

The Patio Pulpit For September 8, 2021 “The Inner Man”

Let's begin with a definition taken from Scripture that defines exactly what the believer's inner man is.

The inner man is that entity that is born of the Spirit, “born again.” That entity is a living being, our inner man. It is through our born-of-the-Spirit inner man that God communicates with His children, and we communicate with Him. Now read these verses:

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. (Rom. 8:9-10 NAU) That now alive “spirit” is your inner man.

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

*¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
(Eph. 3:16-17 NAU)*

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (2 Cor. 4:16 NAU)

*¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
(Eph. 2:18 NAU)*

*¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
(Eph. 3:12 NAU)*

*¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit **in the inner man**,
(Eph. 3:16)*

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons **by which we cry out**, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶ **The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit** that we are children of God, (Rom. 8:15-16 NAU) That "spirit" is our inner man, our hearts and our minds, our adopted-by-God inner man. That's where and how we can cry out "Abba, Father." We use our mouths, of course, but only as our inner man dictates...at least in this context.

And what usually blows the minds of those who are in Christ is this, our inner man does not and cannot sin. You heard me right. Your born of the Spirit inner man cannot and does not sin. Read this, ⁶ *No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.*

⁷ *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;*

⁸ *the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

¹⁰ *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. (1 Jn. 3:6-10 NAU)*

⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. *You may ignore the work I did on the Greek of this verse. I'm not showing off but rather I am confirming and supporting what I believe through the Greek text.

1 John 3:9

Πᾶς adj., all every,

ὁ γεγεννημένος verb, pft. pass. partic., the one who is born

ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ noun, gen. sing., of God, out of God

ἁμαρτίαν noun, acc., singl. sin

οὐ particle, not

ποιῆ, verb, pres. act. indic. is doing, is practicing
 ὅτι conj., because
 σπέρμα noun, seed
 αὐτοῦ poss. pron. His
 ἐν αὐτῷ μένει prep. phrase, in Him is abiding
 καὶ conj. and
 οὐ particle, not
 δύναται verb, pres. mid. indic., is able, has the innate ability to
 ἁμαρτάνειν, verb, pres. act. infin. to sin (why the infinitive?)
 ὅτι conj., because
 ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ prep. phrase, out of God, of God
 γεγέννηται. verb, perf. pass. indicative, is born, begotten.
 (1 Jn. 3:9 BYZ)

That, beloved, refers to our inner man. Our inner man is that part of us that is born of God. Our inner man is where the seed of God abides making our inner man unable to sin. Our inner man that was once dead in his trespasses and sins was made alive by the Spirit the instant we heard and believed the gospel of Christ, all by the grace of God, lest anyone should boast. And God, by His grace, has rendered our inner man now incapable of sinning or practicing sin.

The new birth is still a mystery. Our inner man is that part of us that we are too often unaware of. However, it will help us clarify our inner man by understanding that the terms inner man and the Christian mind are interchangeable. Read this, ²² ***For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,***

²³ *but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of **my mind** and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

²⁴ *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

²⁵ *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself **with my mind** am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. (Rom. 7:22-8:1 NAU)*

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The inner man and the mind of the disciple of Christ are one and the same.

Now read this, ⁵ *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

⁶ *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,*

⁷ *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,*

⁸ *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:5-8 NAU)*

And this, ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:2 NAU)* Your mind has been renewed, beloved, that happened the instant you were born of the Spirit. Your mind has been renewed, now use your renewed born-of-the Spirit mind to be transformed.

That is a tall order. But it can be done, else Paul would not have told us to be transformed. We have all the ingredients needed to live in a manner worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1-3)

I will take up more on our topic in two weeks, if the Lord is willing. Next Wednesday our seniors will be at the beach.