

# TWO NATURES

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*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. [2Peter 1:2-4]*

Notice in these few verses we find the following comes through the knowledge of God: Grace and Peace; all things that pertain to life and godliness; glory and virtue; exceeding great promises. Peter concludes that BY THESE ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

I have always been concerned that many Christians I have encountered have little knowledge of God. They may know something about grace and water baptism, and perhaps how church services are conducted. But few really understand what happened to them when they were born again.

As a matter of fact, I believe 90% of born again Christians are living far below the abundant life Jesus promised and the reason for this is simple: They do not understand what really happened when they were born again! Although they may have acquired an appearance of religion and a level of doctrinal knowledge; they lack the

knowledge of what God has really given them: *"all things that pertain to life and godliness"*.

THROUGH KNOWLEDGE we can possess all the promises of God and partake of the divine nature.

Before I continue let's look at the definition of some key words we have found. The first is *knowledge*: Strong's Concordance defines knowledge as *recognition or full discernment*. To me this would imply full understanding. Therefore the knowledge of God would give us a full understanding of God. Pretty simple! The cry of Apostle Paul's heart was, *"That I may know Him"* (Phil. 3:10). The word *know* means: *"To know, to perceive, to HAVE KNOWLEDGE"*. You cannot know Him, without knowing His Word!

Our next word is *divine*: Strong's defines divine as, *godlike; godhead*. Our next word is *godliness*: Strong's defines godliness as *holiness, well reverent, that is, pious: devout, godly*. *Nature* is defined as, *growth (by germination or expansion)*, that is, (by implication) natural *production*.

While each of these words are extremely important in understanding fully what the Apostle Peter is relating, I want to focus on two. When you have time, I urge you to carefully study 2 Peter 1:2-4 using all the word definitions I have given.

The two words are "Divine" and "Nature". There are two conclusions that are obvious. (1) There is a "divine nature" which can be partaken of. (2) If there is a divine nature which we can partake of, there must be another nature: "Two natures that oppose each other."

A "divine nature" would be godlike! I believe Adam possessed this divine nature when he was created: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them"*. [Genesis 1:27] You know the story of Adam's fall. When he fell, he lost the nature of God.

The "Adamic Nature" has been taught for years. You don't hear much today on the subject but it was taught that the Adamic nature was a result of the fall of Adam. The Adamic nature stems from the "Original Sin" committed in the Garden of Eden. Since the fall of Adam; every human being is born with it. The Adamic Nature is the "sinful nature" of fallen man. One who is born in sin and shaped in iniquity. *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* [Psalms 51:5]

*"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."* [Ephesians 2:3] Man is a sinner by nature! You were born a liar, a thief, a murderer and a pervert! You were born condemned, without life. *"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."* [1Corinthians 15:21-22]

It is extremely important that we fully understand this: There are two natures rigorously opposed to each other. The divine nature, and the nature of fallen man. Remember, nature is defined as growth by germination, a natural production. It is further explained by scripture this way: *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."* [Genesis 1:24]

All living creatures including man have a nature all its own, each bringing forth of its own kind. Within the seed of every living creature is it's nature. Life is in the blood, and the blood comes from the seed. This is also true of plant life: apples produce seeds that produce apple trees that produce apples, etc.

However, we understand that nature can be changed, subverted, perverted or ignored. Here are some examples from scripture: *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile*

*affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." [Romans 1:26-27]*

These verses are obviously talking about homosexuality. *"Women did change the natural use into that which is against nature." "Men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men."*

We can go against nature! We may not see homosexuality flaunted before us every day, but we do see perversion against nature every day. This next scripture may seem to be a stretch to you, but perversion is manifested in many ways. When people go against what their very nature teaches, it is a form of perversion. There is no other explanation. *"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." [1Corinthians 11:14-15]*

Yes, believe it or not, this is really in the Bible! Paul is clear that the nature of men and women teaches! Also, please understand, this is not the custom Paul referred to in verse sixteen; this is what nature teaches.

By now you should be as convinced as I am, there are two natures! But what happens when you are born again? It is certain that before you were born again, you had one nature, you were a sinner.

For years I have heard it taught that born again Christians have two natures: the *nature of man* and the *nature of God (the divine nature)*. Some teach that Jesus had two natures because He was both man and God. But is this scriptural? I think not!

Our Lord Jesus was a man, but He was the most unique man ever born. Although, He grew in stature and wisdom before man and God (Luke 2:52), and He was made perfect through the things He suffered (Heb. 5:9); I believe the scripture will prove that our Lord had only one nature, and that was the nature of God.

First of all, Jesus was not born in sin. His Father was the Holy Ghost. *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."* [Matthew 1:18] His Father was God! His mother was a virgin!

If Jesus had the nature of man, He would have had to be born a sinner; and would have been by nature a child of wrath. He was tempted in all points as we are tempted, yet He was without sin (See Hebrews 4:15). He is the Lamb of God, without blemish, without spot (See 1Peter 1:19).

There is no question in my mind, Jesus could have sinned! But, He would have to go against His nature to do so!

Remember, nature is most easily defined as, *"growth by germination"* or as the scripture indicates, *"bringing forth of its own kind"*. The seed that brought Christ into the world was the seed of God implanted by the Holy Ghost. That Holy Seed germinated and Christ was formed in the belly of the virgin Mary. You and I came from the seed of man. Jesus came from the Seed of God, NOT MAN! He was truly the only begotten of the Father! No sin nature here! No sir!

I have heard ministers refer to this dual nature theology as a good dog and a bad dog in the same house continually fighting each other. Sometimes the good dog wins, sometimes the bad dog wins.

