



## Death of a Seed!

*Are you living or dead?*

Notice the confidence that Abraham, our father in the faith, placed in his own flesh.

He understood that his flesh was dead, “And being ***not weak in faith*** (*This means that Abraham was strong in faith, as we observe in verse 20 “but was strong in faith”*), he considered not (*This means that Abraham did not trust in his flesh*) ***his own body now dead*** (*Our father in the faith achieved his greatest act through faith when he understood that his own body was dead*), when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb” (Rom 4:16-19). How do you view your flesh? Are you living or dead?

Our modern American society has a morbid appetite for things that are dead yet living. Two of the really famous movies of recent time are entitled, “Night of the Living Dead” and “Dead Men Walking.” In actual fact, the Bible teaches that Christians are supposed to be the living dead. Let’s carefully investigate what is behind this Biblical concept.

Who really is living in your flesh, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but ***Christ liveth in me***” (Gal 2:20)! It is Jesus Christ who is supposed to live in you and in me! If we are true Christians our old man is dead, “And if Christ be in you, ***the body is dead*** because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness” (Rom 8:10). Can the dead really live?

According to Isaiah, “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise” (Isa 26:19). Clearly, we must die to our flesh! But, how?

Out of our own strength (*that is to say, our flesh*), neither you nor I can do anything for the Kingdom of God! If anything in the supernatural realm is ever to be accomplished in us, it will not be through our own power; rather, His power in us! This is exactly what Peter meant when he healed the man at the temple gate, “when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, ***why marvel ye at this?*** or why look ye so earnestly on us, ***as though by our own power*** or holiness we had made this man to walk?” (Acts 3:12). Peter clearly disclaimed his own power!

But why has God used human vessels to perform the miraculous? He has used people such as the Apostles and more recently individuals such as: Smith Wigglesworth, Katherine Khulman, Oral Roberts and Benny Hinn. What is it about these people that distinguished them or set them apart so that God could manifest Himself so powerfully in them? First of all, God trusted these people with His power. He trusted that they would properly use that anointing. If God can trust you, He will do more through you, too! God is not looking for what you can do for Him; He is looking for your yieldedness so He can work through you! Our only part in the effort is to surrender our vessel to the Lord!

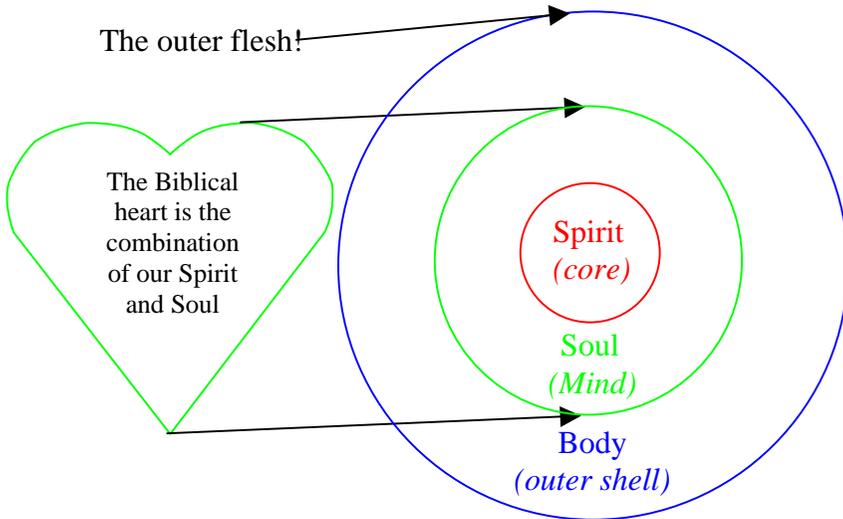


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But how do we surrender our vessel to the Lord? First, we must realize that our “spirit man” is where the anointing of Jesus Christ resides in us. However, before God can use our spirit, our body must be dead! The second powerful concept to understand is that the anointing is not going to be released from heaven and somehow come down into us; God’s power is already in us and merely needs to come out. The point is that in order for our inner spirit to manifest the supernatural, our body (*the flesh*) must die, “Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, ***Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit***” (John 12:23-24). There must be a death of our flesh before there can be fruitful manifestations from the spirit, “He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour” (John 12:25-26).

