

## Traditional Home service Sunday 23rd October

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

### PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.  
Amen.*

### PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (*Praise to the Lord*)

READINGS - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 3:1-8

### TALK

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 2 (*I Am a New Creation*)

### CONCLUSION

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## HYMNS TO USE

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,  
join me in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;  
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriends you.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.  
Let the Amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

I Am a New Creation,  
No more in Condemnation,  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.

My Heart is Overflowing,  
My Love just keeps on Growing,  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.

And I will Praise You, Lord,  
Yes, I will Praise You, Lord,  
And I will Sing of all that You have done.

A Joy that knows no limit,  
A Lightness in My Spirit  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.

And I will Praise You, Lord,  
Yes, I will Praise You, Lord,  
And I will Sing of all that You have done.

A Joy that knows no limit,  
A Lightness in My Spirit  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.  
Here in the Grace of God, I stand.

Sermon - Adrian Morton

Understanding why sin is still an issue...  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 & John 3:1-8

“Being born again doesn’t take away sinful desires at once.”

How many of us know that to be true?

What I want to do in this 30mins is to look at why that is.  
Why we continue to have sinful desires.

Because if we know why, then it’ll position us to be able to better deal with them. Because the Lord has given us a way.

And to understand why, we need to understand what happens when we are born again- what changes.

And what doesn’t happen or what doesn’t change when we are born again.

And to understand that we need to go back to the beginning, to the Garden of Eden and to the Fall.

Now, 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says this:

*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

So when we were created we were created with three components:

The Spirit.  
The Soul, and  
The Body.

Gen 2 says when the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, the man became a living being.

The breath of life is man’s spirit.. when that touched his body, man became a living soul.

So our bodies give us our world consciousness  
Through the senses, we see, hear, taste, touch, smell...

Our souls give us self consciousness, our personality.  
Our souls contains our intellect (mind), or will (decision making) and our emotions.

And our spirit gives us our God consciousness.

And contains our intuition, our conscience and our ability to commune with the spiritual realm, with God.

God will communicate with us through our spirit. And so our spirit is the noblest part of us.

The proper order of things is that our spirit would govern the body through the soul.

Imagine the spirit as the master.  
The soul as steward.  
The body as the servant.

So the Master gives orders privately to the steward, who in turn transmits them openly to the servant.

Before the Fall, that is what happened.  
The spirit governed the soul and the soul gave its consent because it has the power to choose...

But that was the correct order of things...

Now what happened in the Garden of Eden...?

It says:

Read Gen 2:9 & 16...

The original purpose of God, was that our spirits should receive, take in and experience the substance of God’s life.

I believe the Lord wanted Adam to eat of the tree of life.  
Which also represented dependance.

If Adam had done that.

God’s own uncreated life would have entered his spirit, permeate his soul, and translate his body into incorruptibility.

Eternal life!

God was offering his uncreated life to Adam.

And God knew if Adam chose to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, man’s soul life would be so stimulated that his spirit would be stifled.

Man would lose true knowledge of God and thus be dead to him.

We all know what happened...

Adam & Eve chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

This had catastrophic implications...

Firstly, Adam's spirit died

Where once Adam through his spirit sensed God, knew God's voice and communed with God.

Now his spirit died.

The scientific definition of death is the "cessation of communication with God."

It's not that there is no spirit, it's just that it is incapacitated, unable to commune with God.

The spirit lost its power and sensation.

Secondly, as Romans 5:12 says, Sin entered the world and Adam's soul and body are bent towards Sin and became enslaved to it.

And fallen man became governed by the soul and body.  
Walking in response to their desires, enslaved by sin.

So either a person's soul will control him and he lives a life of ideas and imagination.

Or the lusts and habits of the body stimulate him and reduce his soul to a servant.

Fallen man being governed by the soul and body, the bible calls 'flesh' or our sinful nature.

This is what everyone inherits from their parents.

In John 3, when Jesus says: "flesh gives birth to flesh", he's not just referring to physical birth.

He's referring to this state of affairs that has been inherited from Adam.

That our spirit, while still there, we still have intuition and conscience, it is dead to God.

And our nature is bent towards sin and enslaved by it.

What then happens when we are born again:

The Holy Spirit comes and breathes life into our own spirits.

We become a new creation, our spirits once again able to commune with God.

Actually we receive something Adam never received, God's uncreated life comes and dwells within us by His Holy Spirit.

So we share in the divine nature as it says in 2 Peter 1:4.

We become alive to the desires of God.

The Holy Spirit now rules our spirit which in turn equipped to regain control over the soul.

And through the soul to govern the body.  
The spirit, soul and body are restored to God's original intention.

We are also united with Christ in baptism.

Roman's 6 says we died with Christ.

Understanding the cross is crucial to understanding what happens when we are born again.

On the cross Jesus suffered in body, soul and spirit.  
Sin itself was judged, condemned and the penalty paid.

By faith we are joined to Him.  
His death is regarded as our death.

So Sin itself and our sins are judged, condemned and the penalty paid.

