

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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“THE PRETENDERS” PART 3

I JOHN 3:9-10

THE LAST TWO WEEKS JOHN SHARED WITH US THE FIRST TWO OF THREE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD LIVE A HOLY LIFE.

- I. **GOD THE FATHER LOVES US** (I JOHN 3:1-3)
- II. **GOD THE SON DIED FOR US** (I JOHN 3:4-8)
 - A. **TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS** (4-6)
 - B. **DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL** (7-8)
- III. **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN US** (9-10) AS WE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE SPIRIT THAT LIVES WITHIN US. WE LEARN THAT:
 1. **THE OLD NATURE PRODUCES SIN**
 2. **NEW NATURE LEADS US INTO A HOLY LIFE**

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY IS TO LIVE ACCORDING TO HIS NEW NATURE, NOT THE OLD NATURE; WE SEE THIS ILLUSTRATED BY CONTRASTING THE:

1. **OUTER MAN** (PHYSICAL MAN 2 COR4:16)
 - a. **FOOD**
 - b. **CLEANSING**
 - c. **EXERCISE**
2. **INNER MAN** (SPIRITUAL MAN 2COR 4:16)
 - A. **FOOD-** A CHRISTIAN WHO FEED THE NEW NATURE FROM THE WORD OF GOD WILL HAVE POWER TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE. WE ARE TO MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO FULFILL THE LUST THEREOF (ROM 13:14)
 - B. **CLEANSING-** BELIEVER SHOULD LOOK INTO THE MIRROR OF GOD’S WORD DAILY AND EXAMINE HIMSELF. THEN HE MUST CONFESS SINS AND CLAIM GOD’S FORGIVENESS (I JOHN 1:9). OTHERWISE THE INNER MAN WILL BECOME UNCLEAR, AND UNCLEARLINESS WILL BREED INFECTION AND SPIRITUAL SICKNESS.

NOTE: UNCONFUSED SIN IS THE FIRST STEP IN WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS “BACKSLIDING” THIS MEANS TO:

GRADUALLY MOVING AWAY FROM A CLOSE WALK WITH CHRIST A LIFE FILLED WITH ALIEN WORD IN WHICH WE LIVE.

BACKSLIDING RESEMBLES PHYSICAL SICKNESS

1. **SECRET INVASION OF THE BODY A DISEASE OR GERM**
2. **INFECTIONS FOLLOW**
3. **GRADUALLY DECLINE**
- A. **NO PEP**
- B. **NO APPETITE**
- C. **NO INTEREST IN NORMAL ACTIVITIES**
- D. **THEN COMES THE COLLAPSE**

SPIRITUAL DECLINE IS SIMILAR

1. **SIN INVADES US** (INSTEAD OF FIGHTING WE YIELD TO IT (JAMES 1:14)
2. **INFECTION SETS IN**
3. **GRADUALLY DECLINE**
- A. **LOSS OF APPETITE FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS**
- B. **BECOME LISTLESS AND IRRITABLE**
- C. **FINIAL WE COLLAPSE**

THE REMEDY FOR SIN IS

1. **CONFESS YOUR SIN**
2. **FORSAKE IT**
3. **TURN TO CHRIST FOR CLEANSING**
- d. **EXERCISE** (TIM 4:7) SPIRITUAL EXERCISE FOR A BELIEVER INCLUDES:
 1. **SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS**
 2. **DOING GOOD WORKS IN CHRIST NAME**
 3. **HELPING TO BUILD OTHER BELIEVES**

JAMES 1:13-15 GIVES US THE PROCESS OF TEMPTATION

1. **CARRIED AWAY AND ENTICED BY OUR OWN DESIRES**
2. **LUST IS CONCEIVED**
3. **GIVES BIRTH TO SIN**
4. **WHEN SIN IS ACCOMPLISHED IT BRING FOURTH DEATH**

TEMPTATION APPEARS TO OUR NATURAL DESIRES (MATT 4:1-4, GAL 5:16)
VICTORY COMES WHEN WE DO NOT FULFILL THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH.

