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SHEDDING OF THE SKIN

Years ago, I was cleaning my garage and found a snakeskin that had been shed under a cupboard. Now, I am not particularly fond of snakes, and I really did not like the fact that it took place a short distance from where I spent a lot of time. Yet, this is natural for a snake to shed its skin.

In order for that snake to grow, it must come out of the skin that will not stretch any further. It is not a pleasant time, and from what I have read about it, the snake can be very irritable during this shedding. I wouldn't think it wise to be around one when this happens, especially if it is a rattlesnake. Shedding that skin is God's way to bring growth to that snake.

As Christians we also go through growth and often must shed what has been our customary lifestyle to move into something else. God often allows us to be stretched to the limit to bring this growth. It is not a comfortable time when one must let go of what has been comfortable to grow into something new. Yet, God knows that the only way for growth is to go through this process.

The shedding can include things that are sinful like: anger, bitterness, lying, pity parties, addictions of any sort, and much more. We know we must shed the big sins like adultery, pornography, drunkenness, murder, but the petty things have to go too. The thoughts that are ungodly about another person or even yourself, must be shed. As we shed these things, we take on more of our new nature. The old nature of sin must be shed daily for the new nature to develop.

Often during the painful process of shedding we may get angry and think it is not fair that God is putting us through this, but it is for our own benefit, not His. He wants us to be in that "new skin" and let it rule us instead of the "old skin" that only thought of self. It is an ongoing process, and if we yield to God's plan, we take on His image. It is there inside of us, under all the layers that must be shed. It will not happen overnight, but it will happen if we allow it.