

## The reflected life #1

2013-03-23, John Fenn, [www.supernaturalhousechurch.org](http://www.supernaturalhousechurch.org)

Hi all,

First a note of clarification. Last week I shared how Barb and I were choosing whether to eat at a Mexican or Italian restaurant and I mentioned how I knew what she was thinking. Then I made a change of subject noted by a bold font by-line and new paragraph, yet I started that paragraph with 'She', when talking about the woman in the worship team who gave a prophecy of her own heart.

Because I started with 'She' some readers may have missed the bold print by-line and new paragraph and thought I was still talking about Barb - I was not. When I read what I wrote after the Weekly Thoughts went out, I thought I'd better say something just in case.

### The reflected life

In Genesis 32 Esau is coming to meet Jacob more than 20 years after Jacob had deceived Esau out of his birthright and blessing. Jacob is terrified of his brother, and when he hears Esau is coming with 400 men, he is convinced he and his family are doomed, verse 7 saying he was 'greatly afraid and distressed'.

But at the same time Jacob has promises from God that told him to make the journey that (what he thought accidentally) led to meeting his brother. In verses 9 through 12 he tells the Lord what He had promised: "You said 'Return to your country and your family and I will deal well with you'...For you said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

### Wrestling with God

Jacob was in the midst of a wrestling match between his thoughts and God's promises. God was the one who told him to return to his home country, but He had conveniently left out the fact that he would run into Esau. Why had the Lord not told him that little 'surprise' when He gave him the command and promise?

So he divides his belongings and flocks and sends them in small groups ahead of him and his family, one after the other, with each group instructed to tell Esau there are more coming behind them. In this way Jacob hopes to appease Esau's anger gradually and inflate the appearance of his wealth and power.

Finally after everyone has been sent ahead, Jacob tells his 2 wives, 11 sons, and 2 female servants to cross the brook Jabbok and head toward Esau, leaving himself alone in the wilderness to continue the internal wrestling between himself and God.

### Deceiver changes

You may remember that when Esau was born first, Jacob was grabbing his heel as they were born. Jacob means 'grabs the heel' and is a Hebrew idiom for 'deceiver' - hanging on to someone else's efforts or waiting for opportunity to manipulate things to your advantage; which is how he stole the birthright and blessing.

It is also how he approached this meeting with his brother - by sending small groups ahead of his family he is trying to deceive and impress his brother with how powerful and rich he is, the many small groups giving a false appearance of greater wealth and power. And there is certainly a bit of cowardice too, sending the expendable ones first, sending even his wives and children before himself!

The brook 'Jabbok' means 'pouring forth', and as Jacob sends all he owns and his whole family across the 'pouring forth' to meet Esau, night falls and the Lord appears to him. They begin to wrestle in a physical expression of the internal wrestling Jacob has been going through.

It may be that Jacob initially doesn't realize he is wrestling with a pre-incarnate appearance by Christ, for the narration starts out with the 'natural' viewpoint, that a Man wrestled with him, and later it is revealed it was the Lord. Isn't that true with us as well? We start out with internal struggles, not realizing until later it is God wrestling with us in our thoughts and emotions.

### Wrestling with God

Jacob and the Lord wrestle until the break of day, yet still Jacob would not give up. The Man touches the hollow of his thigh, causing a dislocation of the hip, yet still Jacob won't give up until he receives a blessing. In 32:28 Christ changes his name from Jacob to **Israel**, from Deceiver to **Prince with God**.

It should be noted they wrestled at night, and with daybreak Jacob's name and character had changed - symbolic of

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our own wrestling match with God in our thoughts and emotions, which seem to happen in the darkest depths of our being - and perhaps literally in night at times, but certainly in the 'dark' places of our being, but when day breaks we find we are the victors and are starting a new chapter in our lives.

This name change to Prince with God is because 'You have struggled with God and men, and prevailed.'

Israel calls the place 'Peniel', or 'Face of God', because as he said, **he had seen the face of God** and lived.

### Jump ahead

In Genesis 33:10 when Israel discovers his brother has forgiven him and has no hard feelings toward him, he makes this statement upon seeing Esau: "...I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me."

In Hebrew, to see the face of something is to know its character. This is why Genesis 2:19 says the Lord brought all the animals by Adam to see what he would name them. To see them face to face as they were brought by him was to know them well enough to name them - to see a person face to face is to get to know the character whether it be animal or person.