Before the life of the inner spirit (*the new-born core of our being*) can be manifest or released, the outer shell must be broken, “***Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit***” (John 12: 24)! The outer shell must be cracked. It is the shell that must die. We are “wholly” made-up of three distinct parts, “the very God of peace sanctify you ***wholly***; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved” (1 Thess 5:23). We are made-up as follows:



Our spirit is the core of our being. It is the spirit that was born-again. Yet it cannot manifest itself in our flesh unless our soul (*mind*) agrees with our spirit. When they are in agreement there is a 2/3 majority within our being! After the Holy Spirit converts our soul (*mind*), our mind is in agreement with the spirit. This gives our inner being the power to break through the outer flesh!

Our soul (mind) will either come in agreement with our flesh or our spirit, “they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Rom 8:5). Our soul (mind) is where the battle takes place, “For the flesh lusteth ***against*** the Spirit, and the Spirit ***against*** the flesh: and these are ***contrary*** the one to the other” (Gal 5:17). Most people cannot believe anything that they cannot see, hear touch, taste, or smell (*the five senses of the flesh*). Yet, the Word of God teaches us that we have power in our beings! Jesus said, “Behold, I give unto you ***power*** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and ***over all the power of the enemy***” (Luke 10:19).

Romans 8:5, reveals a powerful truth, “they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.” Since human flesh is



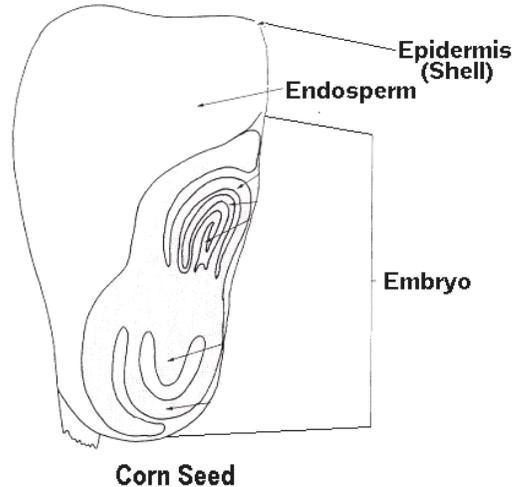
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always dominant in the natural, it is impossible for the unbeliever to “mind” the things of the Spirit. The reason is that without the Holy Spirit it is impossible to cause the

mind to be in agreement with the Spirit.

Notice in the cross-section picture of a corn seed (*at right*) that there are three main components. In actual fact the embryo portion of the seed is much more complex than what is shown; nevertheless, all of those complex parts are considered to be part of the embryo. The net result is that the seed has three major component sections: Epidermis (shell); Endosperm; and Embryo. In order for germination to be accomplished the seed needs to be buried in the earth and watered or submerged in water. In effect this caused the outer shell to die. It no longer is needed for the well-being and growth of the seed. It is the inner portions of the seed that produce or cause the new plant to be manifest.



In like fashion, once the Holy Spirit, which is symbolized by water, germinates the born-again Christian with life everlasting, “whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but ***“the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”*** (John 4:14). It is the water of “***everlasting life,***” which causes spirit germination in the human spirit and soul; the result is a new-born Son of God which will begin to manifest once the outer shell (flesh) has died.

In order to produce spiritual manifestations, most Christians believe that they have a need to receive more of a spiritual essence from God. Yet, the truth is that our spiritual life is not a continual process of getting more from God; rather, **we merely need to get to the point where we release through faith those things that we already have within our being!** When we begin to understand that we already have all that we need (*that regeneration has already been accomplished*) then we merely need to learn how to release that power which we have within!

With the germination of the Holy Spirit, through faith our new “born-again” spirit creates a new life within, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb 11:1). We cannot see our inner born-again spirit; it is among those (“*things not seen*”)! However, you can discern your born-again spirit through the Word of God! We merely need to dominate our minds through faith to believe in the wholeness of our spirit! One third of our salvation is already a completed act! Our born-again spirit within us is already complete and whole before God! Otherwise, how can there be scriptures such as, “ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ***ye know all things***” (1 John 2:20). It is our choice to believe either the reflection in the mirror on the wall or revelation mirrored from God’s word, “if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man ***beholding his natural face in a glass***” (James 1:23). The flesh (*natural man/five senses*) believes the mirror on the wall; that is why we need to transform our minds after conversion, “And be not conformed to this world: but ***be ye transformed by the renewing***



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*of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Rom 12:2). The natural man believes the mirror on the wall and walks in

the vanity of his flesh, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles (*unconverted people*) walk, ***in the vanity of their mind***” Eph 4:17. Once our mind has been transformed our heart of spirit and soul (*Germinated with God’s word*) is now ready to break the outer shell of the flesh!

