

# The Cross and the Flesh, 2 of 3

by Stephen Kaung

*The speaker explains that the flesh is a complex concept that can refer to the physical body, the unregenerated man, or the old Adamic nature, and that we need to grow out of the old life and grow in Christ Jesus.*

**Duration:** 1:17:00

**Scripture:** Romans 7:14, Romans 7:18, 1 Corinthians 3:1, Galatians 5:24, Ephesians 4:18

**Topics:** "Flesh"

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the concept of living according to the flesh versus living according to the spirit. He uses the illustration of grafting to explain how our sinful nature can be transformed through faith in Jesus. By believing in Jesus, our sins are washed away by his shed blood, and our dead spirit is quickened into new life. We are born again and receive the life of God, with Christ dwelling in our new spirit. The preacher emphasizes the importance of recognizing the symptoms of living according to the flesh, such as unbelief and disobedience, and the need to walk in the spirit to please God.

## Transcript

Will you please turn to the letter to the Galatians. Qin w men y tóng f n k i j i l t ài s . Galatians chapter five.

Ji l t ài s d i w zh ng. Verse twenty-four. Dì èrshì sì j i .

Galatians chapter five, verse twenty-four. Ji l t ài s w zh ng èrshì sì j i . I hope as we read it, we will notice every word in that sentence.

W p àngw ng d ng w men dú de shí hòu, w men yào liúyì zài zhì jù huà l miàn de m i yí gè zì. But they, that are of the Christ, have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts. F n sh j d y s de rén, shì y j ng b ròu t lián ròu t de xié qíng s yù tóng d ng zài shí zì jià shàng le.

We will repeat it. W men zài dú y biàn. But they, that are of the Christ, have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts.

F n sh j d y s de rén, shì y j ng b ròu t lián ròu t de xié qíng s yù tóng d ng zài shí zì jià shàng le. Let's have a word of prayer. N àng w men zài y u y d i n d o gào.

Dear Lord, we pray that Thy cross will be before each and every one of our eyes so vividly Zhēn wǎn men qiú nǐ jīng nǐ de shí zì jià zài zài mǐ yí gè rén de yǎn qián huó huà chù lái that it may deeply touch our hearts Hào jiào tǐ nán shàng shàng de gōng dòng wǎn men and draw each one of us into that cross bìng qié xī yíng wǎn men mǐ yí gè rén jìng rù nà shí zì jià and allow that cross to enter into our very being Hào jiào nà shí zì jià jìng rù wǎn men mǐ yí gè rén de shàng shàng that Thy glory may be manifested even in us, earthen vessels Hào jiào nǐ de róng yào nán gòu chóng wǎn men zhe wǎn qì zhǎng zhǎng xiǎn chù lái we commit this time totally into Thy hands wǎn men bǐ zhī yì duàn shí jīn wán quán jīotū zài nǐ de shǒu zhǎng with man it is impossible zhēn wǎn zài rén shì bù néng de but with Thee all things are possible dàn shì zài nǐ fán shì dōu néng so we expect Thee to do the impossible things shuō yǎn wǎn men qiú nǐ zài wǎn men zhǎng jīn zuò bù kǎnéng de shì to plant Thy cross into our very being jīn nǐ de shí zì jià zhòng zài wǎn men shàng shàng and we give Thee all the glory wǎn men jīn yǎn qiè de róng yào dōu gū gū nǐ in Thy precious name we pray fèng nǐ bō guì de míng wǎn men dōu gào Amen Yesterday morning we fellowship on the cross and the old man zuó tīn zǎo chén wǎn men jīn tǐng dào shí zì jià hé jiù rén Now this morning we would like to continue on with the cross and the flesh jīn tīn zǎo chén wǎn men yào jì xù jīng dào shí zì jià hé ròu tí Now brothers and sisters, first of all, we need to recognize what is flesh dì xíng zǎo mèi men, shǒu xiǎn wǎn men yào rèn shì shén me shì ròu tí What is the difference between the old man and the flesh? jiù rén hé ròu tí zhēn jīn yǎn shén me qǐ bié As you read the Bible dōng wǎn men dú shèng jīn de shí hòu you will find the word flesh is used in many different ways wǎn men kè kàn jiàn ròu tí zhè ge zhì zài xī duō bù tóng de fāng shì zhǎng bèi shǐ yòng Sometimes the word flesh refers to our physical body yǎn de shì hòu zhè zhè ròu tí zhè ge zhì shì zhí zhé wǎn men de ròu shàng shàng tǐ shuō de For instance, in Colossians 2.20 qǐ lì lái shuō zài gā lóu xī shì èr zhǎng èr shí jīn Galatians dàng Jīlǎitài shì èr zhǎng èr shí jīn I am crucified with Christ. No longer live I. It is Christ who lives in me. And now I live in the flesh by faith of the Son of God who loves us and gave Himself for me.

