

# DeWitt Tabernacle Teaching Series

Although there is a drastic difference between trusting God and trusting self, we must have a revelation before we are able to separate the two. Until this powerful revelation is granted us, we have a struggling, failing faith. The reason being that our faith has been sadly misplaced.

Faith is misplaced when it looks to self in any degree. It can never become perfect until it is raised above the level of the works of flesh. SELF in us is a demonstrated failure, and this remains true even after the Holy Ghost has filled the soul. Paul testified to this in Rom. 7:19 "The evil which I would not, that I do."

This is why the scriptures teach throughout the spiritually fatal error of SELF confidence. The common mistake among us, before being taught by the Spirit, is that we follow our fallen nature and put our confidence in the outer flesh man. We trust in what he is able to do in the matter of keeping God's laws. If he is good we can believe, but when he fails we have a lapse of faith. This should not be so. The only foundation for perfect faith is the perfect life that our Lord Jesus lived, then gave as a sacrifice for us.

When we understand that the nature in our flesh, or SELF, is the same as the nature in Satan, then we will be willing to forsake our SELF-confidence and move our whole faith from SELF to God.

When Adam chose to disobey God, his nature underwent a terrible change. His spirit became like that in Satan, a SELF-exalted spirit. Let me say it like this so we cannot miss the point. The spirit in the fallen man, in our outer man, the flesh man, is IDENTICAL with that of Satan. Our conversation gives us away. See if you are guilty of making any of the following statements.

"I can't see how anyone could do a thing like that." "You should see how I do it." "I don't care what anyone else says, this is the way I do it." "Let me tell you what I would do." "I could tell you how to solve your problems if you would just listen to me."

You could add many more such statements and each one would be a thing of SELF-assertion. If the spirit in our flesh man is one of

## Trusting God or Trusting Self Do We Need Self Confidence, or God Confidence? What Saith the Scriptures?

By C.W. Wood

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SELF-assertion, SELF-exaltation, SELF-satisfaction, and SELF-glorification, and the spirit in Satan is one of SELF-assertion, SELF-exaltation, SELF-satisfaction, and SELF-glorification, then the two are IDENTICAL.

The Bible is very clear on this subject. The body of flesh that we live in is God's enemy. Gal. 5:17 "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit (of God) and the Spirit (of God) against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that you cannot do the things that ye would."

Even after the New Birth, we retain this SELF-spirit in our flesh. Rom. 7:23 Paul said that, "in his fleshly members he found there to be a law of sin" Self is God's enemy and will ever remain so. Our flesh is not improving.

After having served God for a number of years, Paul cried out, "For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." (Rom. 7:18) Notice how in this verse he ties SELF and FLESH together. They are identical; it is the result of the fall.

We are asking the Lord to help us separate faith in GOD from faith in SELF. Many of us have been tricked by the enemy into confusing the two, while in reality they are a million miles apart.

How often do we hear Christians say, "I just don't have any faith." The real truth is that every Holy Ghost filled Christian DOES have faith in GOD. We do know that He is

honest, full of compassion, has all knowledge and wisdom, and all power. We do know that He is faithful and no liar. We know these things about Him by revelation from His Word. Knowing these things, how do we then say, "I don't have any faith in God?" If we will stop for a moment and reason together with the Lord, we will conclude that it is not Him we do not trust, but ourSELVES.

The Holy Ghost makes us very aware of the sins of the flesh, this is His office work, but our error is that we somehow connect faith in God with Faith in SELF, while in the scriptures they are not connected at all.

Phil. 3:3 "For we are the circumcision which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Jesus Christ AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH." Faith in God and Faith in self are two totally different things. Faith directed toward God cannot fail because, "There is no failure in God." Faith in SELF is doomed from the start because we are "captive to the law of sin which is in our fleshly members." (Rom. 7:23)

In former days, many of us were taught that growth in Grace had to do with the improving of SELF, but we must see that the outward man ever remains the same. Until we are convinced of this, we will not transfer our faith from SELF to GOD.

Let the scripture settle the question in our minds once and for all.

John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth, THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING."

Rom. 7:25 Paul said, "With the FLESH I serve the law of sin."

Rom. 7:21 "I find then a law, that when I would do good evil is present with me." (In my flesh)

Rom. 3:20 "There shall no Flesh be justified in His sight." (Ever)

Gal. 5:17 "For the FLESH lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the FLESH, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Rom. 8:13 "For if ye live after the FLESH (having faith in it) ye shall die."

Rom. 8:8 "They that are in the FLESH (trusting in it) cannot please God."

Jerm. 17:5 "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh FLESH his arm (to trust in FLESH), and whose heart departeth from the Lord."

