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.@**

John 3:6

THE NATURAL MAN AND THE SPIRITUAL MAN

When a person is **Aborn again@** of the Spirit, it cannot be forgotten that the old fleshly inclinations are not dead. John 3:6 reveals two parentage of heredity: the flesh and the Spirit. A dual nature now exists: the Natural Man (Flesh line) and the Spiritual Man (Spirit line). It is important that the Believer understand the Dual Nature and not allow Satan, Demons and the forces of Evil to foster deception, doubt and discouragement within. You, the Believer must rejoice in the Lord God always for His Saving Grace, which includes: forgiveness of sin by Faith in Christ Jesus, a New Spiritual Creation in the Heart, with Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit. It is vital for the Believer (the Spiritual Man) to maintain a steady, progressive pace in Spiritual Growth and Maturity, as we prepare to Live and Reign with Christ in Eternity (Rev. 20:4-6).

Moreover, let every Believer be encouraged by the selected words of this unknown writer:

ADon=t Quit@

**AWhen things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you=re trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must - but never quit.**

**Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tent of the clouds of doubt -
And you never can tell how near you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you=re hardest hit -
It=s when things seem worst that you must not quit.@**

I THE NATURAL MAN (APSUCHIKOS@)

The **apsuchikos@** man (1 Cor. 2:14) is the natural, physical man and describe the man in Adam and what pertains to him. He is the sensual man in James 3:15, relating more especially to the mind, wisdom in accordance with, or springing from, the desires and affections. This man is living under the control of the fleshly passions, the sensual and depraved part of man in contrast with the rational part (Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:29-32; Col. 3:5-10). He has no sense of spiritual values and no desire, love or preference for them. He counts it the highest wisdom to live for this world and carnal pleasures. Spiritual things are foolishness to him and he cannot see their supreme excellence owed to his carnal appetites and being spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-9).

- A. AReceives not the things of the Spirit of God.@**
- B. Is Blind of heart and without understanding (Eph. 4:18)**
- C. Has a heart that is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9; Mk. 7:21-22)**
- D. Exists on the Works of the Flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). What is your definition of these?**

Adultery is

Fornication is

Uncleanness is

Lasciviousness is

Idolatry is

Witchcraft is

Hatred is

Variance is

Emulation(s) is

Wrath is

Strife is

Sedition(s) is

Heresy (ies) is

Envy(ing) is

Murder(s) is

Drunkenness is

Reveling is

Divine Help is required to change the nature, naughtiness and neglect of the Natural Man toward God (Jer. 13:23).

II THE SPIRITUAL MAN (ΑΠNEUMATIKOS)

The Apnuematikos@ man (1 Cor. 2:15) Ais one who walks by the Spirit both in the sense of Gal. 5:16 and in that of Gal. 5:25 and who himself manifests the fruit of the Spirit in his own ways...@. This Spiritual State is normal to the ΑBorn Again Believer@ He is Led by the Spirit as this State is reached by diligence in the Word of God, Prayer and is maintained by obedience and self-judgment through the Word of God. This man is living under the control of the Holy Spirit and minds the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-3). He has and fully develops the Mind of Christ, discerning and esteeming Spiritual Things above sensual things (1 Cor. 2:14-16).

The Natural Man has a human parentage. The Spiritual Man has a Divine Parentage. There must be a father and a mother. In the Spiritual Realm the Holy Spirit is the Father, and the human heart is the Womb (Mother) into which the ΑSEED@ of the Word of God is dropped (1Pet. 1:23). The Holy Spirit vitalizes the ΑSEED OF THE WORD OF GOD@ in the human heart to bring about the New Life/New Man/the Spiritual Man.

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A. Divine Parentage and a New Nature (2 Cor. 5:17)

- B. **Born of Water (Word) and of the Spirit (Holy Spirit) Eph. 5:26; John 3:5.**
- C. **Two Natures Co-Exist (Gal. 5:17)**
- D. **The Fruit of The Spirit grow in the Spiritual Man (Gal. 5:22-23)**
- E. **There is a Spiritual Warfare (Rom. 7:15-25)**

III APALINGENESIA@ (Gk. Apalin,@ again, Agenesis,@ birth)

APalingenesia@ is used of spiritual regeneration (Titus 3:5). It involves the communication of a new life. The two operating powers to produce this new life are Athe word of truth@ (James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23; and the Holy Spirit, John 3:5-6). The Aloutron,@ the laver, the washing is explained in Eph. 5:26: Ahaving cleansed it by the washing (Aloutron@) of water with the word.@

The new birth and Aregeneration@ do not represent successive stages in spiritual experience; they refer to the same event but view it in different aspects. The new birth stresses the communication of spiritual life in contrast to antecedent spiritual death; Aregeneration@ stresses the inception of a new state of things in contrast with the old.@ (AVine=s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words,@ by W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, Jr.)

- A. **ABabes in Christ@ (1 Cor. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:2)**
ABabes@ - the Asarkikos@ man is the natural man acting in contrast to the spiritual man. He is living in the babyhood of the Faith. Not walking in the Spirit.
- B. **AWalking in the Spirit@ (Gal. 5:16)**
- C. **Overcome the flesh, the world, evil, the wicked one, etc.: John 16:33; Rom. 12:21; 1 John 2:13-14; 4:4; 5:4; Rev. 2:7, 11, 26; 3:5; 21:17.**

FINALLY

In as much as there do two (2) Natures co-exist in the Believer, how can the New Nature not be overshadowed by the Old Nature. There are three (3) ways revealed in Scripture regarding how the Believer can overcome the desires/lusts of the Natural Man.

- 1. Through Amputation - Matthew 18:8-9**
- 2. Through Mortification - Romans 8:12-13; Colossians 3:5-10**
- 3. Through Limitation - Hebrews 12:1**

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