wǎn yǎn jīng yǎn jīn dōu tóng dōng shí zhì jià xiàn zài huó zhè de bù zài shì wǎn nǐ shì jīn dōu zài wǎn lǐ miàn huó zhè bìng qǐ wǎn rú jīng zài ròu shàng huó zhè shì yǎn xìng shéng de ér zǎo ér huó So the word flesh there refers to our physical body suǐ zài zhè lǐ shì yòng ròu shàng zhè ge zhì And then you find the word flesh can mean one substance of our body For instance, in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 50 lì rú zài gāo lín duō qián shì shí wǎn zhǎng dì wǎn shí jié It says, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God zài nà lǐ shuō dào xuē ròu zhēn tí bù néng chéng shòu shéng de guó So we find that flesh is part of the body suǐ yǎn wǎn men kàn jiàn zhè lǐ de ròu tí zhì zhēn wǎn men shàng tí de yǎn bù fèn And then we also find this word is being used as the expression of union wǎn men yǎn kàn jiàn

ròu tí zhè ge zhì nè bèi yòng lái biān shì yí ge lián hé For instance, in Ephesians chapter 5 verse 21 lì rú zài yǎn fú suǐ shù dì wǎn zhǎng èr shí èr jié zhǎng shuō dào You'll find that men and women are united into one flesh zài zhè lǐ wǎn men kàn jiàn nán rén hé nǚ rén jié hé chéng wéi yí tí And then you'll find this same word flesh can refer to man, to yourself wǎn men yǎn kàn jiàn ròu tí zhè ge zhì kǎn yǎn zhēn zhēn rén zhì wǎn de zhì jīn For instance, we find in Romans chapter 7 verse 14 lì rú zài lǐ mǎ shì dì qǐ zhǎng dì shí sì jié lǐ miàn In me, that is in my flesh, there is no good tǐ shuō zài wǎn lǐ miàn jiù shì zài wǎn ròu tí zhǎng méi yǎn liáng shàn And then again you'll find in the Bible the word flesh can refer to the unregenerated man wǎn men yǎn kàn jiàn ròu tí zhè zhēn zhè nǎn méi yǎn

chóng shàng de rén Therefore you'll find sometimes in English it is translated the natural man shuō yǎn wǎn men kàn jiàn zài yǎng yǎn de fān yì bān lǐ miàn tǐ fān zuò tīn rán de rén The natural man refers to the unregenerated man tīn rán de rén shì zhēn zhè méi yǎn chóng shàng dé jiù de rén So we find that

this word flesh is used in many different ways shu y u w men kàn jiàn ròu tí zhè zhè zhè nài zài x du bù tóng de f ng shì zh ng bèi sh yòng And even in the Old Testament sh ng zhì zài jiù yu zh ng you'll find the English word flesh is used in various ways w men y kàn jiàn ròu tí zhè zhè zhè zài bù tóng de f ng shì zh ng bèi sh yòng It may refer to the body huò zhe zh zhe sh ng q shu You remember in Genesis chapter 2 w men jì de zài chuàng sh jì dì èr zh ng l verse 21 dì èr

