

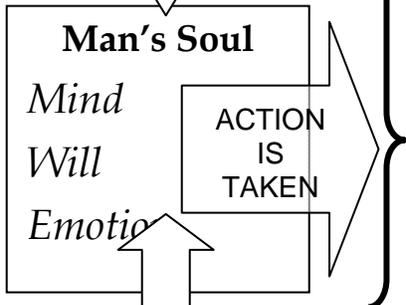
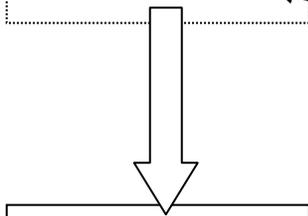
THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER.

(Continued)

THE APTITUDES OF MAN'S "SPIRIT":

- Comprehending the essential nature of God (Light)
- Discerning right from wrong (Conscience)
- Comprehending the basic meaning of life (Wisdom)
- Sensing the spirit of others (Sensitivity)
- Directing basic drives and emotions (Creativity)
- Man's spirit...his spiritual sense receptor... provides the necessary data from the spirit-world to guide his decisions...and choices.

Information
Received from
Spirit World into
man's spirit



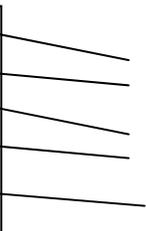
THE APTITUDES OF MAN'S "SOUL":

(Man is a "soul")

- Thinking, reasoning, remembering
- Feeling various emotions...and desires
- Exercising the will and making choices
- Man receives data from his spiritual and physical sense receptors and, out of this "mixing chamber", decides on what will be his insights, decisions, actions and attitudes.

THE APTITUDES OF MAN'S "BODY"

Man's Body
Information
Received from
Physical world



- Seeing - Hearing - Tasting - Feeling - Smelling
- Man's body, his physical sense receptor... provides the necessary data from the physical world for making decisions.

Man's "physical nature" is NOT sinful in, and of, itself. It is simply the nature that God gave man for him to be able to communicate in the physical world in which he was placed.

Man, a "soul", was to act on the information he received from both worlds...the spiritual world and the physical world. However, man was, originally, predominantly controlled by his "spirit"...he lived and acted with his "spirit" guiding and directing his life. He was "a living soul"...that is, his soul was ALIVE with his spirit!

However, when Adam sinned, his spirit died - that is, it was separated from God. ("Death" means "separation"). God told Adam, "In the day that ye eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, ye shall die" (Genesis 2:17). Ezekiel 2:1 says, "The soul that sins shall die" and Ephesians 2:1 says, "Man is not dead physically or "soulishly," but he is dead "spiritually"...meaning that he is separated from his spirit-life!

Man, in his fallen state, received a "*fleshly nature*", or, a depraved nature. This is the unregenerate condition of any man whose "*spirit*" has not been born again.

When one receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, one receives Jesus Christ into his spirit...and upon reception of Christ into his spirit, he becomes different from the natural man in that he now possesses "TWO NATURES" instead of just ONE. The believer receives a new nature...the "*nature of Christ*"...which is holy and cannot sin.

However, even after one receives this "*new*" nature, he still has the "*old*" nature. Romans 7:5 says, "*When your old nature was still active, sinful desires were at work within you, making you want to do whatever God said not to, and producing sinful deeds, the rotting fruit of death.*" Romans 8:8-9 gives us more input on this concept when it says, "*That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God. But you are not like that. You are controlled by your new nature if you have the Spirit of God living in you.*"

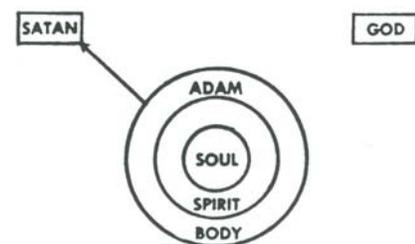
Paul tells us of the struggle he had with these two natures within him when he says, in Romans 7:15-21, "*I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can't, I do what I don't want to - what I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that I agree with these laws I am breaking. But I can't help myself, because I'm no longer doing it. It is sin inside me that is stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things. I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't; and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. Now if I am doing what I don't want to, it is plain where the trouble is: sin still has me in its evil grasp. It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.*"

The man who has accepted Christ into his life has two natures: **(1)** His "*old*" Adamic nature, which is carnal and sensual and provides wrong impulses

- (2 Peter 2:18; 1 John 2:16; Galatians 3:3 and 6:8)...and...