So when Jacob, the new Israel, exclaimed to the Man he wrestled with, that he had seen the face of God, he was saying that through his wrestling with God all night long, he got to know God's character, His nature, the way He was. In that process he went from Deceiver to Prince with God. That is how we get to know Him best too - by wrestling with Him. Think about that.

### Face time

That means when Jacob/Israel reflected that he had seen the face of God, he was also saying he had gotten to know God's character by seeing His face and in the wrestling process. And THAT is why he was uniquely qualified to make the statement upon seeing Esau, that to see his face was to see 'the face of God'.

Because he saw God's face, His character and nature, he could look at the forgiving and gracious Esau and say 'I see God in your face'.

And this is how our own transformation takes place; We see the face of God and we know His nature and character through His presence within us, and knowing Him can then look for Him in others, looking for His 'face' so to speak, in others.

In the 1997 'Titanic' one of the early scenes is 'Old Rose', now at least 100 years old, picking up an old hand held mirror that was recovered from the wreck on the ocean floor. She says this: "This was mine! How extraordinary! And it looks the same as the last time I saw it...**the reflection's changed a bit.**"

When Jacob first started wrestling with God his 'reflection' was that of a Deceiver. But in the process of wrestling and knowing God through that dark night of the soul, his nature changed into God's nature, and was so named, Prince with God.

So we will look at the process of what Jacob saw in the face of God as he wrestled, and how what he saw then allowed him to say in truth upon seeing his brother's face: Seeing your face is as seeing the face of God. And we'll BBQ some sacred cows along the way - stay tuned!

Until next week, blessings,  
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## The reflected life # 2

2013-03-30, John Fenn, [www.supernaturalhousechurch.org](http://www.supernaturalhousechurch.org)

Hi all,  
I shared last week how Jacob wrestled all night long with God, saying he had seen the face of God and lived.

That all-night-long wrestling changed his nature not because of the wrestling, but by seeing God's face as he wrestled. The result was the Lord changing his name from Deceiver to Prince with God - Israel.

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### **That mirror**

Genesis is the book of beginnings, and so much of what happens there establishes the foundation for New Testament truths. This process of wrestling with God is still what happens today in the discipleship process.

Contrary to popular church culture, the Bible teaches that most of our wrestling is with God just as in Jacob's day, not the devil. What changes us is not wrestling with inner hurts, not demons hanging around since great-grandfather, not addictions nor witches in our family genealogy.

People spend years wrestling with these things thinking if they overcome them, then they gain the victory. But in truth, our wrestling is mostly with Christ in us, the hope of glory, who ever tries to get us to grow in Him, to apply His Life to our lives, to renew our thoughts so our lives can be transformed. Our lives aren't transformed by wrestling with demons.

While Ephesians 6 mentions wrestling with the demonic that 1 time, every other letter in the NT is focused on growing up in Christ. Romans 12:1-2 says to undergo a metamorphosis in our lives by renewing the mind (more later on that), in I Corinthians 3 he talks about putting away strife for being in strife is acting like you aren't even born again, instead build precious things on the foundation of Christ in us.

In II Corinthians he mentions us having to take all thoughts captive into obedience in Christ. In Galatians 2-4 it is walking in the fruit of the spirit and not the flesh, and Christ being formed within us. In Ephesians 1-3 it is being strengthened and positioned in Christ to know things beyond knowing. In Philippians 1:6 and 3 it is allowing Him who has started a good work in us to continue it while we forget those things behind and reach forward to the high calling. In Colossians 1:27 it is Christ in you the hope of glory...and on and on it goes, concluding with the 7 letters to the 7 churches in the Revelation that say put away what holds you back and hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches and just do that!

For too long Christians have been giving excuses based on the devil for why they are the way they are, but if they will become focused on Christ in them and what He wants to do, they can stop looking in their rear-view mirror and start moving their lives forward - and their lives will start to change. You don't say 'If I can just overcome this one last thing then I can walk in what God has' - you just start where you are NOW in Christ.

### **God or the devil?**

Does this wrestling with God stir up demons and old memories, habits and ways of thinking? Absolutely!

When Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, it turned his world upside down. If you read what he thought of himself, the level of self-loathing is quite amazing. (I have a series, 'I love you Lord but I'm not too crazy about myself right now', that goes into his transformation in detail).

At one point, in I Corinthians 15, he said he was 'as one born out of due time'. 'Due time' is the Greek word 'ektroma', and means 'abortion' or 'miscarriage'. He wrestled with thoughts of it being better if he had never been born because he persecuted the church, yet God said He had a call and ministry.