shí y jié how God did a surgery on Adam shéng zhéng yàng zài y d ng sh ng shàng dòng le yí gè sh u shù and took out something from him chóng t sh l miàn de ná ch y xi d ng xì l n and then God closed his flesh rán hòu shéng yòu b t de ròu hé q l n and that means that his body is being restored nà shì yì shì shu t de sh ng t yòu dé zhu de hu fù and after God led Eve to Adam d ng shéng b xià w dài dào y d ng miàn q n Adam looked at her and said this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh y d ng kàn zhe t zhì shu zhè shì w g zh ng de g ròu zh ng de ròu In other words, it is part of the human body huàn yán zhè zhè n i shì rén sh ng t zh ng de y bù fèn and then in verse 25 rán hòu zài èr shí w jié l they are united into one flesh, unity t men lián hé chéng wéi

y tí, chéng wéi y le and then when you come to Genesis chapter 6 rán hòu w men kàn jiàn zài chu ng shì jì dì liù zh ng l miàn in verse 3 zài dì s n jié zh ng man have sinned so much rén shì rú ch de fàn le zuì that God said my spirit will not strive anymore with man shén jù shu w de lín bù zài y rén xi ng zh ng le because man has become flesh y n wèi rén biàn chéng le ròu t in other words, man's spirit was dead huàn yán zh rén de lín sh le and it remains the soul and the body nè me liú xià lái le zhè jiù shì hún hé sh ng t he doesn't have the Holy Spirit t jiù méi y u le shèng lín le and his whole life is governed by his soul and his body t zh ng gè de sh ng míng shì bèi t de hún hé sh ng t lái gu n l now dear brothers and sisters shu y q ng ài de dì xi ng z mèi men

this morning when we talk about this matter of the flesh j n nián z o chéng d ng w men ji ng dào ròu t zhè jiàn shì de shí hòu we limit ourselves to one meaning w men b zì j xiàn zhì zài y gè yì yì shàng and that is the unregenerated man nà jiù shì méi y u chóng sh ng de rén a man that is motivated by his soul and body jiù shì y gè j n j n bèi t de hún hé sh ng t su tu dòng de rén without the Holy Spirit ér méi y u shèng lín so this is the flesh that we will be talking about zhè shì w men yào tán lùn de nèi gè ròu t now what is the difference between the old man and the flesh nè me jiù rén hé ròu t zh ji n de q bié shì shén me ne the old man is a corporate man jiù rén shì y gè tu n t de rén in other words, the old man is Adam and all who are in Adam huàn yán zh , nè jiù

rén lái shì y d ng hé su y u zài y d ng l miàn de rén and the flesh is referred more or less to the personal individual being ér ròu t t zh de shì gè rén de gè bié de yí gè rén when you talk about the old man d ng w men tán dào jiù rén de shí hòu we touch the objective truth w men m dào de n i shì nà kè gu n de zh n l that is to say, in the old man every one of us who were born of Adam were there nà jiù yì wèi zhè shu zài zhè gè jiù rén l miàn fán shì chóng y d ng ér sh n de d u zài l miàn but thank God, Christ is the last Adam dàn shì g n xiè shén, j d n i shì nà mò hòu de y d ng so when he was crucified on the cross and died shu d ng t zài shí zhì jià shàng bèi dǐng shí de shí hòu you and I and every one of us who believe in the Lord Jesus we died in Him and with Him

n hé w jiù shì shu y u xi ng xìng y sh j d de rén d u zài t l miàn y t y tóng sh le you do not personally experience that death w men wèi gè bié de q j ng lì nài gè sh because you were already dead before you were born y n wèi zài w men hái m n ch sh n de shí hòu w men y j ng zài t l miàn sh le you were dead in Christ Jesus w men zài j d y sh l sh le because He was the last Adam and the second man y n wèi t n i shì n i mò hòu de y d ng y shì n i dì èr gè

rén so this refers to the objective truth it is something that we must believe and as we believe and receive it we find that it is ours but when you talk about the flesh you will find that it is more or less emphasizes the subjective side that is to say something that we will experience ourselves so in