Therefore the power of Sin has been broken.  
And in that respect we are free from Sin.  
No longer slaves to it.

Once born again, we cannot be unborn.

Like we cannot be physically unborn.  
We can't be spiritually unborn.

<Talk about no need to be baptised twice...>

And let's remind ourselves we are born again simply by believing on the Lord Jesus.

That's the only criteria.  
Do you want to know whether you are born again - well do you believe in Jesus?

We have to exercise faith.. that we reckon Jesus' death to be our death.

We reckon the resurrection of Jesus as our own resurrection into new life, spiritual life.

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Notice though what doesn't happen when we are regenerated...

Whilst new birth imparts God's life to our spirits.  
It doesn't touch our soul and bodies.

Our soul, our mind, will and emotions are unaffected by being born again,  
Our body is not affected by being Born again.

Also, Sin is still around and still has power.

Whilst we are not enslaved by it, it is still there.

And if we have lived a life whereby we have sinned greatly and often.

Our souls and bodies will still be bent toward sin.

And the enemy, or even ourselves can allow it to stimulate our body.  
Primarily sin's temptation will come via our bodies.

What we see, hear, touch, taste or smell....

Our flesh, our sinful nature, that part of us where our souls want to still be in charge and the sins of our bodies...

That remains as corrupt in those who are born again as in those who are not.

That hasn't be altered or transformed at all.

So what is the solution?

We know the title of this talk is true.  
We know being born again doesn't take away sinful desires.

Both Romans Galatians spell this out...

Galatians 5:16-17; 24-25

### **SLIDE**

The key of course is to walk by the Holy Spirit...

## **1. Know we cannot alter or tame the flesh**

**Firstly**, we need to know that our flesh cannot be changed, improved or bettered.

<Talk about desert father's... that approach is all futile!>

How many of us have tried in our own strength to beat some sin.  
I'll try harder next time..

Maybe we avoid certain situations.

And it works for a while.. but only for a while.

Before we succumb again.

We are not called to try and tame the flesh.  
God does not try and alter man's flesh.

In stead he gives us new life in order to help us put it to death!  
Or render it powerless.

So **Secondly**, Have faith in the work of the cross.

It goes back to Romans 6 and what we said earlier:

That we died with Christ.

On the cross Jesus suffered in body, soul and spirit.  
Sin itself was judged, condemned and the penalty paid.

By faith we are joined to Him.  
His death is regarded as our death.

So Sin itself and our sins are judged, condemned and the penalty paid.  
Therefore the power of Sin in our lives has been broken.

We may feel that our experience is different to that.  
Particularly if we wrestle with a certain weakness in our lives.

But the first step is to believe the Word of God.

And that says we have died with Christ.  
The power of Sin is broken.

That is our position in Christ.

And thirdly therefore, we have to apply the work of the cross daily.

or as our Galatians 5:24 verse says:

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

So this is about taking allowing the Holy Spirit to take what has happened to us on the cross and applying it in our daily lives.

The Holy Spirit will administer the cross to us...

So when sin stirs.

Whereas before our old self would consent and drive our body to sin.

Now with the indwell Spirit we are able to apply the work of the cross...

Sin has been judged, condemned, & the penalty paid - it has no power therefore, we have to apply that truth whenever sin starts to stir with in our bodies.

So we require faith and obedience to walk by the Spirit.

If I look back at my life, the times when I have succumbed to Sin, I know I have either forgotten the finished work of the cross.

That the power of Sin has been broken.

Or I have failed to apply the work of the cross when sin stirs in my body.

Romans 6 puts it similarly:

"Know that our old self was crucified"

That's faith.

And later on it says: "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God".

That's obedience.

Some final thoughts...

Galatians 5 talks about a struggle going on between our sinful desire and the Holy Spirit.

If you are aware of that struggle, be encouraged, it is evidence that you are born again, regenerated!

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Very finally, we've talked mainly about how to be delivered from sin.

Sin primarily comes through our bodies.

What the basic necessities of our bodies:

Nourishment - and sin has twisted that into greed.

Reproduction - sin has twisted that into lust.

Defense - sin has twisted that into self defense - temper, anger, strife.

Yet, a mature Christian isn't someone who has successfully been delivered from the sins of the body.

That is just the first step.

There is a whole, and bigger area, that we haven't even began to look at.

Walking by the Spirit is not only not committing sin, but also not allowing self (our soul life) to govern, to reign.

The proper order of things, if you remember is that the spirit should govern the soul and in turn the body.

God wants His uncreated life, the Holy Spirit to so infuse our spirits that our souls and bodies are back in their rightful position.

Ultimately led by His Spirit.

What did Jesus say:

"deny yourself"

"unless you abide in me, you can do nothing."

Self can be very respectable, helpful and lovely. It may even produce many good works.

We can study the bible, worship, go to church all motivated by self...

In John 6:63 he says:

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing!"

'Self' needs to be put to death, rendered powerless as well..

but that is a whole other subject!

Amen!