

Experiential Sanctification

What the Bible says about the Spiritual Life

A Summation of Material Presented at the 2011 Chafer Conference

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➤ A Tale of Two Natures

- At the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life, we are made spiritually alive.
- As a result we have within us a spiritual “new self”.
- This spiritual “new self” does not have anything in common with the fleshly “old self”.
 - The new self is loving, happy, content, at peace, patient, humble, kind, faithful, gentle, forgiving, and self-controlled.
 - The old self is grumpy, easily frustrated, short-tempered, restless, emotional, impatient, arrogant, self-promoting, jealous, envious, mean-spirited, contentious, critical of others, lustful, unfaithful, unforgiving, and lacking in self-constraint.
- Prior to our salvation, the “old self” had unabated dominion over our lives.
- At the moment we believe, we are freed from this tyranny, but the “old self” remains within our flesh.
- This “old self” is never removed from the flesh, either by a gradual process of whittling away or by some instantaneous extraction at some point in time after our spiritual birth.
- We will be freed from the presence of this “old self” when we are no longer in this earthly body.
- For the remainder of our days on earth, we will face an internal struggle between our two natures.
 - The “new self” is born of God, created in righteousness, and is inherently compatible with the Holy Spirit who indwells us.
 - The “old self”, though no longer having dictatorial rule over us, can still be in charge whenever we volunteer our service.
 - It is our choice to submit either to the Spirit or to the flesh.
- As we walk by the Spirit and learn God’s word, we are being transformed by the renewing of the mind.
- If we continually walk in sin, we will not advance spiritually and could face the sin unto death.

➤ Mechanics of the Spiritual Life

- At the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- This is a permanent salvation grace blessing and we are never commanded to be indwelt by the Spirit.
- We are, however, commanded to be filled by the Spirit, which means this is not permanent.
 - We are filled by the Spirit when we are in fellowship with God, walking in the Light, walking by means of the Spirit, abiding in Christ, etc.
 - We lose this filling when we grieve the Spirit through personal sins or quench the Spirit by not submitting to His leading.
- In order to obey the command to be filled by the Spirit, we must recognize when we have lost our fellowship with God by grieving and/or quenching the Spirit and be restored to fellowship through repentance (change of mind) and confession of sin.
- In order to experience significant spiritual growth in our lives, we need to maintain consistent fellowship with God by forsaking sin (i.e. “go and from now on sin no more”) rather than riding the sin/confess, sin/confess, sin/confess teeter-totter.

➤ Conclusions

- Our spiritual walk begins the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ, not at a “Let Go and Let God” moment at some point after salvation.
- The divine resources for success in our spiritual walk are given at the moment of salvation, not through a “second blessing” from God after salvation.
- Success in our spiritual walk is dependant upon volitional choices we make all day, every day and is not guaranteed by a supposed sovereign decree of God that His elect will persevere.
- We will struggle with our old sin nature throughout our spiritual walk on this earth.
- While on this earth we will never become “wholly sanctified” and be completely free from sin.
- Our personal sins grieve the Holy Spirit who indwells us and cause us to break fellowship with God and lose the filling of the Spirit.
- Through the cleansing we receive from God when we confess our sins, we are restored to fellowship and are once again filled by the Holy Spirit.
- Under the filling of the Holy Spirit we experience spiritual growth through His teaching ministry as we study God’s word and He enables us to understand the spiritual truth contained therein.
- When we spend time out of fellowship with God, grieving/quenching the Holy Spirit, His ministry is a convicting ministry only.

- During such times we will not any experience spiritual growth (other than as God's discipline teaches us) and may even "backslide."
- Born again believers who remain in sin and rebellion against God may eventually be handed over to the lusts of the flesh and die the sin unto death.
- Born again believers who make choices to submit to God, consistently abide in Christ, study His word and live according to it will indeed have a "victorious life" as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- This "victorious life" comes about entirely through divine enablement, so God gets all the glory.