(2) His "*new*" nature, within which dwells the "*Spirit of Christ*" and which will form a complete new man (soul), if he yields control to this new nature of Christ within him. Galatians 5:19-21 tells us, "*But when you follow your*

own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticism, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group...and there will be wrong doctrine, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God." Note that, when Scripture speaks of the "*kingdom of God*" it is not speaking of "*heaven*", but, rather, the "*reign of God*" in one's life.



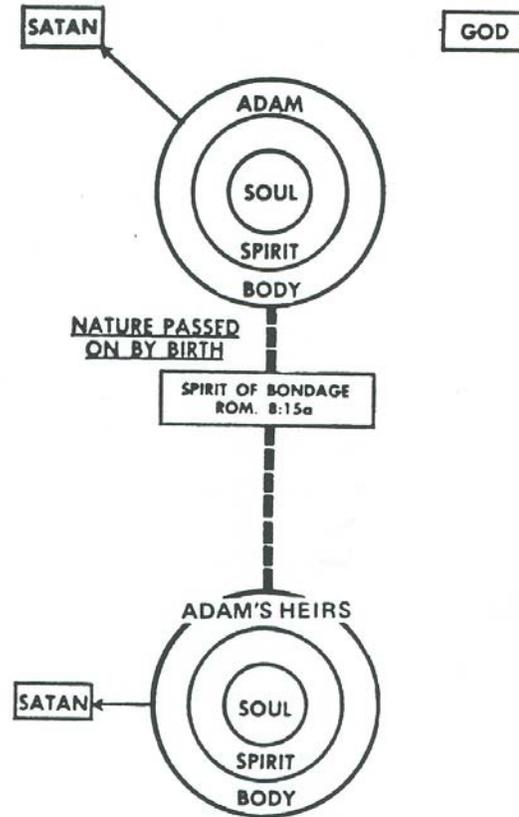
The New Man is created in righteousness and true holiness. He cannot sin because He has a perfect, sinless nature...a nature which can manifest only the "*fruit of*

the Spirit", that is, "love, joy, peace,, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23).

When one accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, it is his "spirit" which is made alive...or is "born again" (John 3:6), that is, his "spirit", separated from God because of a sinful nature, is now given new life in Christ Jesus!!!

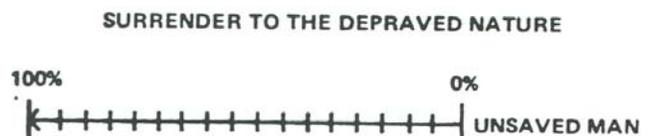
Remember that a man is a soul and, once man has accepted Christ, he has two natures seeking to control his life. He still has a free-will and he can still choose whether it will be God or Satan who will be expressed through his self-life...whether it will be God or Satan who will be entertained in his thinking and be exhibited in his behavior. God never interferes with man's freedom of choice!

Paul recognized the conflict between these two natures over his own soul...He says, in Romans 7:22-25, *"I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned: But there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but, instead, I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free."*



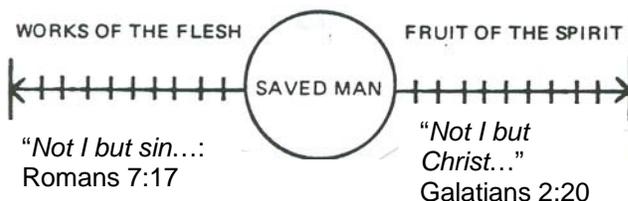
One manifests the blessed holiness of the Lord Jesus by surrendering to the "Spirit of Christ" within his life...and the degree of one's joy, peace and sweetness, is in direct proportion to the degree of one's surrender to Christ. Jesus, Himself, will motivate our words and our deeds if we choose to let Him do so!

