

## **12. GENUINE LOVE OF THE SPIRITUAL**

Without love for and delight in Spiritual things, we cannot be Spiritually minded. What is Spiritual love, and how do we know if our love is Spiritual or not?

There can be no Spiritual love, no genuine love in those who have not experienced the new birth through the all-powerful rebirth process through the grace of God. The power that converts us is the supernatural power of God. There is no other. We need to understand that, because all the pretending is of the evil one.

The fact is that even the unregenerate understand that there is a tendency for all to corruption. Even those who have never had access to the scriptures understand this. They even generate their own laws in an attempt to bring order to society. But the fact that those who have a knowledge of God and deliberately ignore Him, make their depravity all the more despicable.

This willingness to do wrong, to which we are all prone, is not limited to one particular sin. It covers a whole range of wrongdoing in our lives. No one sin is able to be expelled out of our lives by our own will, and even if this were possible, there are a multitude of other sins that will come to the fore.

As newly born believers, we are often only aware of a very limited amount of sin that we are guilty of. We do not give too much attention to them as we are busy focusing on being “good people”. But as we progress in our Spiritual walk, the Lord graciously and gently brings the multiplicity of our wrong doings to mind. It is then that we need to give more serious attention to confession and repentance.

God sees into our hearts, and we would be well advised to examine ourselves closely and attend to these duplicities. The willingness of the sinful nature leads us into every sin. We do what we want to do **Col 3:5-7** Even when our reason tells us that there is folly in obeying our sinful instincts, their power over us is such that we cannot avoid obeying them. **ROM 7:15** That is why Paul says in **ROM 7:24** “What a wretched man I am. Who will rescue me from this body of death **v25** Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord”?

It is easy to see why we are by nature ungodly people, by two simple reasons –

- a. There is an aversion (dislike) to God and Spiritual things
- b. There is a natural love of the world, causing us to rush into the attraction of the world like bees around a honey pot

If we are aware of this attraction for the worldly, we must realise that Satan can beguile people into thinking that they are indeed Spiritual, whereas in fact it is an illusion. This illusion can be caused by some incident in our lives – pointing us to God, but those incidents don't necessarily change our actual desires from the earthly to the heavenly.

The beauty of earthly things may be very uplifting, but they do not necessarily bring us to any appreciation of the glory of Spiritual things.

We often witness the good deeds of the unregenerate, which put us to shame in our neglect of good works. But only the change brought about by the Holy Spirit in a person can alter the essence of human nature and so make people possessors of genuine Spiritual minds and so impart to us genuine love for the Spiritual.