Now, back to dying in the flesh! After we fully become conscious of the fact that our physical flesh encapsulates and obscures our spirit man within, we begin to realize that the flesh must die, in order for the spirit to manifest itself, “that which thou sowest is not quickened, ***except it die***” (1 Cor 15:36). The outer shell must break! It is only when the outer shell dies that the inner seed’s life is manifest!

In previous Bible Studies we have studied the special essence contained within the Biblical concept of three’s. We have already observed in this study that humans are essentially composed of a three-fold or trinity of elements: spirit (*core*), soul (*mind*) and body. Whenever we observe the three-fold pattern in any element of God’s creation we should perk up our ears and take note. The three-fold expression of any part of creation is generally considered as divinely complete. Notice, Three stands for that which is solid, real, substantial, complete and entire:

- Omniscience, Omnipresence, & Omnipotence
- Past, Present, & Future
- Thought, Word, & Deed
- Animal, Vegetable, & Mineral

The number three points us to what is real, essential, substantial, complete, and divine. On the third day of creation, the land rose up out of the water as Christ rose from the grave. Three is therefore a number for resurrection. The Bible stresses the importance of threes:

- Jesus was crucified at the third hour;
- There were three crosses on Calvary
- For three hours after the crucifixion, darkness covered the land;
- The 9<sup>th</sup> hour, 3<sup>3</sup> the second person of the trinity cried twice, “My God, My God;”
- Three witnesses on the earth, “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the ***spirit***, and the ***water***, and the ***blood***: and these three agree in one” (1 John 5:8);
- Three times during the temptation Jesus said, “it is written;”
- Jesus raised three persons from the dead;
- Jesus holds three offices: Prophet, Priest, and King;
- Three people saw Him transfigured.

--- If you would like to know more about this concept of three, please get the Bible Study entitled, “Trinity Structure.” You may obtain a copy from the World Wide Web at: <http://www.rivkah.org>.

We have already observed that on the third day of creation, the land rose up out of the water as Christ also rose up from the grave. The land that rose up out of the waters was the third major realm that God created by the third day of creation. The three realms were: (1) Waters, (2) Heaven (*both the atmosphere and the celestial orb*), and (3) Land. During the next three days of creation, the fourth, fifth and sixth days, God filled each of these three

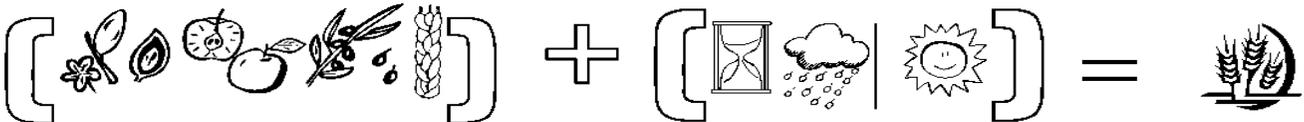


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realms with their essential elements: (4) **Heaven** – Sun, moon, and stars; (5) **Waters and atmosphere** – fish, water creatures, and birds; and (6) **Land** – beasts of the earth, cattle, creeping things, and man, the ruler of all these created things! We have probably observed these six days of creation, many times; however, there is something powerful that we must investigate more closely which took place on that special *third day*.

Let's read the entire account of the third day, "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: **and God saw that it was good.** 11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: **and God saw that it was good.** 13 And the evening and the morning were the *third day*" (Gen 1:9-13). In essence, there was a double blessing, "**and God saw that it was good,**" which was mentioned twice on the third day. What did that third day have that was so special that it received a double blessing? Let me give you a hint. Solve the following bible verse riddle, you will begin to recognize why the second blessing was given to the *third day*. No fair looking ahead! Can you interpret the riddle contained in the symbols below? Do you know which verse in the Bible best describes that riddle?



Except for Adam and Eve, everything that has ever come from a living structure began with a seed! The daily items that we encounter, those things that we so commonly take for granted such as: clothes, food, housing materials, even the basic ingredients of things made of inanimate materials such as plastic originally all came from the living kingdoms and therefore originated with a seed. The "after his kind" miracle of reproducing of the seed was the first marvel that God placed on the earth after the dry land became visible, "God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding *seed*, and the fruit tree yielding fruit **after his kind**, whose *seed* is in itself, upon the earth" (Gen 1:11)! Our previous riddle picture is an illustration of the Biblical passage, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen 8:22). The third day of creation received a double blessing from the Creator because in it God fashioned the miracle of **reproducing seed!** It should be rather effortless for us to realize that the third day of creation was the first thing to receive a double blessing because it pointed not only to the physical creation, but also to the spiritual aspect of the resurrected Jesus Christ who would be the prophetic seed! The third day would be known not only for resurrection but also for reproduction or seed.