one sense the old man and the flesh are one shu y zài y n miàn yì yì lái jìng jiù rén hé ròu t shì y but in another sense you find that these are the two sides of one thing dàn shì líng wèi y n miàn lái jìng t yù shì y jiàn shì qíng de líng miàn so when we talk about what Christ has done for us shu y d ng w men jìng dào j d wèi w men sh u wán chéng de on the cross our old man was crucified with Him zài shí zhì jià shàng w men de jiù rén y t tóng dìng le and remember the old man is always in singular number in other words there is only one old man that is Adam and all of us are in that Adam so when Christ was crucified shu y d ng j d bèi dìng sh de shí hòu that old man, Adamic race was terminated in His crucifixion nèi ge jiù rén jiù shì y d ng de zhú lài zài t

bèi dìng sh de shí hòu jiù sh le and therefore we can reckon that we were dead to sin in Christ Jesus and alive to God in Christ Jesus shu y w men k y zài y sh j d l miàn shuàn zhì j xiàng zhè zuì shì sh de zài j d l xiàng zhè shén shì huó zhè there is nothing more simple than this accounting méi y u b zhè ge gèn jì n d n de kuài jì yuán zé le because you have a fact there y n wèi zài nèi l y u yí gè sì shí an eternal fact y u yí gè yǒng yu n de sì shí that has been completed nèi y j ng wán chén liào and it never changes changes.

And you just recognize it as yours. And it is yours.

Now thank God for that. But then you find when you talk about the flesh, we all are flesh. But your flesh and my flesh are different.

Because the combinations are all different. And we all inherit from Adam. But then you find the combinations are so varied.

Therefore your flesh is different from my flesh. And yet it is flesh. So brothers and sisters, just remember this.

When we come to this matter of the cross and the flesh, we are moving on into the subjective side of experience. Brothers and sisters, after we are saved, before we were saved, our spirit was dead unto God. We had no contact with God.

But thank God when we believe in the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior. He not only washed our sins away by His shed blood. Because the Bible said, without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

No matter what you do, you may try to accumulate your merits, but that cannot wash your sins away. It is through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus that our sins were all remitted. But God is something more than that.

Because when we believe in the Lord Jesus, our dead spirit will quicken into new life. Because our Lord Jesus has cleansed our conscience and made our spirit a new spirit, a living spirit that can communicate with its proper environment, our God Himself. So the moment we are saved, we will cry out, Abba, Father.

Because that connection was made. And the life of Christ came into our new spirit by the Holy Spirit. We are born again.

We receive the life of God. Christ Himself dwells by the Spirit in our new spirit. Now that is what we usually call initial salvation.

In our spirit, Christ dwells. His life is the life of our spirit. And that begins our spiritual life.

But even so, we find that the old nature, the old nature of Adam is still in us. So far as our spirit is concerned, we have a new life, a new spirit. We have the Holy Spirit in us.

But so far as our soul and body are concerned, we find that life in our soul is still the old Adamic nature. And that can be easily experienced. So when you turn to the letter to the Corinthians, yeah, in 1 Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 1, and I, brethren, have not been able to speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshly, as to babies in Christ.

When the Apostle Paul was in Corinth, he preached nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And many Corinthians turned to the Lord. And Paul continued to minister to these believers.

But he said, I have not been able to speak to you as to spiritual. Now we will think that after we have the new spirit, the new life, and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, dwelling our spirit, we surely should be spiritual now. But strangely you find, Paul said, I cannot speak to you as to spiritual.

Because I can only speak to you as fleshly, as babies in Christ. Now, brothers and sisters, even though we do have a new life, we have a new spirit, and the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit. But so far as our soul is concerned, it is still being animated by that old, endemic life.

We are not instantly becoming spiritual. Because so far as the rest of our being is concerned, we find that it is still under the life of the old Adam. It is still in an unfallen state.

And there you find our flesh, our self is still the very life of our being. We need to gradually grow out of the old life, and grow in Christ Jesus. Then we will enter into more of the spiritual condition.

So when we were first saved, do not think that we are instantly spiritual now. We are still bathed in Christ. And because we are still bathed in Christ, so we are still fleshly.

Now, in the Greek, this adjective has a little variation. For instance, in 1 Corinthians 3, verse 1, but as to fleshly, Now, the word flesh there, this refers to the substance, the material of a thing. So it is neutral.

