

The Normal Christian Life

The Cross and the Soul Life

Natural Energy in the Work of God

- The **power**, the **energy** of the **soul** is present with us all.
 - Those who have been taught by the Lord **refuse to live** by it.
 - Those who have not been taught of God **rely** upon it.
- Everything which comes not by new birth but by **natural birth** is **flesh** and will only bring **glory to man**, not God.
- When we are born anew, we **carry over** with us something which derived from our natural birth.
 - We must see the difference between **natural** and **spiritual** gifts.
 - Anything we can do **without prayer** and **without an utter dependence** upon God must come from that spring of **natural life**.
- What was “of the flesh” originally will **never** be made spiritual by any amount of “improvement”.
- There will come a day when **God opens our eyes** to see that the natural life is something He can never use in **His work**.
 - Then we find we do not *enjoy* the doctrine any longer.
 - Rather we **loathe** ourselves for the impurity that is in us.
 - When that point is reached, God begins His work of deliverance.

The Light of God and Knowledge

- There is a fundamental **need** of **light** in order for us to know the **mind of God**
 - To know what is of the **spirit** and what is of the **soul**
 - To know what is **Divine** and what is merely of **man**
 - To discern what is truly **heavenly** and what is only **earthly**
 - To understand the difference between things which are **spiritual** and things which are **carnal**
 - To know whether **God is really leading us** or whether we are **walking by our feelings**, senses or imaginations.
- We are never told in the Word of God to **examine** our inward condition.
 - Of course we need to have **self-knowledge**.

- Psa. 36:9 – For with You is the fountain of life; **In Your light we see light.**
 - The first light is **objective.**
 - The light which belongs to God but is **shed upon us.**
 - The second light is **subjective.**
 - The **knowledge** imparted by the first light.
- When there is light coming from God, we become **clear**, we see.
- Sight only comes by the **light of God coming in**; and once it has come, there is no longer need to ask if a thing is right or wrong.
- Our true knowledge of self comes from **God searching in us.**
- Heb. 4:12 – For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - It is the Word of God that **settles our questions.**
 - It is the Word of God which **discerns our motives** and **defines for us their true source** in soul or spirit.
- We need to be sincere and humble, and to **open ourselves** before God.
 - If we throw ourselves open to God, He will reveal.
 - The trouble comes when we have closed areas, where we think with pride that *we* are right.
- Christ is our light. He is the living Word, and when we read the Scriptures that life in Him brings **revelation.**

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 12)