Rom. 8:3 "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the FLESH—." (Flesh cannot keep the law, only the INNER MAN who has become a NEW CREATION can keep the law.)

I Cor. 1:29 "No FLESH shall glory in His presence." All flesh shall eventually be destroyed. Why then did our loving Father subject us to this flesh body full of vanity? Why did He make His children to be "partakers of FLESH and BLOOD?" (Heb. 2:14) Was it not to prove to Lucifer, and all creation, that Lucifer could not foil the plan of the Almighty? Could not our God have prevented the sin in Eden? Did the enemy slip behind His back? Was Adam's satanic nature an oversight on God's part? We know better, it was all in our Father's plan. God allowed the spirit of Satan to be injected into the FLESH of the human race. This was so that God could show the world what His character was. He wanted to manifest His great desire to be Father, Healer, and Savior. He wanted to prove that He could save His people, and that while we still lived in a sinful FLESH body.

Little Bride, it was God's plan for our FLESH to be afflicted as it is, but it was also His plan to put His Holy Ghost seed in our inner most being. God allowed Satan to take his seat in our FLESH, but God would also take His seat in our soul.

There would then be two natures in His children, one evil in their FLESH, and one the very nature of God Himself, in the innermost

being. This would cause a great conflict, and it would be the cause of much grief in the called Bride. They would hate sin but at the same time not be able to live completely above it. They would grieve and mourn over their condition in the FLESH. It would cause them to cry even as Paul. "Oh wretched man that I am." (Rom. 7:24) But our Lord never intended to leave us in this strait, no more so than He left Paul in it. He revealed to His servant Paul the vast difference between the inner man and the outer man, we must see it also.

In Rom. 7 Paul made two statements concerning this difference. Verses 16-17 "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Please notice that he said the same thing in verse 20. The Holy Spirit is repeating Himself to be sure we receive the revelation of the difference between the inner man and the outer man.

In this hour, just before the Rapture, the Spirit is again separating the difference between SELF and the inner man. According to Heb. 4:12, the Word of God is "Quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit." He is also separating for us the difference between the FLESH man and the inner man; this is in order that our faith can be transferred from the one to the other.

We are now seeing that it is even as Paul said, it is not the real "I" on the inside that is failing. This inner man loves the Lord and His law. (Rom. 7:25) It is the outward man, the FLESH man that "serves the law of sin."

There is a very drastic difference between these two. The inner man is a creation of God, the outer man is still suffering from the effects of the fall, he is poisoned by the spirit of Satan. Therefore, to trust the outer man is to rest our Faith on a sand pile that is ever crumbling.

Our Prophet taught us how to look away from the FLESH man and pay attention to our inner man, the New Creation that loves the law of God.

QUOTE: THE MASTER PIECE, PAGE 13 "On the interview a few minutes ago, I was speaking to a person—she said, "But Brother Branham I have so many things that I know is wrong (in my Life). And she was a Godly little woman. I said, "But look sister,

you don't look at yourSELF. It's just what your DESIRE is, and what you try to do. And if you really love the Lord, you will TRY to serve Him with all your heart. Then all your mistakes are hid in the blood of the Lord Jesus. See? He made a way!" (End quote)

QUOTE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, REEL 4 (1964) "As long as you are in this life (this flesh) you are going to be sticky and have a carnal nature that's going to bother you as long as you live. BUT ON THE INSIDE YOU ARE BORN AGAIN." (End quote)

QUOTE: ENDTIME MESSENGER, PAGE 34 "While we are in this world we know we are subject to these mistakes (in the outer man) because you are always going to have them." (End quote)

In the C.O.D. Book, pages 1148 and 1149, Brother Branham gives a simple but beautiful illustration of the teaching of Paul in Romans chapter seven.

QUOTE: "Now for instance here, Jesus made a statement, a promise. And the inside man says that promise is true, but the outside man reasons that it can't be true, for you. Then ignore the outside man and accept the inside man. Now that's the same thing Paul is speaking of, Romans 7:14-18. He was sold under the law to carnal sin. (In his FLESH man) EVERY ONE OF US IS THE SAME.

That's the reason we have the troubles we do, married four or five times and this and that. And all kinds of sins, adulteries and everything else in our lives—We are carnal and that part must perish. But then inside we are a spirit man, a soul inside, and in there is faith in God's Word. Then we bring our outside body under subjection to the Word, by faith, by accepting what God said. (Do not be misled here. He is not teaching that the FLESH can be perfected. He explains it as we continue the statement )

How can I take a cocklebur and make a grain of wheat out of it? It is impossible for me to do it. The only way it can be is because the inside of that cocklebur has been transmitted (transformed) from a cocklebur to a germ called wheat life. Then you can bury that cocklebur and it will produce a grain of wheat—Because there has been a life of wheat put in the cocklebur, and the life of the cocklebur has been taken out.

