

The Fifth Column

(The Flesh - Our Enemy Working From Within)

Part 2

Introduction

In the first part of this study we showed the totally helpless condition unsaved man finds himself in. In this part, we show God's solution to the problem.

Our Study

The Scripture: Ezekiel 11:19-20

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep My laws. They will be My people and I will be their God."

1. What was God's promise to Israel? _____

God was promising that the day would come when He would take that old dead heart, that sinful center of man, and replace it with a living heart.

2. What would this new heart cause them to do? _____

The Scripture: Jeremiah 31:33

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord, 'I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.'"

3. What would be different about God's new covenant? _____

God was looking forward to a day when His people would no longer be just external followers of His laws. He was looking forward to a time when their heart would desire to follow after God.

The Scripture: Galatians 4:4

"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

4. When did this happen? _____

The Scripture: Romans 7:24-25

“Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

5. What does Jesus do for us when He saves us? _____

Discussion Question:

If this is true, why don't we always experience it? _____

We don't always experience it because we don't always cooperate with the Spirit of God within us. According to the Bible, every man, woman and child has a new heart provided by God Himself, one that wants to be obedient to God. We have the Spirit of God, resident within us, a Spirit that moment by moment urges us toward a fuller, more complete realization of the new nature God has given us. This process is called sanctification. In order to realize this new nature, we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Let's look at some of the ways we can do this.

The Scripture: Romans 6:13-14

“Offer yourselves to God,...and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

6. What should we do with our bodies? _____

We remember that in the Old Testament period, the people of God were instructed to kill and sacrifice an animal. Under our new covenant, the acceptable sacrifice becomes the offering of our total lives.

The Scripture: Ephesians 4:22

“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.”

7. What should we do? _____

Group Discussion:

How do we put off our old self? _____

Does Romans 6:11 help? _____

Some good news

The Scripture: Colossians 3:10

“Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

8. With what do we replace the old self? _____

9. Describe the new self. _____

The Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-4

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us through His own glory and goodness.”

10. What has God given us? _____

Personal Question:

Are you willing to believe this with no reservations, that God has given us everything we need for life and godliness? _____

If not, why not? _____

11. How is this given? _____

Personal Question:

How do we gain true knowledge of God? _____

True knowledge of God is gained through reading and studying the Bible, and being obedient by praying and meditating, by praising and worshiping God and fellowshiping with other believers. Also by letting the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus, who reveals God to us. Gaining true knowledge of God then becomes an important weapon in our war against Satan and his lies.

The Scripture: 2 Peter 1:4

“He has given us His very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires.”

12. Why has God given us His wonderful promises? _____

The Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-8 *“Make every effort to add to your faith, goodness, and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and non-productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

13. What should we do? _____

14. If we practice these things what will they keep us from? _____

Refitting Time

The Scripture: Colossians 3:10-11

“Put on your new self which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. There is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarians, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

15. What is happening to this new self? _____

16. What kind of renewal is it? _____

The Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-24

“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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

17. Specifically, where are we renewed? _____

The Scripture: Romans 12:2

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

18. Why should we be renewed in our minds? _____

19. What does this renewing of the mind replace? _____

The Scripture: 1 John 2:15

“Do not love the world or anything in the world.”

20. What should our attitude toward the world be? _____

The Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:10

“The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

21. What are we specially told not to love? _____

22. What is the love of money? _____

23. What has it caused? _____

Some have called materialism the sin of our culture. Materialism is the love and desire for the world’s goods. Each of us needs to ask the Holy Spirit to search our heart and tell us whether or not we are guilty of this sin.

The Scripture: Galatians 5:16

“Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

24. How can we keep from carrying out the desires of the sinful nature? _____

The Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11

“Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”

25. What are we to pursue? _____

The Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

26. To what does Paul compare the Christian walk? _____

27. On whom should we fix our eyes? _____

When we keep our eyes on Jesus, our problems diminish. We must walk in the Spirit, keeping our eyes on our Commander in Chief, to see what His instructions for us are.

The Answers

1. That He would give them a new heart and a new spirit
2. To follow God's decrees and keep His laws
3. His laws would be written in His people's hearts and minds
4. When Jesus was born
5. He rescues us from this body of death.
6. Offer them to God as instruments of righteousness
7. Put off our old self
8. The new self
9. Created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness
10. Everything we need for life and godliness
11. Through our knowledge of Him who called us through His own glory and goodness
12. So we may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires
13. Add to our faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love
14. being ineffective and non-productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ
15. It is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
16. A renewal without distinctions in Christ - He is all and in all
17. In the attitude of our minds
18. So we can test and approve what God's will is
19. The pattern of the world
20. We should not love it.
21. Money
22. The root of all kinds of evil
23. Many have wandered from the faith
24. By living by the Spirit
25. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness
26. A race
27. Jesus

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