

POWER OF GOD: FIGHT BETWEEN 2 NATURES.

Study 1

In the beginning, God wanted Adam to be governed by the Holy Spirit, but Adam disobeyed. When he did this, he died spiritually and was separated from God’s presence. Sin was and is what causes separation between man and God. It is impossible to overcome this barrier by ourselves. The death and resurrection of Christ opened the only way to reach God after sin corrupted us. Believing in Jesus’ work we repent from sinful ways and we ask the Lord to give new life.

Now that the Lord has made us a new creation, let’s ask ourselves: Do God’s children Sin? Explain your answer.

Having received life from God, it’s incomprehensible that sin is present in our lives.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says:

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness

According to this passage there are two kinds of “man/nature” in each person:

1. _____
2. _____

Let’s take a deeper look into this.

Our old self (is directed by our fleshly desires)

- According to what we have read: describe our old self.

- Our old self is what we are born with. It goes against God and thinks only of itself and its desires. List some these desires.

- According to the next passage, the old self is similar to what? Why is it compared in this way?

Romans 7:23-24:

23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from - this body that is subject to death?”

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- According to what the Lord says in **John 3:6-7** how can we defeat the flesh?

John 3:6-7 ⁶*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.* ⁷*You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'*

Our new self (guided by the Holy Spirit)

We become a new creation the moment we accept Jesus. Our new self is pure and spiritual; it hopes to please God before anything else. List a few characteristics of the new self.

- Its spiritual desires are:
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It is necessary to become this new creation which can accomplish what the old self couldn't. Jesus came to free us from the old and sinful nature.

Romans 6:6

⁶*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

Colossians 3:9-10

⁹*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Considering what we have just read, when are we rid-of the old self? When do we become a new creation?

The Battle and the Victory

As children of God we have received a new life. We have been completely renewed. God has done everything. But there is something that God wants us to put into practice. Our Father allows us to take part in a constant battle between the old and new nature, between these two opposing powers: the flesh and the spirit. This is so that we can experience God's victory, as the Holy Spirit wants us to do God's will but the flesh wants us to fulfil our own desires.

From the next passages we will be able to see what we have to do to accomplish this victory in each area of our lives. Complete each section below the passages.

- **Ephesians 4:22-24 (see above)**
- **Colossians 3:5,8-10**

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

- **Romans 8:13-14**

¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

- **Hebrews 5:13-14**

¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

In our minds:

In our will:

In our actions:

In our Spirit:

This constant battle between the two opposing natures is very difficult. Some people kid themselves into thinking that they are “good because they do no harm to others”; others say “I was born this way”; some even hide their wrong doings to seem “Holy”. The hardest attitude to find is someone who fights to kill their old self. The Bible tells us that *“I have the right to do anything”, “you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.” (1 Corinthians 6:12).*

It is not wise to think less of this battle or not give it any importance.

This first step to take is to make a decision, declaring war: not to obey the evil and sinful desires of the flesh but to do the will of God. Then the battle will begin. We won’t win in one go. The Lord

warned us it will be a daily battle: *“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23).* We might fall, but if we return to Him, He will forgive us and will continue to restore us: *“if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).*

Remember: It is possible to live a pure and holy life!