And then when you come to verse 3, saying that you are yet carnal, and this word carnal is another variation of the adjective. But that word can mean the material or substance of a thing, or it can refer to the moral sense, or it can be a combination of both. Now, for the sake of simplifying it, now let us use it this way.

In 1 Corinthians 3, verse 1, but as to fleshly, let us translate it to, but as to fleshy. In other words, it is the material then. It does not include any moral sense in it.

And in the Bible you find sometimes this word is translated into natural, natural man. For instance, you find in 1 Corinthians 2, it says the natural man does not understand the things of the spirit. Yes, it is the same word.

So in other words, we can say now it refers to a person who is a fleshly man. And that means he is a babe in Christ. Now, brothers and sisters, we all love babies, because they are so natural.

There is no pretension. But at the same time you find they are terrible, because they are so self-centered. Even at midnight, when they are hungry, they will cry.

They do not mind who you are. I am the most important person in the world. Everybody has to serve me.

Now that is being fleshy. So when we are babes in Christ, we are very fleshy. Thank God we do not pretend.

Unfortunately, the more we grow, the more we become not very true. But as babes you find that this is what I am. He does not care what you think about him.

And so it is very natural, but very fleshy. Now, brothers and sisters, when we first believe in the Lord Jesus, that is what we are in the spiritual world. So Paul said, when I was with you, in the very beginning of your being saved, I treated you as babes in Christ.

I fed you with milk, because you cannot digest hard food. But that condition should not last too long. We will be able to consider you because you are babes.

But if you remain a babe too long, then something is terribly wrong. After so long a time, Paul said, I still cannot give you solid food, because you are yet carnal. In other words, you are still fleshy.

That old Adamic nature is still dominating your life. You should outgrow it, that Christ may become your life. And this is being abnormal.

So, brothers and sisters, we will endure brothers and sisters who are newly saved. If they are all fleshy, in a sense, we enjoy it. Because they are so real.

But such situation should not last too long. You remember, not only with the Corinthian believers, they are all in that situation. Even when you go to the book of Hebrews, you find the same thing.

You find that they are still not being spiritually exercised. They are still remained as babes in Christ. And they have not left the foundation, and have not pressed on to full growth.

And that will be a tragedy. Brothers and sisters, if you are in your family, when a baby is first born, and when he is in his babyhood, everybody enjoys him. But if after ten years, after twenty years, he remains the same, that will be a tragedy to the family.

Spiritually, this is the same. So, brothers and sisters, when we are talking about the flesh, actually we are referring to a condition, the condition of being fleshy. So, Paul said, you are still carnal.

The flesh is the natural man. It should refer to the unregenerated people. But unfortunately, we find this same term is now being applied to Christians.

Why? Because we act as the people of the world. So, that shows that we are not much different from the people of the world. So, this is something that should not be.

Now, what are the symptoms of being fleshy? What are the signs of the carnal Christians? Now, when you read the first letter to the Corinthians, you find Apostle Paul describes to us, giving us all the symptoms manifested by the carnal Christians. Remember, Paul did not refer to the people of the world. He referred to the carnal Christians.

Christians who are still living in the flesh. Instead of living in the spirit. Now, what are the symptoms? Number one, of course, if a Christian remains in the carnal state, he is still a baby in Christ.

And as a baby, he cannot take solid food. Because he has not been exercised. So, he has to be fed with milk.

Now, what is milk? Milk is pre-digested food. Your mother takes food and digests it. And then, you suck the milk out of your mother.

In other words, it has been already digested. So, you can just absorb it without exercise yourself. So, that is one of the signs of being in the flesh.

Now, we find nowadays, among the Christians, thank God, there are people who really appreciate ministry. They appreciate ministry more than the Lord's table. Because at the Lord's table, we give to the Lord.

What He has given us, we give back to Him. We remember Him. We honor Him.

We express our appreciation to Him. And we serve Him. But when we listen to a message, we receive, we receive.

And we receive what has been digested. So, we don't need to exercise ourselves before the Lord. And because we never exercise ourselves, so we find that we never grow.

