

HELEN SANDERS

4-3-2024

THE FLESH VS. THE SPIRIT

Because of the fall of Adam, we are each individually born with a sinful nature. This nature controls our behavior because we do not have the Spirit of God in us. When we invite Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our spirit, and it is born again.

Then the battle begins. We now have two natures. The old sinful nature, and the new incorruptible new nature given to us through salvation. These two natures are at *enmity* (opposite – as in hatred vs. love) with each other. Genesis 3:15 tells us that God put **enmity** between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan. This battle continues until we shed our mortal bodies.

Romans 8:5 says, ***“For they that are after the flesh [old nature] do mind the things of the flesh [old nature], but they that are after the Spirit [God the Holy Spirit] the things of the Spirit.”***

The fleshly old nature will bring death, but the Holy Spirit-born again new nature brings life and peace. We make the choice as to which nature to feed. If we do the deeds of sin we feed our old nature, but if we choose to go the way of the Word of God, we feed our new nature.

We read in Galatians 5:24, ***“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”*** This is a choice. It is a moment-by-moment choice to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Crucifixion is painful but necessary if we are to live a victorious Christian life not controlled by our old nature. Crucifixion means saying no to the old nature and yes to God.