So just how important is seed? Through his words the serpent had planted his seeds of doubt and disobedience into the mind of Eve and she and her husband sinned. They were tempted by satan's seed sown in their hearts and they allowed the seed to conceive and bring forth sin, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But **every man is tempted**, when he



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is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath **conceived** (*Conception can only take place when a seed is planted.*), it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (*The fruit of unrestrained temptation is sin and the fruit of sin is death!*) (James 1:13-15). So we see that the devil planted thoughts (*seeds of doubt and disobedience*) in the mind of Eve. Satan was very quick to observe that the miraculous seed that God had created just a few days earlier in the physical realm was a picture of the reality Satan understood from the spiritual realm. Satan had already planted spiritual seeds of doubt and disobedience in the angels who fell. Every word planted in a human is a seed which originated from the spirit realm! Jesus Himself while explaining the parable of the sower taught that the Word of God is seed, “The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11). Peter adds extra meaning to Jesus’ words, “Being born again, not of corruptible **seed**, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**” (1 Peter 1:23).

Okay, so the miraculous properties of seed are physical as well as spiritual. What does that have to do with satan planting seeds of doubt and disobedience in Eve? Notice the first time that the LORD confronted satan after the original sin of humanity. Carefully observe what will ultimately destroy satan’s authority, “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, (*This is the first recorded Biblical conversation between God and satan!*) Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy **seed** and her **seed**; it shall bruise thy head (*The “head” is symbolilc of the authority stolen from Adam*), and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen 3:14-15). Are you beginning to get a revelation of just how awesome seed is? God cursed the physical serpent and told him that the **seed** of the woman would destroy his authority over humanity! Humanity’s revenge against satan is expressed in a seed!

Everyone who understands modern biology knows that the female does not produce seed! So to what was God making a reference? How could a woman produce the seed? Satan was presented with a riddle; the riddle was a mystery from God, one in which the devil had to come to understand. One thing is for sure; it did not take satan long to realize that the prophetic “seed” would somehow be a generational offspring from Adam and Eve! He realized that one of the physical children of Adam and Eve would become the prophesied “seed” who was prophesied to destroy his authority. Immediately, he set out to destroy the righteous offspring of Adam and Eve. Notice how satan immediately stirred up his malevolent spirit in Cain so that he would kill (*Righteous*) Abel. At the proper time, “the Word (*seed*) was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)! Satan could not figure out the riddle. He was handicapped because he was unable to understand spiritual things, “we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which **none of the princes of this world knew**: for **had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**” (1 Cor 2:7-8).

The Scripture reveals a mysterious seed which has been destined to destroy satan’s authority! Obviously, Jesus Christ was that seed. However, we should not stop there; we must realize that like Jesus Christ we too are seed which must die, “he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the **firstborn** (*implies others coming along later*) from the dead (*These others too, will be born from the dead.*)” (Col 1:18). Paul told us, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1).



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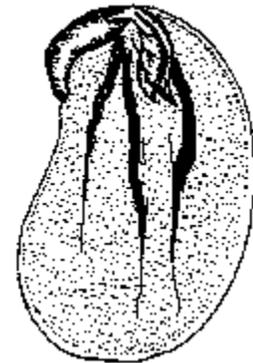
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In the spiritual realm, once the anointing takes over, everything becomes easy! However, there is a yieldedness or a brokenness that must first take place! Brokenness is

the key that releases the presence and power of God! Death or brokenness is the key to the anointing. It is as if we have a candle or light within us, which cannot be observed until the outer shell is broken, “For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts**, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Cor 4:6-7). Earthen vessel represents our flesh.

If you want to be used of God you must allow Him to break your vessel and not spare you! Job went through this process which resulted in his “brokenness,” “I was at ease, but **he hath broken me asunder**: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark. **13 His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare**; he poureth out my gall upon the ground. **14 He breaketh me** with breach upon breach, he runneth upon me like a giant” (Job 16:12-14). When God breaks he breaks so that the old vessel can never be used again, “And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit” (Isa 30:14).