We hear and hear and hear. And nothing happens. Because we never exercise.

So, brothers and sisters, that is the one sign of being in the flesh. And the second sign, you find in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, it says, and in the third verse, Are you not carnal and walk according to man? In other words, our walk, our life upon this earth is according to man. What the people of the world do, we do too.

Even what the people of the world think, we too think. What the people of the world seek after, we also seek after. We are no different from the people of the world.

Even though we do have eternal life in us. But that eternal life has not been expressed. Because we are still living according to the flesh.

And then, as you read on, you find there are divisions among God's people. How they follow man instead of follow Christ. I am of Paul, I am of Paul, I am of Cephas.

And some say I am exclusively of Christ. Paul said, is Christ divided? Has Paul crucified for you? Are you baptized in the name of Paul? Christ is not divided. So when we see divisions among God's people, this is a sure sign that we are walking according to the flesh.

And then you find among the Corinthians, there were people who committed fornication to such an extent, even the world rarely sees them. And the whole church thinks nothing about it. They think they are so liberal.

They are able to allow anything, everything. There is no sense of righteousness. Brothers and sisters, and then you find how they love the world.

Oh, they love social. They love to eat and to drink. And because of that, they go to the temple, to idol temple to do that.

Because in Corinth, this is the social time. And it's always being in the temple. And so they say, well, there is only one God.

These idols are nothing. So we can go in and enjoy ourselves. Brothers and sisters, and then you find how they defraud one another.

And even accuse one another before the worldly court. And then you find they just love themselves, enjoy themselves, and neglecting the other brothers. Brothers and sisters, they do not care about the weak brothers and sisters.

They say that we have the truth. So we can do whatever we want to. And knowledge pops up.

But love builds up. And then you find there is disorder among themselves. Even at the Lord's table, some got drunk and some are hungry.

There was no order among them. Even in the exercise of spiritual gifts. It was a display of themselves.

And it is not edifying. And there was unbelief. They do not believe in resurrection.

How can you believe in resurrection if you live such a life? And they are very disobedient. There is no authority, no order. Now all these you find are the symptoms of men and women of the flesh.

And then if you turn to Romans chapter 7, now Romans 7 shows us that those who walk according to the flesh, they cannot please God. Because, as the Apostle Paul says, he describes himself when he was still in that stage. When the flesh is still dominating his life.

You find in verse 14, For we know that the law is righteous, but I am fleshly, I have been sold to sin. In other words, you find sin is still ruling over the flesh. And then in verse 18, For I know that in me, that is in my flesh, good does not dwell.

For to will is there with me, but to do right is not. And then in Romans chapter 8, verse 5, For they that are according to flesh mind the things of the flesh, and they that are according to spirit, the things of the spirit. For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the spirit, life and peace.

Then in verse 7, Because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God. For neither indeed can it be. And then verse 8, And they that are in flesh cannot please God.

Do not think that you can live according to the flesh and please God. Do not think that we can serve God according to the mind of the flesh. Because so far as God is concerned, God has condensed flesh to death.

So, people who are walking, living according to the flesh can never please God. Then if you return to Galatians, Galatians chapter 5, verse 19, Now the works of the flesh are manifest. The flesh, when it works, it is very clear.

You can easily recognize them, which are fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness. I think these three refer to the passions of the flesh. Because it all refers to the passion, the physical urge of the body.

Then idolatry, sorcery. That refers to some of the lust of the flesh. So you'll find in Colossians it says it's will worship.

Because our will is darkened, is against God. It is alienated from the life of God. It is separated.

So you'll find that instead of worshiping God, the true God, they worship the idols. Instead of seeking to know God's will by His Spirit, they go to sorcery to seek for mediums. So it is the degradation of the human will.

And then hatred, strife, jealousy, anger, contentions. And these are the emotional things. And shows that our emotion is all being distorted.

Disputes, schools of opinions, envyings. And these refer to our mind. And our mind is all darkened.

And then murders, drunkenness, revels. And these two refer to how we are so earthly, because we are not natural. If it's natural, it's earthly.

