

Life IN THE Spirit

#3: THE BATTLE!

INTRODUCTION

My Christian life is much more than what I've come to believe, it has often felt like a battle with sin; a battle to be a slightly better version of myself. Yet the scripture tells me I am new, transformed; filled with Jesus' zoe life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Cor 5:17)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul, in Romans 8, contrasts life in the Spirit vs the sinful nature; Jesus states that we need new birth, to be born from above (John 3:3-7).

Nicodemus, a religious man, comes to Jesus with a common assumption, religion is about right thinking and right behaving; *how is Jesus and Paul's teaching fundamentally different from common religious mindset?*

2. Paul paints a portrait of radical difference. Are some Christians not all that different; can we be more or less transformed? How?
3. Is it possible to have never died to self (died with Christ) and still be a Christian? [Reflect back on escaping the law of sin and death, only by death. Ro 6]
4. Have you every accepted that you're already a saint, not a sinner? That you're already a radically and completely transformed person? If you have how do you understand the gap between your belief and experience?
5. Can you live both lives, a bit of both: sarx (flesh) and zoe life?
6. How can we "stop looking at the jacket"? What would it be like to stop battling against sarx (flesh)?

MOVING FORWARD

If you are dominated by the sinful nature, you can change from sarx to zoe life. Come before Jesus and tell Him "I want to be born again, a new person". Jesus offers new life, not just a cleaned-up, slightly better version of the old.

If you are already 'born again' but have been defeated by engaging the counterfeit battle, go to Jesus saying, "Lord help me engage in the real battle, believing who I already am: a beloved child of God, a saint not a sinner, united with you!"