

The Spiritual Christian, part 11

Summary of the sin nature's attacks and our defense

- I.** All humans have a predisposition to behave as though God has no restraints (1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 8:19).
 1. This propensity to sin is called:
 - 1) The sin nature (Rom. 8:19 cf. 1:26-27).
 - 2) The flesh, where it is housed (Rom. 7:18).
 - 3) The sin principle, "law" (Rom. 7:25).
 - 4) Sometimes referred to as the bent nature.
 2. The sin nature can only be defeated by a spiritual Christian.
 3. The sin nature can only be defeated with Spirit enabling (Rom. 8:13).
 4. Once the spiritual Christian has fulfilled his human responsibility to the divine enabling of the Holy Spirit, he then can rest by faith, in the fact that God will fulfill His promises to overcome the spiritual enemies (Heb. 4:10).

- II.** The flesh/sin nature attacks the soul (1 Pet. 2:11).
 1. The soul is not saved, yet (1 Pet. 1:8-9).
 - Note: "soul" is used in different ways—immaterial part of humans, life, individual, living thing, emotions (cf. Jam. 2:21; 5:20 where 'soul' is used in meaning physical life).
 2. The soul's functions for the body:
 - 1) To provide animation—life, survival instinct (Lev. 17:11).
 - 2) To have emotion (Mt. 12:18; 26:35).
 - 3) To interpret the five senses (Lu. 12:19-22).
 3. The soul is different than the human spirit (1 Cor. 2:11).
 4. The flesh "works" are a change in the natural functions of the soul—legitimate motivation becomes a strong desire to do evil—a lust from the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17).
 5. The flesh "works" by generating strong desires—lusts (Gal. 5:16-19).

6. How the flesh works:

KJV	Translation	Meaning
Adultery		Hetero sexual activity outside of marriage (OSM)
Fornication		Any sexual activity OSM
Uncleanness		Retention of lewd thoughts regarding sex OSM
Lasciviousness		Public, verbal or actual sexual activity
Idolatry		Putting anything on an equal to God
Witchcraft		Religious superstitious awe, witchcraft
Hatred(s)	Hostility	Open hostility
Variance	Strife	Contentious disposition in spiritual matters
Emulations	Zeal	Wanting to outdo others spiritually
Wrath(s)	Out Bursts of Anger	Anger with improper object
Strife(s)	Selfish ambition	Self-seeking of acclaim from others
Seditions	Divisions	Cliques within the whole
Heresies		Misapplication of Scripture
Envying(s)		Resent others' having benefits
Murders		Senseless slaughter, unprovoked killing
Drunkenness(es)		Inebriation that changes behavior
Reveling(s)		Riotous debauchery
And such like	Like things	Any misuse of the natural, valid functions of the soul

- III.** The spiritual Christian who orders his lifestyle by the Spirit will no-never fulfill the lusts from the flesh (Gal. 5:17; Rom 6).
1. By discerning the temptation, having faith in God's promise and provisions for overcoming the specific enemy, and knowing the way out (1 Cor. 10:11).
 2. By remaining spiritual and accessing the Holy Spirit's enabling of faith, based upon our future (Rom. 6:8).
 3. By counting himself dead to the sin nature's appeals—lusts.
 4. By counting himself alive unto God the Father—yielding (Rom. 6:11-13).
 5. By the enabling of the Holy Spirit, the Christian puts to death the practices of the body—the lust never gets put into action (Rom. 8:13).
 6. Then he can rest in God's promise of victory over the sin nature's lusts (Heb. 4:10).