When you really think about it, that kind of teaching tends to make one believe that all born again Christians are schizophrenic! I have known people that had what I called a

Jekyll-Hyde disposition or personality. You just couldn't be sure what to expect from them on any given day. I'm sure you may have encountered someone like that. However, I do not believe born again Christians have this kind of problem.

Because of this dual nature teaching, many Christians think they have two natures within them, a new or (godly nature) and an old (Adamic sinful) nature, which war against each other. They believe that their new nature loves God and wants to live holy but that their old nature loves sin and wants to practice lawlessness. They think that their Christian life reflects whichever of their two natures they yield themselves to the most.

Before I was born again, I had one nature. I inherited that nature from my father, who inherited it from his father and on and on to Adam. I had a wicked sinful nature. I couldn't help it, I was born with it! You were born with the same nature!

Let me share a few scriptures that should prove a born again person is dead to sin and is no longer in the flesh. The term flesh means *a sinful nature*.

*"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."* [Romans 6:6-7] Your "old man" that is your "sinful nature" IS CRUCIFIED! The nature you once had is dead! Paul magnifies this statement with, *"For he that is dead is freed from sin."* Free from the old nature!

*"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh (human, sinful nature), but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."* [Romans 8:8-9] These two scriptures are very powerful and revealing! If you have God's Spirit, you do not have a

sinful nature! Either you are born again and a new creation in God or you're not!

*"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh (human, sinful nature) by the circumcision of Christ" [Colossians 2:11]. This circumcision "made without hands" puts off the sins of the flesh (the sinful nature)! This is obvious reference to the working of the Holy Spirit when one is born again. It is the work of God, not the work of man. In all three of these verses, the apostle Paul teaches that we no longer have a sinful nature after we are born again.*

*"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." [1Corinthians 6:9-11].*

The unrighteous are those that have a sinful nature. Paul continues by indentifying some of the fruits of the horrible nature of fallen man. He states that they do these things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

You were unrighteous and this is the kind of nature you had. But now, you are washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God! The old sinful nature is gone!

I may be repeating myself, but I want you to get this. Salvation is not a matter of getting better and better; improving your performance day by day. Salvation is a total transformation! A born again person becomes a completely new creature; the old things passed away; behold, all things are new (2 Cor. 5:17). Not only do you receive a brand new

"born again" spirit you become someone new! The new nature you receive is not added to the old nature, but replaces it; they do not coexist. According to Colossians 1:13, we have been delivered from the power of darkness, and have been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son! We don't live in two kingdoms!

*"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." [Ephesians 4:24]*

There is a new man in us that has been created righteous and holy! If I have God's Spirit in me, I am not in the flesh! I no longer have a sinful nature! The reason I have life and peace is because I have a spiritual mind! I know that I can live in the flesh. I can walk in the flesh. I can be carnally minded and abide in death, I can sin, but I refuse to because I am born again! I would have to go against my new "born again nature"! My nature, my want to is changed! I no longer want to sin! I want to please God and deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. I want to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. (See Titus 2:11-12)

I know you want to blame the devil for all your failures and falling short of God's righteousness, but the fact is your human reasoning is your greatest enemy.

Your human reasoning cannot believe that God has already created you righteous and holy. Your carnal mind will always contend against any positive thing God has done for you including the fact that you no longer have a carnal, sensual, nature.

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" [2Corinthians 5:21].* Do you realize what Jesus did on the Cross? He became sin for us! Jesus became what we were, so we could become what He is, "The righteousness of God"!



*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" [Galatians 2:20].* What a powerful statement!

Crucified with Christ! Paul died with Christ. You died with Christ on that old cross! And now, it is not you that is living, it's Christ! How were you crucified? Paul said, "nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me." Don't you see! Your old man, your sinful nature was crucified on the cross. Your sins were taken away! You can never justify yourself by your own holiness or acts of goodness. It wasn't just Paul that was crucified with Christ! It was all of us. *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* [Galatians 5:24] This verse is plain, *"they that are Christ's HAVE CRUCIFIED the sinful nature"*. If the old nature has been crucified, how can it still exist? It cannot!

*"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* [1Peter 2:24] Jesus bore our sins on the cross. Because of what Christ did, we are dead to sin! You can't get any plainer than that!

*". . . Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* [John 1:29] The Apostle John wrote, *"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin"* [1John 3:5]. I truly hope you are understanding what the scripture is saying. The old Adamic sinful carnal nature you were born with no longer exists in a born again believer. It was taken away by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians cannot have two natures. The born again experience joins your spirit with the Lord's Spirit and you become one with God. The Holy Ghost takes up residence

in your spirit! *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."* [1Corinthians 6:17] This is an act of God, not man!

Think about it! You are not becoming one with God through some religious process or righteous exertion on your part. Your new born again nature is not competing with an existing sinful nature. You are already one spirit with God! Not only are you one with God, you have been sealed. Sealed until the day of redemption! As hard as it is for your carnal mind to believe; when you were born again, you were sealed the very second of that experience. Your nature was changed instantly! Being sealed is not something you attain unto, it is something that God has already done for you.

God has sealed you. He has placed His *stamp* of approval on you. You are already sealed; preserved until the day of redemption. *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* [Ephesians 4:30]

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* [2 Corinthians 5:17]

The scripture doesn't say some things; *but all things are become new*. Born again believers are *new creatures!* New creatures with a brand new nature.

No, I don't have two natures battling one another! I don't have a split personality! The battle I have is with the devil trying to convince me that I have two natures when I only have one and that is the divine nature! Satan is trying to get me to believe that God has not given me a new spirit, a new heart, a new life. Satan is a liar! I am a new creature in Christ; my old man, my old life, my old nature, all things have already passed away!

Temptations, trials, hardships, tribulations and storms of life will come. But my house is built on a rock. That Rock is Christ, Who is the Word of God. Believe His Word and you will live an abundant, joyous, overcoming life!