Whereas the unsaved man is only able to surrender to the old nature... (despite the variance in degree to which he so surrenders)...the believer, on the other



hand, is capable of surrender to either of his two natures. He can choose to do God-pleasing works...which is what is meant by "righteousness") through the "Spirit of Christ" or he can choose to do evil works of the flesh through the "spirit of disobedience" ...and the

THE CHRISTIANS' SURRENDER TO BOTH NATURES



He can choose to do God-pleasing works...which is what is meant by "righteousness") through the "Spirit of Christ" or he can choose to do evil works of the flesh through the "spirit of disobedience" ...and the

degree to which he surrenders to either nature...either "spirit" ...is the degree to which he will manifest the "fruits"

of that nature.

The reason that many Christians are miserable in their Christian walk is because this concept of Christ dwelling within their hearts is a concept that they "know" more with their "heads" than, experiential, with their "hearts". They have never personally appropriated the full truth of this concept because they're not chosen to make it a daily experience of letting Christ's spirit control their lives. Their surrender is still mainly in the direction of the old man.

Galatians 5:17 speaks of the struggle between the two natures as a "tug-of-war" when it says, "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." These two spirits vie with each other for mastery of the believer...they both plead for control of the Christian's life and they both contend for his affections. The believer is free to choose which spirit he will be controlled by. The Christian has this freedom of choice and, because he is fully responsible for these choices, he will, one day, be made to give an account for them.

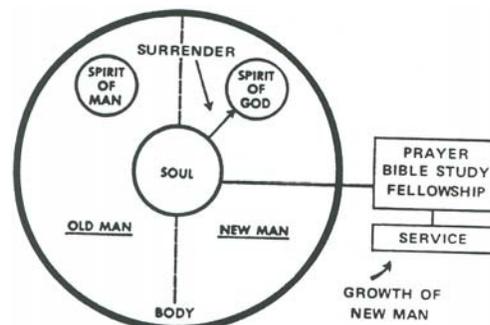


The new man that comes into being upon the instant of salvation is but an infant! This little new creation may be likened to a naturally born child who has just entered into the world and, like a new-born child, the new believer is feeble... needing care and time before he can gain strength...which is why the Apostle Peter says that he is a "new-born babe" and, as such, should "desire the sincere milk of the Word" that he might grow.

Prayer is "breath" to the Christian and, just as the most important development in the life of an infant is his capacity to breathe, so it is that the most important development in the life of a baby Christian is his capacity to pray.

The Word of God is the "food" of the Christian and, just as a baby needs milk...or food... if he is to grow, so does the baby Christian need to "feed" on the Word of God if he is to grow.

Service is "exercise" to the Christian and, just as a baby has to exercise. It is essentially that powerless, muscles be exercised to strengthen them - and so the Christian has to strengthen his spiritual muscles by becoming active in loving service to others.



Therefore, the three needs for a Christian's growth: prayer, Bible study, and some form of service.

God does not take one "out" of the world when he makes his decision to receive Jesus, but, rather, He leaves him "in" the world...not just because there are jobs that God wants him to do, but, also, because life here on earth can produce growth in the spiritual man. God wants a developed...full-grown...man and the earth is the ideal place for this growth to take place.

As long as the believer is surrendered to the indwelling Spirit of God, he will exhibit the "new man", but he will manifest this new nature only to the extent that it has developed...and matured. If the believer is but a babe in Christ, he will display but little maturity. On the other hand, if he has worked hard to be like Christ, he will display considerable maturity.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE OLD MAN

What discourages most new Christians is the fact that they fail to remember that they still have a "flesh nature" as well as the "new nature" in Christ Jesus. They have **TWO NATURES!**

It is the struggle between these two natures that will bring maturity providing that the Christian sincerely desires to grow and providing that, upon learning the principles of growth from God's Word, he then "*wills*" to apply them to his life.

