

What Nature Did You Receive When You Were Born Again? - Alan Telford – 1st May 2022

*I gave you my nature and adopted you into My Family so we could fellowship together – Spirit to spirit.
I created you for a purpose: to be my son, my daughter, so I could be a Father to you.*

My previous message focused on God's desire to become our Father and to have real family fellowship, spirit to spirit. He didn't want a lesser fellowship such as He got from angels, or the restricted fellowship He received from Old Testament saints who still had a sin nature (which can be compared to *kissing through a covid mask, or hugging in a sumo suit*).

To have family fellowship we must first be family, which leads today's message – *How God miraculously made a way through the new birth for us to become His family*. But why is God giving us His nature? What's wrong with the one we've already got? And how does our spirit even fellowship with Him?

In Luke 15:11-32, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus talks about a son abandoning his father, living recklessly, eventually hitting rock bottom before finally coming to his senses and admitting his sin. The son realises he is no longer worthy of being in the family and sets his sights on the next best thing.

*Luke 15:¹⁸ 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,¹⁹ "and I am **no longer worthy** to be called your son. **Make me like one of your hired servants.**"'*

The father didn't want him back as a hired servant, but reborn as his son and able to fellowship with him again. And then Jesus stated a surprising and often missed fact about the son which explains why we need a new nature.

*Luke 15:²² "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast,²⁴ **for this son of mine was dead** and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.'*

The younger son was **not just lost but dead**. Not physically dead, but spiritually dead in his sins. The same is true of us. It is impossible to come back to God by our own efforts. We cannot even see the Kingdom of God and enjoy fellowship with Him until our spirits are first resurrected to new life by being born again (John 3:3).

God created humans with three components: spirit, soul and body/flesh (1 Thess.5:23). These can be grouped into an inward man and outward man (2 Cor.4:16). The **outward** man refers to the *physical body*, (or flesh) with its mind, will, and emotions. The outward man is perishing – a perpetual state of constant decay until physical death. The **inward** man or spirit refers to our *spiritual body* including its mind, will and emotions. Our spirit is being renewed daily (if you are born again). The *outward* man is temporary, but the *inward* man is *eternal* (2Cor.4:18) and **will exist forever** either in heaven or hell, depending on our choices. (Matt 25:46; Rev.20:5-6,21:7-8)

Dead is not a state of non-existence but rather a description of the nature of our inward man – one of *death, darkness, and sin* which was inherited from Adam & Eve, the first humans to abandon God becoming prodigals. Our world does not realise it is already *dead* and in need of life (1John 5:11-12), *sick* and in need of a doctor (Matt. 9:10-14), *blind* and in need of sight (John 9:39-41), *condemned* and in need of forgiveness (John 3:17-18). We are deceived into thinking that our sinful state is normal and not an aberration. We don't understand that it is impossible for those with a sin nature to please God (Rom. 8:8-9). There is only one solution; we must be born again.

So where does *life* come from, and how can we be made alive again? What God needed was a perfect sinless human being with a holy righteous nature who always surrendered to God's will and didn't yield to temptation. Then God could *clone (to borrow a human term)* this nature and use it to adopt us back into His family. He needed the spiritual DNA from a *holy human* that He could use to make *new creations in Christ* (2 Cor.5:17) – *new men (and women) created according to God in righteousness and true holiness* (Eph.4:24).

Jesus understood this need as can be shown in Hebrews 10. Instead of cleansing our guilty conscience and making us perfect, the yearly sacrifices reminded us of our sins (vv1-4). The solution was Jesus Christ, the *seed of woman* (Gen.3:15) through a miraculous virgin birth (vv5-10).

Hebrews 10:⁵ *That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God,*

*"You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But **you have given me a body** to offer.*

⁶ *You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin.*

⁷ *Then I said, 'Look, **I have come to do your will**, O God—as is written about me in the Scriptures.'*"

¹⁰ *For **God's will was for us to be made holy** by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.*

Jesus kept His Father's will; lived a perfect, holy and righteous life. And finally He offered His body back to the Father (Luke 23:46) to be used as *good seed* to make new righteous humans (1Pe.1:23; John 12:24)

Jesus offered both His *body* and His *blood*. His *blood* paid the price for our sin, while His *body* gave us a righteous nature and the ability to say no to sin and yes to God. His *blood* paid for our past sins whereas His *body* made us holy, giving us the ability to stop committing future sins. Jesus succeeded where Adam failed. His nature was sinless; it stood the test of time; and this is the *nature* that is passed on as an inheritance to all who believe on Him (Heb. 9:24-26; John 1:12; Rom.10:9-10)

This is the great mystery of the gospel; *Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col.1:27)*, and the great paradox of Galatians 2:20. The first part tells us we died and no longer live, but then the second part tells us we are still living. How can we be both dead and alive at the same time?

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

I have been crucified, and I no longer have a sin nature. This was replaced at my new birth with a new nature, the nature of Christ living in me. Now that I am born again, the life that I live is not like my former life. I live by faith in Jesus Christ, and His incorruptible seed inside of me.

The old sinful me died and I was born again by the incorruptible seed of Jesus Christ.

The new me, still in a physical body, lives by the power of that incorruptible nature.

Jesus is the incorruptible seed. I am the tree that is growing from that seed.

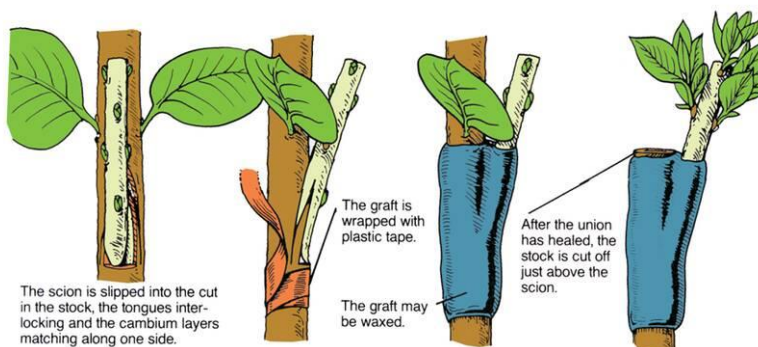
Christ in me is the hope of glory.

The incorruptible image of holiness and righteousness is growing within me as my new life.

When Jesus returns, I will receive a sinless incorruptible immortal flesh body to go with the incorruptible immortal born-again spirit I already have. But while waiting for His return I can still live a life of fellowship with my Father because my nature is now compatible with His. I have been born again. My inward man can freely go directly into the Most Holy Place, climb onto His lap, and give Him a big hug. (Heb. 10:19-22). We are family once more. I no longer need to feel like the unworthy younger son who had failed and could hope for nothing better than being a paid employee of God. My Father has replaced my faulty spiritual DNA with that of Jesus Christ, and my inward nature is now holy, righteous, pure and loving just like Jesus is (1John 4:17).

It is still my responsibility to grow up in my salvation, and live by the desires of my inward man, rather than those of my outward man. But the sin nature which separated me from the presence of God has been removed. I have been born again. He is my Father, and I am His son, His daughter. And He wants us to fellowship together.

John 15:1-8 Jesus is the vine – we are the branches



Our inward man receives life from Christ, new DNA which is implanted into our spirit.

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted (engrafted) word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)