Paul concluded in that same passage, 'By God's grace I am what I am'. The wrestling he did to get there is wrestling with God's view of his past and future versus what he thought of his past and future. Did it stir up demonic things, yes, but his growth came through wrestling with what God said about him and accepting that, not wrestling with what the devil said about him.

As long as we are in this life, it appears Satan will be the accuser of the brethren as per Revelation 12. But he is like a small child tugging on a pant leg of an adult trying to hold a conversation with another adult - that kid is always there trying to interrupt the conversation, but instead of focusing on the distraction, learn to take in what the other person (the Lord) is saying to us and let the accuser be merely like a child trying to get your attention - keep focused on the conversation because he will eventually give up and go away, or at least his voice will lessen to such a degree you can hardly hear him because you are SO engrossed on what God is saying and doing in you.

### **Jacob didn't wrestle a demon, he wrestled God to change his nature; therefore wrestling with God is what changes a person's nature (not wrestling with demons).**

Get your eyes off what you think the devil is doing, and just do what God is asking - that still small voice is more subtle, and will usually be the choice that is more difficult on the flesh and what you want to do.

I remember my February 2001 visitation when the Lord appeared to me and said this: "See what I see, people running to and fro to this meeting and that, looking for the spectacular thinking THAT is supernatural, while they miss the

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supernatural work in their midst and even in their heart, for the process of discipleship IS supernatural."

That's why we use [www.supernaturalhousechurch.org](http://www.supernaturalhousechurch.org) for our web site - all we do is based on discipleship, not the spectacular - its all about the supernatural work of discipleship.

The flesh wants to find the easy way to become Christ-like. The flesh wants to learn about this or that newest thing, and fill our Christian lives with distractions, deceiving ourselves into thinking we are mature for our much learning. But the only way presented in scripture is to see the face of God, wrestle with what we see, and be changed in the process - change your thinking, then be a doer of the Word.

#### **How do we see the face of God? By reflection**

In II Corinthians 3: 17-18 Paul is talking about the glory of God and the reflection seen in a mirror.

"And we all, with **open (unveiled) faces as if looking in a mirror do contemplate** the Lord's glory, and are being transformed into His image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the (Holy) Spirit." v16-18

#### **Take it apart**

The example Paul uses in this chapter is that of Moses coming down the mountain with the 10 commandments (Word) carved in stone in his hands, and his face glowing with the glory of God (Spirit), yet veiled because the hard-hearted Israelites could not look at the glory of God directly.

There are 2 elements: The Word, and the glory (Spirit).

There is a basic rule; What you look at is what you become. Even in accidents with cars and motorcycles and bicycles - what you fixate on is where you will direct that vehicle. What you watch, you become. If this is true with porn and violence and cussing and sin filled media, it is true because it is a counterfeit of God's original intention of looking at Him causes us to become like Him.

This is why Paul said in Philippians 4:8-9 if you think on pure and peaceful things you will be filled with peace. What you look at is what you become. What you think on is what you become. What you read is what you become. Watch the eye and ear gate, for they open possibilities of what we may become.

#### **That was the value of Jacob seeing God's face as he wrestled with Him; he became like Him as he looked at Him.**

Paul says we are not like those non-believing Israelites who needed a veil to shield them from the Word and glory (Spirit), but we 'with unveiled face as if looking in a mirror, contemplate the Lord's glory. When we see the Living Word who lives in us, and His glory also within us, it is looking in a mirror.

In I John 3:2 it says when He comes we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is (in full glory). We are ever moving towards that, even in this life.

In Exodus 34:29 we have the event Paul talks about: "And it happened when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony...Moses didn't know that the skin of his face shone while he was talking to them (the Israelites)."

You see, we truly are transformed in our wrestling with God. We see Him in us and us in Him and the glory of what He has done for us, and as we behold the glory it causes us to want to change, to want to grow, to want to see our lives transformed. That is a wrestling process.

**But here is the great thing** - Moses didn't know he was glowing - and so it is with us, for as we wrestle, as we look into the Living Word within, that process causes us to glow in a way we barely recognize what God is doing, but others see the change. They see we've changed. And that's where we'll pick it up next week. Blessings,

John Fenn

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### **The reflected life #3**

2013-04-06, John Fenn, [www.supernaturalhousechurch.org](http://www.supernaturalhousechurch.org)

Hi all,

Last week I shared how II Corinthians 3:18 said we see the glory of God inside us, as if looking into a mirror, seeing

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who we are in that glory. As we continue gazing we are changed into His image.