How can one bring his thoughts under control and develop new attitudes?

We must remember that every person is different. All the experiences that one has had (including childhood ones) have left an impression on him and this, of course, causes him to respond in certain ways to the situations he faces in life. For example: One person may never have experienced any outward manifestation of affection from his parents and, as a result, he has to struggle with a deep need for that kind of expression; another person may have been made to feel that he could never do anything right, and now he has to battle with a sense of uncertainty and inferiority; still another person may have been deeply hurt by someone to whom they reached out to, and now he finds it difficult to trust others. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord does NOT change these needs overnight. Christ can, and will, help us in overcoming these needs, but, rather than happen automatically, it will take trust in Him...and effort...on our part.

These negative experiences of the past can be destructive to one's spiritual growth if they are allowed to remain...and dwell...in one's heart and mind. The new Christian must find release from negative thought-patterns...and he must experience a new freedom from them...if he is to ever develop and grow into the person that God desires him to be. He must have a specific, planned action to implement... and reinforce... positive, affirming thought-patterns within his life.

One's thought patterns can be changed constructively! One can experience release from his old "fleshly" reactions and responses that continually defeat his Christian life by doing the following:

1. First, one must recognize that there is a need for him to change his attitude

toward his situation, toward himself, toward others, and toward God. Upon recognizing this need, he must then realize that there is hope in Jesus Christ to change!

2. Secondly, one must take God's Word seriously when it speaks of us controlling our thought life!

Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life." Psalms 119:9 asks, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" The answer comes back, "By saturating his heart (mind) with the Word of God!" - (Verse 11)

As the believer allows God's Word to change his way of thinking, his conduct will be affected positively!

Romans 12:1-2 gives insight that is imperative that the believer be familiar with. It says, "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you, in view of God's mercies, to make a decisive dedication of your members and faculties as a living sacrifice, consecrated to God and worthy of His acceptance, which is your spiritual worship. Do not live according to the fashions of the times, nor adopt the customs of this world, but by your new attitude of mind be transformed, that ye may discern what is the will of God, good, and well pleasing, and perfect."

Just how does one accomplish the "renewing of his mind?" The following illustration...and reflections...will help answer this question:

When rain falls on a hilltop, and the water runs off, it begins, at first, to cut only small rivulets into the hill. However, each time it rains, it cuts deeper and deeper, until those little rivulets become a deep chasm. - Thought-patterns are like those little rivulets that become a deep chasm because the longer one thinks along certain lines, the stronger that thought-pattern becomes.

Every time one thinks in a certain manner, he reinforces that thought-pattern, thus forming a "habit" of thinking a certain way.

When men seek to save a hillside, they will build a dam to control the water. Likewise, the believer must build a dam in his mind to control his thoughts. He must refuse to allow himself to think certain thoughts!

So, first of all, for one to "renew his mind", he must refuse to allow certain thought-patterns in his mind...he must learn to say, "No!" to these thoughts.

However, to renew one's mind, it is not enough to just refuse to think certain thoughts. When a dam is built, provision must also be made for the "redirection" of the flow of water. Likewise, the believer, in the renewing of his mind, must provide a new course of thinking for his mind.

The believer must not only suppress his thoughts, but he must also "redirect" his thoughts.

Ephesians 4:28 is a good example of this Biblical concept. It says, "Let him that stole steal no more..." How does one stop stealing, but to simply stop doing it! Notice, however, that verse 28 goes on to say ..."but rather let him labor, working with his hands the things that are good..." It is not enough for one just to "stop stealing" because that is just the negative action... that is saying "no" to a destructive habit and building the dam in one's thought-pattern. However, beyond that negative action, the positive action is the redirecting of one's "labor" to do the things that are good! Now the process is complete! (The same principle is given concerning "lying" in verse 25).