Inside each of us that are born-again there is a seed that must come out! If we do nothing with the seed, it can sit there dormant for years. However, if we plant the seed it will produce once it has been germinated and the outer shell has broken. Three thousand year old seeds have been discovered within the tombs found in Egypt. Yet, when these ancient seeds were planted they produced a natural harvest! You do not have to wait three thousand years before your inner seed produces a harvest. Notice the picture of a germinated bean seed (*see right*). In order for that seed or any seed to get germinated the outer shell first needs to die or be broken. In the same fashion, *your outer shell or flesh* must be broken. The person that lives according to the flesh is concerned about daily living. When Jesus sent out the twelve he told them, “He that **loveth father or mother more than me** is not worthy of me: and **he that loveth son or daughter more than me** is not worthy of me. **38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it**” (Matt 10:37-39). So what do we have to do to breakthrough the shell? What is the key to being broken?



The answer lies in the repetition of the Master’s words that we have just reviewed when he sent out the twelve. Jesus repeated Himself a little later at the time that He changed Simon’s name to Peter, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt 16:19). Just a little later, “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself, and take up his cross, (figuratively, exposure to death, i.e. self-denial) and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it**” (Matt 16:24-25). This same Biblical concept is echoed in many places including, “For he



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that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal 6:8).

The only way that the spiritual authority lost in Adam may be restored is through the cross! Self-denial under the will of the Father is God’s way of life. Using the seeds of doubt and disobedience satan immediately confronts anyone who has determined to deny himself under the hand of Almighty God. Self-denial results in victory while self-preservation results in doubt, disobedience and death. The moment we offer ourselves to God, satan moves through people and circumstances in his malicious attempt to hinder our offering. That is why Jesus said, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matt 5:10-12). It is poetic justice; satan tried to stop the work of Jesus by forcing upon Him the cross of His death! Instead of destroying Jesus, satan actually handed Him the instrument or altar of His victory! It appears that too late, satan realized his spiritual mistake. Notice the words that satan inspired in those who passed by Jesus while He was on the cross, “***If thou be the Son of God (a seed of doubt), come down from the cross (a seed of disobedience)***” (Matt 27:40). It is not difficult to suspect that satan truly hoped that Jesus somehow might indeed come down off of the cross. However, it was not the nails that held Jesus to the cross; it was His obedience to the Father’s will! Jesus died as soon as He decided to follow the will of the Father!

Nothing could stop Jesus! He could have called upon an innumerable company of angels as He told Peter that night of His betrayal, “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But ***how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled***, that thus it must be?” (Matt 26:53-54). Jesus was more concerned about the scriptures being fulfilled than He was about His personal flesh! He comprehended what Paul would later write, “Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, ***except it die***. And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be” (1 Cor 15:36-37). Jesus completely understood that His resurrected body could never die! What Jesus really sacrificed was His personal will! Hours before Jesus was physically on the cross He had already taken up His cross and surrendered Himself to God, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: ***nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done***” (Luke 22:42). Jesus surrendered His personal will to the Father’s will!

The Bible wants us to realize something powerful, “***Knowing this***, that ***our old man is crucified with him***, (The passage starts with, “*Knowing this*” therefore we should realize that there is something that we need to get a hold of!) that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For ***he that is dead*** (Now realize this, the bible refers to us as “*he that is dead.*”) is freed from sin. 8 Now ***if we be dead with Christ***, we believe that we shall also live with him” (Rom 6:6-8).

We Christians are God’s modern day sacrifices. The Scripture teaches, “God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar” (Ps 118:27). Like the sacrifice on the altar, which is, bound to the horns (*representing authority*) we too should be bound to the altar under the authority of Jesus Christ. The concept of authority lies very near to every true altar of sacrifice. We are participating in



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an ever-increasing association with Jesus' death, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death" (Rom 6:3-4). However as the passage continues, the fact that we are dead means that we need to participate in an ever-increasing association with his resurrected life, "that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life**" (Rom 6:4). This newness of His life means that we are associated with His resurrected power! This resurrection power takes place only after death! Therefore, we should want to become the living dead!

If we get all tied up with our flesh in a physical sense, we loose perspective, "brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but **if ye through the Spirit do mortify** the deeds of the body, ye shall live" ("*Mortify*" means to put to death! Notice the conditional word "if." The putting to death of the deeds of the body is conditional upon our choices!) (Rom 8:12-13). The idea is that we must not try to die; we simply must let go and let God work through the spirit! In other words, if we truly seek our personal anointing we must be willing to die for it. If we surrender our flesh through the spirit the anointing (*or the Christ in us*) will come out. The anointing is dependent on just one thing; DEATH of the self!