(Meaning the old desire for sin that was in the inner man died.) But the nature of the cocklebur, it's still sticky—, and (being) a cocklebur it's still sticky, but it's got the nature on the inside of it of wheat.

And as long as you are in this life you are going to be sickly and have a carnal nature. That's going to bother you as long as you live. **BUT ON THE INSIDE OF YOU YOU ARE BORNED AGAIN!** (End quote)

We are born from our mother's womb a cocklebur. There was only one nature active in us from this birth. God had placed his seed in the Elect at this first birth, but until the Holy Ghost quickened us it remained inactive.

At the quickening of God's seed in us, we became a New Creation on the inside. God had created Himself on the inside of a cocklebur. But the outside shell, the FLESH man, would ever remain a cocklebur. It will take the rapture and a body change to alter this fact.

Now we can understand why we can never place any confidence in SELF, the FLESH man, the cocklebur. We are to RECKON the cocklebur to be dead. It is not dead, it is still sticky, but by faith we SUPPOSE him to be "Dead unto sin." (Rom. 6:11) The cocklebur is not the real "us". The real "us" is a CREATION that took place inside the cocklebur. Therefore, Paul could say, "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it but sin that dwelleth in me." (Rom. 7:20) That is, it's the sin nature that still lives in the cocklebur (flesh man). But, since God looks on the inside, at the heart, He gives us credit for what we DESIRE to do.

The outer man is fleshly, carnal, and devilish. The inner man is pure, holy and Godly, and never will the two mix. To think that the outer man can please God is utter folly. We must forsake all confidence in SELF and it's works, both good and bad. We must not be condemned by failures, nor puffed up by victories. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." (Phil. 3:13)

We stated earlier that growth in Grace does not include the changing of the flesh. But thanks be to God there is growth in the inner man, it is growth of our FAITH. Brother Branham called this the perfecting of our CHARACTER. As this CHARACTER, or the inner man, grows, he is more and more able to OVERCOME the FLESH

man. The FLESH is not improved, it is only held UNDER. 1 Cor. 9:27, "But I keep UNDER my body (of flesh) and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." The conflict caused by two different natures living in one body is confusing to the mind of the Christian, as he seeks for signs of his spiritual growth. His failures in the outer man are sure to lead him to a false conclusion concerning his growth, until he understands the teaching of scripture on the subject.

We have said that the inner man can OVERCOME the outer man, but we must realize that this is not a condition wherein the flesh becomes incapable of sin. He is OVERCOME in that he is not allowed to MANIFEST as much sin as in the past, but the sinful nature remains, ready to hold sway again when not kept UNDER.

1 John 1:8 "If we say we have (present tense) NO SIN we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Even though the flesh can be OVERCOME to a large degree by mature Christians, we must never forget that Paul said, "I do not frustrate the grace of God, for if righteousness come by (keeping) the law then Christ is dead in vain." (Gal. 2:21)

If we could reach a place of perfection in our FLESH, then Jesus could have bypassed the Cross. We could become righteous in our own SELF. A born-again Christian greatly desires to live perfect for his Lord, but as Paul, he finds, "a law in his members" that pulls him down at times, when least expected, and certainly not desired.

For this reason then our victory over the flesh must of necessity remain a thing of FAITH, in the cross of Christ Jesus. Though the flesh can be kept UNDER, in that it cannot manifest itself as it did at one time, we cannot forget James 2:10, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, HE IS GUILTY OF ALL."

To break God's law in one point, anywhere along the road of life, puts us in line for hell fire, that is without faith in the Cross. Only one man ever lived a sinless life in the flesh, Jesus Christ.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We have stated that the honest Christian can be confused in his mind about his spiritual

growth. He may read Matt. 5:48 and be utterly cast down by his continued failures in the outer man. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore PERFECT, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." We must understand that He did not make reference to the FLESH man. He knew our flesh could not be perfected in this life, and that He was to give His FLESH to pay for the ENMITY in ours.

Eph. 2:15, "Having abolished in His FLESH the ENMITY, even the law of Commandments contained in ordinances—so making peace." His SINLESS FLESH in payment for our SINFUL FLESH gives us the legal right to look away from SELF, "Unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12:2) We must claim faith in God in spite of the failures of self!

The Christian remains then, throughout his life, guilty in his FLESH but innocent in his inner man, after his New Birth and the Creation of Godly desires in his heart. God looks on our heart and declares us incapable of sin (1 John 3:9)

We should form a right concept of what spiritual growth is NOT and of what it actually IS. Mistaken ideas are wide spread and some of God's own Elect have been brought into bondage thereby. There are those who have made only a little advancement in the school of Christ, but who fondly suppose that they have made much gain. Nor is it any simple task to show them their error.

