

Tuesday Evening 26 January 1993 Londrina, Brazil

Inner Man

In Rom 7 Paul is talking about a made up man. He is illustrating something; he is not exactly talking about his own experience (though it may be about him before he was saved). He is speaking about the conflict in the man. The conflict in a man is like he says in v 18 -- "I know nothing good dwells in me. That is, in my flesh." There is nothing that dwells in his flesh that is good. "I wish to do good but evil is [presently] in me. For the good that I wish to do, ...[continue through v.25]." (Rom 7:18-25)

These are probably the most confusing words in the whole bible. But you can see in v. 24, he asks, "Who will set me free from this body of death?" Rom 6:6,7 goes along with what Paul is trying to say in v. 24. Verse 22 talks about the inner man. Do you have an inner man? It is the man inside, the inner man.

In Eph 3:16 Paul was praying. Paul is saying he wants them to be strengthened with power through the Spirit so that Messiah could dwell in their hearts and so — v.19. It's talking about the inner man. What is in your inner man? Life or death? Does Messiah live in your inner man? It says He lives in your inner man, in your heart, by faith. But going back to Rom 7:24 again, it says, "Wretched man that I am, who will set me free from this body of death?" And in Rom 6:6-7, you can see how we are set free: "Our old man was crucified with Him..." It is talking about when we receive the Holy Spirit in the inner man (v.3-4), being immersed in Messiah, taking on His Spirit by faith in the inner man. It says (v.17) that the Spirit dwells in a person's heart by faith. Through faith, Messiah dwells in a person's heart. We were baptized with Him into his death (v.3) and therefore we were (v.4) buried with Him in order that we might walk in newness of life. So therefore we put away the old man and put on, take on, the new man. And the new man is: the Messiah dwelling in our inner man. The old man is the outward man, the flesh. The inner man is Messiah; the new man is Messiah and you together — a new man. The old man is what continues to want to sin, and we put away that old man in baptism — we crucify it in baptism through our death with our Master. He is the One who rescues us from the old man who constantly wanted to sin. Therefore everyday we put that old man to death, we continue to crucify him. You see in Rom 7:23 that, "I see a different law in my outer man waging war against the law in my inner man, making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my body." I wanted to point that out since its so confusing, so that we can understand what Paul is trying to say here.

Why doesn't a person surrender his old man and be saved? What keeps him from letting Messiah dwell in his inner man by faith? If we are not converted, it is beyond our power to hate our life in this world. You can try to, but you will hang onto it for dear life. You have to crucify it. I am thankful that I've been crucified to the world and the world has been crucified to me.

In Greek it says the 'inside' man. The outside man is dying but the inside man is being renewed every day. The outer man is the reasoning soul, the inner man is the submissive soul. When the soul is submissive to the spirit, that is the inner man.