Here is a key: The primary state of being in which the devil cannot touch us is after we have taken up our cross! When I daily surrender and break the outer shell all evil is driven away! When I am dead the devil cannot tempt me. If I were to take the worst alcoholic in the graveyard and set many cases of Jack Daniels in front of his grave he still would not respond to that temptation. Why? Because dead men cannot be tempted with alcohol or anything else! Even in the natural, conquering the desires of the flesh comes through death. The same inability of temptation is true of the Christian who is dead to his/her flesh.

Do you really want to die to the LORD? It is easy to say, "Sure; absolutely!" However, don't be too quick to respond, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28). True surrender; true discipleship; true daily death belongs only to the mature! Now notice what happens to those mature who have made that decision, "And they that are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit**" (Gal 5:24-25). We can expect to begin to walk in the spirit (*experience spirit manifestations*) once we have crucified the flesh!

Jesus gave instructions to those who would "come after" Him, (*Meaning those disciples which would do the same supernatural things in the spirit that He did*). Would you like to "come after" Jesus? If so, let us focus on the specific instructions of Jesus found in Luke chapter 9, "If any man will **come after** me, let him (1) deny himself, and (2) take up his cross daily, and (3) follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life (*Meaning to remain attached to our physical 'psuche' natural life.*) shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake (*Meaning to die to his fleshly deeds.*), the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, **when he shall come in his own glory**, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels. (*Now it is important to notice at this juncture that Jesus is speaking about a future coming in His glory!*) 27 But I tell you of a truth, **there be some standing here, which shall not**



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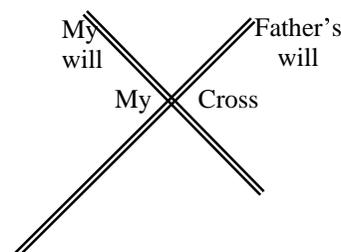
*Are you living or dead?*

*taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.* 28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, **he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a**

**mountain** to pray. (Whenever you go up into a mountain, you ascend to a higher location or level where you can see farther off in the distance. This is a mountaintop experience.) 29 And as he prayed, **the fashion of his countenance was altered**, (Here we find Jesus coming in the glory which He had just spoken of three verses earlier concerning those who would not “taste of death, till they see the Kingdom of God!”) and his raiment was white and glistening. 30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: (Just incase you are having a difficult time believing that Jesus came in His glory, notice the next verse concerning Moses and Elias.) 31 **Who appeared in glory**” (Luke 9:23-31).

All of God’s promises belong to us as long as we remain dead in Christ. This means that any works that we may perform cannot be claimed for self-purposes, rather for His Glory! Dying to ourselves is a simple three-step process identified by Jesus in Luke (9:23): (1) deny self; (2) daily take up cross; and (3) follow me! If we are going to deny our self and daily take up our cross, we need to understand what that cross is. Remember that several hours before Jesus was physically nailed to the cross He had already taken up His cross and surrendered His will to God’s will, “Father, if **thou be willing** (Jesus searched the Father’s will.), remove this cup from me: (Jesus made known His personal will.) **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done**” (Luke 22:42); (Jesus recognized the Father’s will, which was different from His own will, and accepted it as supreme.)

The point is that Jesus took up His cross when He surrendered His personal will to God’s will! The same is true for each of us. Your cross is not your ill health or your poor finances or any other physical problem that you may face. You will discover your cross at the location where your will intersects with the father’s will (see illustration below right)! Jesus sacrificed His personal will to the Father’s will; we are to do the same thing! Most of the time our personal “will” of the flesh releases the definite impression that it wants to follow the path of least resistance. However, through the “spirit man” within, God wants us to step out of the boat in faith!



Opportunity and safety are never encountered at the same location. If you remain only on the path of safety (that is staying on the path of your personal “will,”) you never arrive at the path of opportunity! We must perform “exploits” in the spirit by getting outside of the boat! We must not be afraid to try something through faith which is completely different from our past experiences in the flesh; like Peter, we must be “willing” to get outside of the boat! When we are “willing” to take this step of faith and we act upon it, we step into new horizons. Living “by faith” is living in the spirit, “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom 8:13). We cannot live in the spirit until we put to death our flesh, “we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24)! In order to manifest God’s power, we must get to the point where we understand the concept right along with Paul, “I am crucified with Christ (dead to the flesh): nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Gal 2:20).

**Concerning miracle working power, Jesus does not trust the living, only the dead!**

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