On the other hand some who have grown considerable know it not, and may even conclude they have gone backward. Neither is it any easy task to convince these that they are advanced farther than they suppose.

In either case the mistake is due to measuring themselves by the wrong standard, or in other words, through ignorance of what spiritual growth consists. Spiritual growth consists of an increase in spiritual knowledge.

We must grow in the knowledge of God and His perfect Character, that is to say, we must KNOW Him better. At the same time we must grow in knowledge concerning SELF and it's total depravity. Knowledge gained in these two directions will put us on our faces before Him, trusting Him more and more and SELF less and less.

If what we term as our Christian growth has made us think more highly of ourselves, and better pleased with our attainments and performances, then that is positive proof that we are under a delusion as to spiritual growth.

True spiritual growth always exalts God and humbles the man. The more we experimentally know Him, the less we shall think of ourselves, and the lower seat we will take before Him. The knowledge that "puffeth up" is only head knowledge, but that knowledge which is revealed to the heart causes us to own, "I know nothing yet as I ought." (1 Cor. 8:2) The more the soul communes with God, and the more it learns of His Sovereignty, Majesty, and Faithfulness, the more will it testify with Abraham, "I am dust and ashes." (Gen. 18:27)

The more the believer grows in the Spirit, the more he will acknowledge with Job, "I abhor myself." (Job 42:5) The more he sees the perfection of the Holy God, and how little his outer man is conformed to the ways of Christ, the more will he groan with Paul, "Oh wretched man that I am." (Rom. 7:24)

When we have grown considerably we will see ourSELVES as we really are. We will discover the horrible corruption in our FLESH man and mourn over it's plagues. We will marvel at the continued long-suffering of God toward us.

When a minister asked a simple farm woman what her concept of growth in Grace was, she replied, "A Christian's growth in Grace is like the growth of a cow's tail." Puzzled at her reply he asked her to explain. She replied, "The

more a cow's tail grows the closer it comes to the ground, and the more a Christian grows in Grace the more does he take his place in the dust before God."

Overcoming then is not reaching a place of no more failures in our FLESH, but it is standing up after each failure, with the revealed knowledge firmly in mind, that the real I did not sin in the first place.

I wonder if we have really understood the teaching of the Prophet in the message INVISIBLE UNION OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. In this sermon he taught that though we sin in our flesh we are not guilty in God's eyes because we were, "made subject to vanity but not willingly." (Rom. 8:20) We were trapped in a sinful flesh body by the plan of God, for reasons of His own. The Prophet actually taught that our sins are not our fault.

QUOTE: INVISIBLE UNION OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, PAGES 32-33  
"For instance you hear that I got drunk and did some evil things, then you come around saying to me—you found out I didn't do them, then you come around and say, "Brother Branham, I forgive you." Forgive me! I didn't do it in the first place.

Now if I did it I am guilty, you could forgive me and I wouldn't be guilty, but yet I am not justified, because I actually did it. But the word JUSTIFIED means, "As though you never did it. It's not even regarded at all— You were accused but you never did it in the first place.

How did you come to do this? (These sins) You were deceived into it by your first marriage to your adulteress parent, Eve. It is no fault of your own. By your natural birth you come after Eve. (Received her fallen nature and could not help the sin you were borned into)

That is the reason you were born an adulteress. You were a sinner to begin with. That is right you were deceived into it— No, it isn't your fault. You never did it, because that little germ that was in you, was to be you before the foundation of the world." (End quote)

Did we catch the spiritual meaning here? The germ that is the real us, that was placed in us at our physical birth, was a seed from God's own Body. And it was there (we were there in Him) before the foundation of the world."

How then, could the real I be guilty of sin when it is the nature of God Himself living in our inner man, and who hates all sin.

It is our fervent prayer that both reader and writer will be more able to see the difference between trusting SELF and trusting God, and set SELF aside as the scripture commands us to do. (Rom. 6:6-11)

QUOTE: PERSEVERANT, PAGES 28-29  
"A gift is getting YOURSELF out of the way so God can come in and see what He shows, and what He does—A gift is to get YOURSELF out of the way, (Reckon self dead). Your power for a gift (To operate a gift) is to get YOURSELF out of the way, and the gift that God has given you operates through that then, after YOU are out of the way." (End quote)

(See the next sermon for more about the inner and outer man.)

WHEN IN DeWITT, ARKANSAS AREA  
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### DeWITT TABERNACLE

Located on Hwy. # 1—One fourth mile east of DeWitt

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 A.M.  
Wednesday Evening \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 P.M.

### ATTENTION

The DeWitt Tabernacle Teaching Series is sent out as the Lord leads and is free of charge. You may be added to our list of readers and receive these messages.

Send your request to:  
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