NOTE: ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL AND THE FALSE TEACHERS IS YIELDING TO SIN. IN OTHER WORDS THEY PROCESS OR CLAIM, ONE THING, BUT THEY PRACTICE ANOTHER. SATAN IS A LIAR AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM (JOHN8:44), AND HIS CHILDREN ARE LIKE THEIR FATHER. HE THAT SAITH I KNOW GOD AND KEEPETH NOT HIS

COMMANDMENT, IS A LIAR AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM (I JOHN 2:4). THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL TRY TO DECEIVE GODS CHILDREN INTO THINKING A PERSON CAN BE A CHRISTIAN AND STILL PRACTICE SIN. LITTLE CHILDREN, LET NOT MAN DECEIVE YOU: HE WHO DOETH RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RIGHTEOUS, EVEN AS HE (GOD) IS RIGHTEOUS (I JOHN 3:7)

FALSE DOCTRINE THAT FALSE TEACHERS IN JOHNS DAY TAUGHT

TEACHING – CHRISTIANS DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SIN, BECAUSE ONLY THE BODY SINNED, AND WHAT THE BODY DID IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE SPIRIT. SOME EVEN WENT AS FAR TO TEACH THAT SIN IS A NATURAL TO THE BODY, BECAUSE THE BODY IS SINFUL.

THE PROBLEM WITH THIS TEACHING IS

1. **THE OLD NATURE IS NOT THE BODY**
2. **THE BODY IS NEUTRAL USED BY EITHER NATURE**

ROMANS 6:12-13

QUESTION: HOW DOES A CHILD OF GOD GO ABOUT OVERCOMING THE DESIRES OF THE OLD NATURE?

1. **YIELDING YOUR BODY TO GOD AS A LIVING SACRIFICE** (ROM 12:1)
2. **READING AND STUDYING THE WORD DAILY**
3. **PRAY**

NOTE: AS A BELIEVER GOES THROUGH LIFE, HE MUST DEPEND ON THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN WHEN TEMPTATION COMES HE MUST IMMEDIATELY TURN TO CHRIST FOR VICTORY. THE WORD OF GOD IN HIS HEART WILL HELP TO KEEP HIM FROM SINNING ONLY IF HE WILL TURN TO CHRIST (PSALM 119:11). IF HE DOES SIN HE MUST IMMEDIATELY:

1. **CONFESS IT**
2. **CLAIM FORGIVENESS**

BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR HIM TO SIN (I COR 15:45)

THIS IS THE IDEAL OF THESE “**TWO ADAMS**” LIVING IN US:

EXAMPLE: IF TEMPTATION COMES KNOCKING ON MY DOOR, IF I SEND THE FIRST ADAM (OLD NATURE) TO ANSWER THE DOOR, I’LL SIN, BUT IF I SEND THE LAST ADAM TO ANSWER THE DOOR, I’LL GET THE VICTORY!

CLOSE: A TRUE BELIEVER DOES NOT PRACTICE SIN: A COUNTERFEIT BELIEVER CANNOT HELP BUT PRACTICING SIN; BECAUSE HE DOES NOT HAVE THE DIVINE NATURE IN HIM.

BUT JOHN DID NOT WRITE THESE WORDS FOR US TO CHECK ON OTHERS PEOPLE- BUT FOR US TO EXAMINE OURSELVES BY ASKING THIS QUESTION:

1. **DO I HAVE THE DIVINE NATURE IN ME, OR AM I PRETENDING TO BE A CHRISTIAN?**
2. **DO I CULTIVATE THIS DIVINE NATURE BY DAILY BIBLE READING?**
3. **HAS ANY UNCONFUSED SIN DEFILED MY INNER MAN? AM I WILLING TO CONFESS/ FORSAKE?**
4. **DO I ALLOW MY OLD NATURE TO CONTROL MY THOUGHTS AND DESIRES?**
5. **WHEN TEMPTATION COMES, DO I PLAY WITH IT OR DO I FLEE FROM IT?**