



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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DAILY DEVOTION BEWARE OF THE OLD MAN

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Ephesians 4:22

"That you put off, concerning your former manner of living, the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,"

The Bible makes us to know that as born-again people we now possess two natures, the old and the new. The old nature is the sin nature, the natural human tendency toward evil. We are all born with the old sin nature.

Psalm 5:55 "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

Psalm 58:3 "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies."

The old nature is never removed, destroyed, or reformed. As a mature believer, Paul wrote:

Romans 7:18 "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out."

John confirms this:

1John 1:8 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

"We ...put no confidence in the flesh." Philippians 3.3

We must be aware that a force lives within us that constantly leads us toward sin and away from God. The flesh can reveal its presence at any time. It can take us by surprise and cause us to say and do bad things unexpectedly.

Evil thoughts can arise in our minds without warning.

"The heart is more deceitful than all things and desperately wicked; who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17.9

One of the deceitful things about our sinful nature is that it is capable of good on a human level. It is possible to do good works with impure motives.

We may seek to impress others with our self-righteousness. We must be careful not to attempt to serve God in the power of our flesh.

"They that are in the flesh, cannot please God." Romans 8.8



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I Corinthians 3.12, Paul distinguishes between works done in the flesh and those empowered by the Spirit. The flesh produces “wood, hay, straw”- things that God will not reward. The Spirit produces “gold, silver, precious stones”- works that please God and yield eternal rewards.

When we commit one act of sin, the flesh takes control of us and we become its slave.

Romans 6:16

“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

PRAYYER: Oh God, deliver me from the power of the flesh and fill me with your spirit.