

Spirit vs. Flesh.....

"The SPIRIT is willing but the FLESH is weak."

Once we are born again we now have TWO natures...the one we were born with; the one we were born again with. The old nature; the new nature. The FLESH; The SPIRIT. BOTH natures are trying to control us...thus the spiritual battle inside.

Hell is like a GIANT magnet that attracts our old nature. Heaven is like a GIANT magnet that attracts our new nature. BOTH are pulling at us like a tug of war. Every day is a new battle: SPIRIT vs. FLESH. We win some; we lose others.

KEY: Whichever nature we feed more on a day in / day out basis is going to be in control for that day.

The Old flesh nature knows how to feed itself: food for the body, sure...but also it feeds on gossip which "consumes" others, slander which "bites and devours", vanity which eats up & loves attention, godless television, secular music, feeds on old behaviors / bad habits, addictions, porn, etc...etc. ie. the things of the world.

The New spirit nature feeds on the Word of God, prayer, worship songs and fellowship of the saints, etc... ie. the things of God.

1 Peter 2:2 (KEY verse): "...as newborn babes, DESIRE the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"

A newborn Christian has a "desire" or appetite for the word of God...even if it is sick and weak (like someone who is ill that is not very hungry), still it will be there, a hunger and thirst for righteousness - to whatever extent.

Now go to Isaiah 40:31: (another KEY verse): "Those who wait on the Lord SHALL renew their STRENGTH...etc." Not: MAY renew, or POSSIBLY renew, or SOMETIMES renew - no, those who wait on the Lord SHALL renew their spiritual strength for that day.

The problem is that we fill ourselves and our time with so much television and internet and books (and just anything other than the Word of God) that there is often no appetite left for the Scriptures...we are full and don't want any.

The Proverbs says: "He who is full loathes the honeycomb..." Other places in the Bible indicate the "honey" is the Word of God. But if we are "full" of other things we will "loathe" the Word rather than "desire" it.

Remember how your mom used to say before dinner time: "Don't spoil your appetite.."

There's a saying: "If you fill yourself with the things of this world you will SPOIL your appetite for the things of God; if you fill yourself with the things of God you will LOSE your appetite for the things of this world."

Finally, Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek Me and find Me when you SEARCH for Me with ALL YOUR HEART." ie...not half your heart, not part of your heart, not some of your heart, not whatever's left of your heart by the time Sunday morning church rolls around again...no, SEARCH for Him with ALL YOUR HEART and you WILL find Him again right there waiting for you all along.

Remember Jesus said: "SEARCH the Scriptures...these are they which testify of Me" And Jacob said: "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." - Genesis 28:16

Put some heart into it, and it will definitely pay off - BIG TIME.

Hope some of this helps...

(excerpt from recent correspondence w/friend)

By: Jeff Campbell.....