It is an adjustment to religion trained minds to see the Word speaking of us gazing into glory to see ourselves, for this means our wrestling is with Christ trying to grow us from the inside out. Holding out to us the image of what He has done for us that we might be changed into that image.

Religion teaches us to focus on our past or present sins and to try to overcome them, and only then will we grow. Wrong. We need to focus on what He has done and how we can walk in the Spirit and demons and sins and all those old things falls by the wayside as we grow in Christ from within and outward into our lives.

**For instance**, when someone in church hurts you and they know they hurt you, yet they show up each Sunday with a smile on their face and worship God like nothing happened, your adversary is not 'the spirit of unforgiveness' as some might teach; your adversary is forgiveness - God - that is Who you are wrestling.

"Oh Lord don't make me forgive them! They owe ME an apology!" Sound familiar? Your wrestling is with God, not the devil.

When the Lord starts dealing with your cussing because you used to curse like the roughest sailor, and you find yourself wanting to react to stubbing your toe with a string of obscenities, your wrestling is with Christ in you who is dealing with your mouth, not your old nature. If these examples were not true you wouldn't find yourself saying 'Lord forgive me, I messed up again' - you instinctively recognize the struggle, the wrestling, is with Him.

#### Paul's prayers

Consider how carnal the Ephesians were. They burned so many occult books in Acts 19 the economy of the city was disrupted and a riot ensued. Ephesians 4 reads like the Saturday night police report: Thieves, fights, sexual perversion, liars, explosive anger.

Wouldn't a modern church prescribe the following conferences for them to attend: The 'Overcoming Generational Curses' conference. The 'Inner Healing' conference. The 'How to Overcome Habitual Sin' conference. The 'Freedom from Sexual Sin' conference, and so on. Wouldn't they be steered to the 'deliverance room'?

Yet how did Paul pray for them? Did he rebuke demons over them? Did he encourage them to look at their past and figure out how each sin got into their lives so they could renounce each one individually, and along the way offer to interpret each dream for spiritual significance? No!

#### What he prayed

"For I always pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation of insight into mysteries and secrets, in the deep and intimate knowledge of Him. By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints, His set-apart ones. And so that you can know and understand what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe..." 1:17-20

That is gazing into glory and seeing our reflection! But look at another prayer for these people in 3:14-19:

"...I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit, Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality.

May Christ through your faith actually dwell, settle down, abide, make His permanent home, in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love. That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints, God's devoted people, the experience of that love, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of it.

That you may really come to know practically, through experience for yourselves, the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge without experience; that you may be filled through all your being unto all the fullness of God, may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself!" (Amplified Version, both)

Paul knows their past, but his focus is on Christ who lives within and them knowing Him and the glory within!

I have prayed these prayers for myself, often weekly and often daily, for at least 25 years. Anyone who has heard me teach, live or recorded, knows I start with the prayer of Ephesians 1:17-18 on behalf of those who hear what I teach. I



am consumed with the amazing grace and truth of Christ in me, and I want to look into that glory to see all that Paul prayed I would!

### **Aware of Who lives where**

Jesus made the statement in John 8:44 that when the devil speaks he does so of his own, meaning he has no one to agree with him. It takes 2 to be in agreement, and the devil stands 'out there', all alone, whispering lies and innuendos and half truths, just waiting for someone to agree with him. Meanwhile, we have Christ in us and He is trying to get us to grow as per Paul's prayers above.

If a person agrees with the devil, that agreement opens a door into that person's life. It could be something as foundational as a parent saying in anger to their young child, 'You'll never amount to anything'. That is a lie, but if the child believes it, they come into agreement with the father of lies, and once in agreement, the lie becomes truth to them. Then they go through life believing they will never amount to anything.

Then they get born again, now Christ is in them, trying to grow in them. Will they agree with Him and continue to gaze into the mirror of their new Life within, or continue in the lie they've believed all their life?

Then Christian culture tells them just to read the Word, just to stand on the Word, go to this or that school or conference to get the Word, get great teaching of the Word - and they write volumes of notes having learned great things from wonderful Bible teachers, but are nothing bettered. Why?

The New Testament is talking about knowing the Living Word within, but we have lifted the instructions of the New Testament out of context because we have the benefit of the printing press to write out 'the Word'. So all these people are taught to know the written page rather than the Living Page inside them.

### **Can't hold to both**

How can a Christian grow who looks into the mirror and sees Christ in them, while also holding onto the lie that has been truth to them their whole life? Answer; you can't grow that way. You'll be miserable, double minded as James 1 says, unstable and tossed like a wave going back and forth from one to the other.

