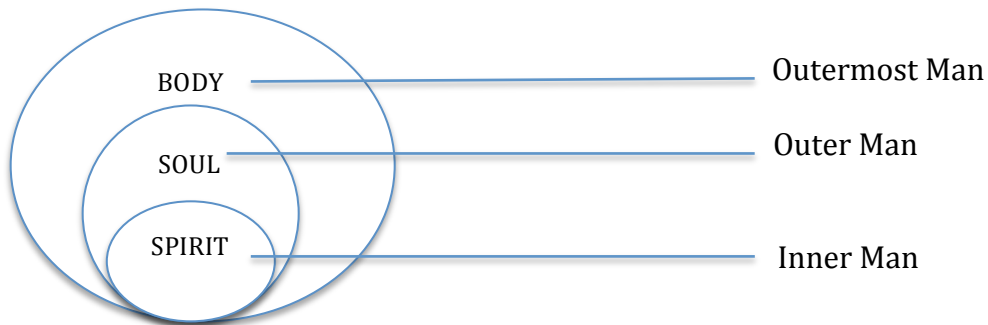


What's Happening on the Inside When Everything Seems Wrong on the Outside?

Becoming Useful to God



Most of us, especially in the U.S., are excellent at evaluating, comparing, and even judging the outward appearance of things, and people. We have magazine covers, cosmetic commercials, and the marketing industry filling us with ways to look better, appear more successful, and buy things that will make us that way. Even as Christians who know better, we are caught up in what's happening on the outside. There is so much noise in our lives it is all but impossible to hear the "still small voice" that tells us the truth. I recall being in a noisy dressing room with a radio blaring when an elderly woman who said, "There is one thing there is no shortage of in this world – silence."

If you are troubled, if everything seems wrong on the outside in your world I challenge you to sit in silence. Meditate on the following verses.

Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment that I decide to do good, sin is there to trick me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Romans 7:20-22

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though from the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. 2 Cor. 4:16

Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. John 12:24-25

In *Release of the Spirit* Watchman Nee tell us “One event after another, one thing after another, comes to us. Each disciplinary working of the Holy Spirit has but one purpose: to break our outward man so that our inward man may come through. Yet here is our difficulty: we fret over trifles, we murmur at small losses. The Lord is preparing a way to use us, yet scarcely has His hand touched us when we feel unhappy, even to the extent of quarreling with God and becoming negative in our attitude. . . the aim of the Lord is to break this outward man.”

Two Reasons the “Breaking” is hindered:

- 1.) Not recognizing God working
 - 2.) Self-love-seeking a way to deliver ourselves.
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For the spirit to work god must come out through us.

from *Letting God* by A. Philip Parham

A profound description of humanity is found in an old legend about the great war in heaven. Satan, the rebel angel, was cast out of heaven with all his allies. Satan, one of the original archangels, began a rebellion to overthrow God himself. There were three groups in the war: the angels of Satan, the angels of God, and a small group of angels who could not make up their minds. These “undecided ones” became the human race.

This ancient tale tells a truth about us. We can’t make up our minds about who we will follow and give our loyalty to. The angels of Satan are still everywhere, denying God’s rule and living without any loyalty to him. Then there are most of us. We struggle and strain to be on God’s side. We listen to God and respond to him, but not all the time. Much too often we obey the orders of the rebel.

Our programs are at the mercy of ourselves, the “undecided ones.” We try and then we don’t. We get with it, and then we coast. But though we are not dependable, we *are* loved. We are not much, but we are all God has to work with. He calls us each day to follow him, one day at a time. He never gives up on us.

Our spirit emanates from God.

from *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers

How long is it going to take God to free us from the morbid habit of thinking about ourselves? We must get sick unto death of ourselves, until

there is no longer any surprise at anything God can tell us about ourselves.
There is only one place where we are right, and that is in Christ Jesus.
When we are there, then we have to pour out for all we are worth in this
ministry of the interior.

Question for the day:

How many of the kernels of wheat in your life have you allowed to fall?