A negative habit must be dealt with by an act of one's will. One must choose to stop thinking about certain destructive thoughts, but, also, one must choose to replace those thoughts with the corresponding constructive action in order that the change in the thought pattern is complete!!!

THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE TO
CHANGE ONE'S THOUGHT-PATTERNS...TO "RENEW ONE'S MIND":

1. Build a dam - Refuse to allow wrong thinking
2. Redirect the flow - Develop a new way of thinking

This takes place by an act of the will!

Colossians 3:2 says, "*Set your mind on things above (heavenly things)...*" God tells us that this is something **WE MUST DO!** Verse 5 tells us to, "*Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature (evil desires).*" First, one must rid himself of evil thoughts and, then, we are told, in verses 12-13, that one must, "*Put on...thoughts concerning the indwelling Holy Spirit, such as tenderness of heart, compassion, graciousness, patience, putting up with one another's faults, and forgiving one another.*" ...(and one's self)

Note that the changing of one's thought-patterns is not just the "putting away" of old ones (building a dam), but it is also the "putting on" of new ones (building new patterns) in one's thought life! Again, renewing one's mind involves more than one just suppressing his old thought-patterns because it also involves one redirecting his thought-patterns into healthy and positive ways of thinking!

"*Putting to death*" one's old thought-patterns will require **continual** action. One's old thought-patterns, and attitudes, will not die naturally, nor will they go away easily. One must "*put these old thoughts and attitudes to death*" every time they rear their ugly heads...and they will rear their ugly heads, but one must stop them at the headwaters!

The more times one puts to death wrong thoughts, and puts on new ones, the less one's thoughts will tend to flow in the wrong direction in the first place!

The careful study of Romans, chapters 6, 7, and 8, will prove to be a tremendous help to anyone struggling with thought- patterns from the old Adamic nature.

Romans 6 describes the believer's **PROVISION!** The believer has been delivered from the power of sin. Romans 6:6 says, "*Our old self is crucified with Him (Christ) so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin*". Verses 14 and 18 relate to that same truth when they state: "*Sin shall not be your master!*" "*You have been set free from sin.*" - God's Word teaches us that provision has been made so that we might overcome the power of sin in our lives!

The key word of the 7th chapter of Romans is **STRUGGLE!** After Paul speaks of the struggle he has with his old thought-patterns, he then deals with the struggle of how one gets the power that is mentioned in chapter 6 to become operative in his life. He says in verse 25, "*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with my mind I*

myself serve the law of God".

When we get to the 8th chapter of Romans, the thought of "setting the mind" on the things of the Spirit, as opposed to setting it on the things of the flesh, is repeated several times. Verse 5 says, "Those who are according to the flesh, set their minds on the things of the flesh"...(that is, because they have "set their minds on the things of the flesh"... have their thoughts on the things of the flesh...they will live fleshly lives!) - Verse 5 then goes on to say, "But those who are according to the Spirit (mind) the things of the Spirit"...(that is, because they have "set their minds" on the things of the Spirit...have their thoughts on the things of the Spirit...they will live spiritual lives"). Verse 7 says, "For the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God"...(In other words, the mind set on the flesh is "death" because the person is separated from God's spiritual potential for spiritual development while, on the other hand, the mind set on the Spirit is "life"...and peace... because the person is in union with God's spiritual potential for spiritual development.)

Philippians 4:8 tells us what to think of...it states: "*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and good, and right. Think about those things that are pure, and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.*"

"Fix your thoughts" is a statement of command which requires a response of one's will...and if one responds "yes" to setting his mind on the things mentioned in Philippians 4:8, one can redirect his old thought-patterns...and these old thought-patterns are so ingrained in us that Satan knows just how to get us to "set our minds" on them and, before we realize it, the old thought-patterns are off and running...which is why one must ask God to alert him...through the Holy Spirit within...the moment a particular negative thought-pattern begins and, after God does alert him, he is then responsible to "set his mind" on the things of God. Redirecting one's thought life is a responsibility that God gives to each one of us and it is the way we grow...and mature...spiritually!