A Christian must 'un-believe' the lie. This is wrestling with God. He wants you to un-believe the lie. The mirror within shows what we have inside and to what we may attain, a life of wholeness in Christ, changed into His image. We must be willing to let go of the lie we believed all our life, willing to call it a lie, and leave it in the dust by the roadside of our past life.

I came to Christ at age 16 holding onto many lies I had believed about myself, in large part due to my dad leaving our family when I was 11. Children tend to blame themselves for their parent's divorce, and our family was no different. Talk of 'Maybe we should run away' and 'It's our fault he left' were coupled with the rejection we felt when he moved out of his home and moved in with another woman and her two children, raising her two kids as his own. Why did he love them more than he loved us? What did we do wrong?

All these things I carried with me into Christ. With each Thursday night, Saturday night, and Sunday night 'prayer and praise' meeting, as we called it in the mid-1970's, I learned more about that Glory now living inside my spirit. That Life argued with me, wrestled with me about what I believed about myself.

Religion would have me focus on the 'spirit of rejection' and such, but in truth Christ was growing in me from glory to glory, His life quickly confronting and overcoming each lie I believed. Why did I get set free so quickly? Because I saw the truth I had believed in God's light, which showed my 'truth' to be a lie, and once exposed I wanted nothing to do with it. I dropped the now exposed lie like a hot potato and embraced what I saw in the mirror of God's glory and Christ inside my spirit, running as it were to the Father and our Lord.

As long as I stayed in a state of holding onto both lie and truth together I was miserable. But I became so consumed by Christ in me and all that meant, the momentum growing up in me in Christ became unstoppable. Part of that momentum was praying Paul's prayers above not as some religious exercise, but because I saw the truth in them and desired that with all my heart. So even today I pray these prayers for myself as they come to mind, when I feel 'low on revelation', or just to reaffirm my deepest desire to know Him!

I challenge you to pray Paul's prayers as printed above, as they come to mind, and see what the Father does for you - you'll be amazed at the revelation you are flooded with.

### **The Living Word or the written Word, and how do I un-believe the lie?**

That is the subject for next week. Until then, blessings, John Fenn

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## The reflected life #4

2013-04-13, John Fenn, [www.supernaturalhousechurch.org](http://www.supernaturalhousechurch.org)

Hi all,

### Who wears the pants?

There were 2 women in our church who were best friends. When separate, they were gentle as lambs. Together, they were the Demonic Duo. Each 'wore the pants' in their marriages, and when they got involved in church things, they wanted to 'wear the pants' in church too.

In fact, that's just what the Lord told me one day during a visitation on a related subject. He used them as a teaching example on how demons get into churches. In this case, He explained that each woman had a demon that got in through hurts in their marriage: Both husbands had been unfaithful earlier in each marriage, and those hurts and issues between each respective spouse weren't dealt with fully and properly, thus opening the door. That demonic influence then established the women being the 'strong one' in their marriages through their hurt, and the guilt-held husbands became submissive and in the 'back seat'.

When the two demons of the same kind got together through the friendship of these ladies, their power was multiplied. He said each woman had been members of a church where the pastor had committed adultery, and the spirits influencing these 2 women drew a link through the adultery in their church to try to 'wear the pants' in any future church they'd be a part of, as it had done in their marriages. But because our marriage (Barb and I) was in proper order, those spirits were stopped in our church, and it made them angry.

He then told me they were going to do much harm to the people in our church, those spirits seeking to destroy it if they couldn't run it. But of the women He said this: They will speak lies and accusations against you (Barb and me) but pay them no heed, for their issue is with me, not you. I've been trying to get them to grow in Me for years, yet they have chosen at each turn to remain babies. I will deal with them."

Later, these two ladies approached me about being in charge of the women's ministry instead of Barb, but we said no. Then they wanted me to kick a couple off the worship team and replace them with themselves. I said no. They ended up taking the church directory and calling each person stating their case for being in charge of the women's ministry and on the worship team, splitting the church. Very shortly they started their own church, but some who went reported back to me that it had a wrong spirit about it, and they tried to flow in the gifts of the Spirit, but it was counterfeit and manipulation. Their 'church' soon folded.

### 10th church or fellowship

In our church at the same time was a couple who led our outreach to the migrant population. Being fluent in Spanish and gifted in guitar and song, they loved going to areas of migrant housing to sing, walk door to door asking if anyone was sick or needed prayer, and preaching. They loved the people and were very giving.

