

The Inner Man, part 13

- I.** The inner man—a picture of how the Holy Spirit aides the Christian in the realm of thoughts.
 1. Divine enabling and human responsibility (2 Tim. 2:12-13).
 - 1) If we say no to Him, He says no to us.
 - 2) He is always faithful, always available if we meet family conditions.
 2. The ‘hidden man’ of the heart—God values our motives (1 Pet. 3:4 cf. 1 Cor. 4:5).
 3. During trials, the Christian is refreshed in the inner man, unseen (2 Cor. 4:16).
 4. It is in the inner man that the Christian determines to serve God and not serve the sin nature (Rom. 7:25).
- II.** The inner man in Ephesians 3:13-21.
 1. v. 13. Paul is suffering tribulations—trials (cf. 2 Cor. 4:17).
 - 1) It is on their behalf and they should not lose courage.
 - 2) For their glory—his teaching them the Christian life (2 Cor. 4:16; 7:4; 3:18).
 2. v. 14. For this reason, Paul addresses the Father (Rev. 3:21; Heb. 4:16; Eph. 2:18; Rom. 5:2).
 3. v. 15. “All His fatherhood”, in heavens and upon the earth is named—His Throne is over all creations (Eph. 4:6).
 4. v. 16. Paul’s request to the Father that He grant/give them:
 - 1) v. 16. To have the inherent power to show strength;
 - i. As measured by the riches of His glory.
 - ii. Through His Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:7).
 - iii. Into the inner man.
 - 2) v. 17. That Christ may ‘settle in’ their hearts;
 - i. Through faith.
 - ii. Having been rooted and grounded by love (Jn. 13:34; Gal. 6:2; 5:13). This comes first—perfect tense.
 - 3) v. 18. To have the ability to mentally grasp four dimensions.
 - 4) v. 19. To experientially know/practice love of The Christ (1 Cor. 12:12).
 - i. That goes beyond experiential knowledge.
 - ii. So they might be filled with all the fullness of God.