This couple was affected by these ladies when they called everyone in the Directory, making them waver between staying with us or leaving. In another visitation, part 2 of how demons get into churches, the Lord told me this about them: "Yours is the 10th church or fellowship they've attended over the years. Yet with each one they have found fault and a reason to be in strife, and rather than grow up in Me, they leave."

"My grace has come to an end with them and this is their last chance. If they choose to leave your church they will wander this valley the rest of their days never finding a place (church) for their foot to settle. And while they may continue in ministry on their own, they will know it is not being done in Me but in their flesh. And know this; Their problem is with Me, not with you, no matter their excuses, so be prepared."

### Who are you wrestling with?

Who were these people really wrestling with? Jesus and His efforts to get them to grow up, that's Who.

When Jesus endured about 3 1/2 years of constant argument with the religious leaders of His day, they wrestled with Jesus and His Words. And though he loved his possessions, wasn't the core wrestling of the rich young ruler with Jesus and His Word of invitation to join Him? Are we any different today?

"So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into Him** who is the Head, into Christ. (Ephesians 4:14-15)

When I was a fast growing teenager mom had a hard time keeping me in shoes. My wrestling wasn't with the too

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small shoes, but rather my big feet. (and how to handle my growth). The shoes are like demons - they aren't the issue. They didn't keep me from growing. The issue was me growing and out growing 'old things' as my body grew. Christ is growing within us, all we have to do is cooperate and make the often difficult decision to grow as a person in Him. Then the old things drop away, demons find no more place and leave, old habits are forgotten as New Life takes over.

#### **Test or prove?**

When Genesis 22:1 says 'The Lord God did test Abraham', it means 'prove'. He commanded him to offer Isaac to prove what was in Abraham's heart. In a dramatic illustration of "What is loosed on earth is loosed in heaven", by covenant it was required that Abraham loose through sacrifice his son of promise from earth that the Father might loose through sacrifice His Son of Promise from heaven, which Abraham understood.

And be not conformed to this world: But be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2

Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith: prove yourselves. II Corinthians 13:5  
 But let everyone prove his own life, and then he will have rejoicing in himself, and not in others. Galatians 6:4

When Abraham and Sarah were told by the Lord that they would have a son who would come from their own bodies, they each laughed in His face. They wrestled with God's promise to them, and in a humorous response to their laughter, He commanded their son be named Laughter - which is what Isaac means.

#### **Un-believe that lie**

In all my years walking with the Lord I've noticed those who are continually focused on demons never grow up into maturity in Christ. You renew acquaintance with them after a year has gone by, and they are in the same spiritual rut, unchanged. Rather than looking into the Glory of Christ within them, they are always either looking outside to a demon behind every reason they can't grow, or over their shoulder at demons in their own or their family's past that in their mind, prevents them from growing in Christ.

By contrast, those who are consumed with this Life in Christ, living the reflected life, this amazing thing He has done living inside us, giving us the ability to do all things through Christ who strengthens us - have their lives changed because they are consumed by Him within - they are the ones who grow into maturity.

#### **Today we have a conference**

Today we seek formulas; in the Bible they sought God. Fall in love with the Father and Jesus more than you love the lie, and you'll soon, perhaps gradually even, un-believe the lie by getting to know Love. Spend the time and expend the effort needed to know the Father and our Lord as a lifestyle, not a project. Build a relationship with the Father from within, talk to Him at every occasion - ask 'What do you think of what they said Father?' and 'What do you think about that Father?' and 'Thanks for a beautiful morning Father' and 'Good morning Father, do you have anyone you want me to pray for?' and such - initiate the conversation.

I passed a threshold years ago in my battle with temptations. I didn't say I am perfect, I said I passed a threshold. For years I viewed temptation the standard 'Word of faith' way which goes like this: "Jesus quoted the Word against the devil, so that's all you need to do."

I wish it were that easy, but it does no good quoting the Word if hiding behind that Word is a flesh that still likes to sin.

I hated that grievance, that guilt, that sense of 'here I go again' after sin. One day I realized I loved the fellowship with Him more than I loved the sin. Out of my mouth came, 'Why should I sin and break this wonderful fellowship I have with the Father, and grieve my spirit?'

That was a turning point for me - I had looked into the mirror and saw what I could become. Truly the Mirror is the same, but our reflection changes from glory to glory as we continue therein, by the Spirit.

New series next week: The Holy Spirit. Until then, blessings,  
 John Fenn

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