And the word says that they who do such things shall not inherit God's kingdom. So, brothers and sisters, we find that the flesh can be easily detected. Because their deeds, their works, are very manifested.

And we need to ask a question. Since we have believed in the Lord Jesus, have we grown out of our babyhood? Have we all measured by what we have read? Whether it is in 1 Corinthians, or in Romans, or in Galatians. Do we still walk according to the flesh? Do we still serve according to the flesh? Or are we now walking according to the Spirit? And we serve God in our spirit.

I think it would be a very practical question. And we have to ask ourselves. We must go to the Lord and let His light shine upon us.

That in His light we may see light. That we may repent and abhor ourselves. And then turn to the Lord to seek for deliverance.

So the question now is, how can we be delivered from our flesh? This is a very personal question. And it is a very subjective one. It is not like the old man.

It is objective. It is something that Christ has done for us. All we need to do is to reckon it.

And believe in it. But now we come to our personal experience. How can we be delivered from our flesh? And you find the way is the cross.

But it is more than the cross that was erected on Calvary. It is that cross that has to be implanted into our very soul. The objective cross has to become the subjective cross.

The cross of Christ has to become my cross, your cross. Now, how do we experience it? You notice in Galatians 5, 24. He said, but they that are of the Christ.

Now, first of all, we need to remember that we are in Christ. Now, often times, we forget it. Experientially speaking, often times, we come out of Christ.

When we live in the flesh, we do not live in Christ. So, often times, we come out of Christ. That is from the experience point of view.

From the truth point of view, it won't happen. We are in Christ and is always in Christ. So, first of all, we need to remember that we are of Christ.

In other words, we need to take our new position in Christ Jesus. Today, we are in Christ. And in Christ, the old man was crucified.

No longer live I, it is Christ who lives in me. So, first of all, we have to take that stand. We have to take that stand in Christ Jesus.

You know, when temptation comes, what is temptation? Temptation is leading you out of Christ and get you back into Adam. So, when temptation comes, because it cannot touch Christ, it only has the living relationship with Adam. Outside of Adam, he has no power.

In Christ, he is finished. So, temptation is drawing away out of Christ. And then we find ourselves being in Adam.

And if we are in Adam, then sin has dominion over us. So, first of all, we have to by faith take our stand in Christ Jesus. Declaring that the old Adam was crucified.

We were dead to sin in Christ Jesus. And we are alive unto God in Christ Jesus. And when you take that position, when you take that stand, then how does it work? In Galatians chapter 5, verse 16, but I say, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall no way fulfill flesh lust.

Brothers and sisters, here you find the subjective work of the Holy Spirit. Two thousand years ago, Christ died on Calvary's cross. And God has already put the whole endemic race in Christ.

So, when Christ died, the whole endemic race was terminated. That is an eternal truth. You stand on that.

Then the Holy Spirit begins to work. And He will bring that cross, the finished work of Christ on the cross, into your experience. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

He will bring us into all truth. So, after we have taken the stand in Christ Jesus, and we learn to walk in the Spirit, and then you find what happens. You find that the flesh will lust after the Spirit, and the Spirit will lust against the flesh.

And these things oppose one to the other that you should not do these things which you desire. In other words, the fight is not done by you or me. If we try to fight against the flesh, we will fail.

No matter how determined you are, let the Holy Spirit strive against the flesh. It is a battle between the Holy Spirit and the flesh. Not between you and the flesh.

Because you are the flesh. So let the Holy Spirit work against the flesh. And when the Holy Spirit strives against the flesh, you are not able to do what your flesh wants to do.

Because the Holy Spirit will put to death the deeds of the body. And then, you will be delivered from the flesh. So, brothers and sisters, if you turn to Romans chapter 8, there in Romans chapter 8, verse 18, For if you live according to flesh, you are about to die.

But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. Romans 8. 8, 18. Oh, 13, not 18.

Let me use an illustration. It is the illustration of grafting. Suppose you have a peach tree.

And the nature of that peach tree is very bad. And all the peaches that are produced are sour. Now, how are you going to improve that peach tree? You use this method of grafting.

Near the root of that peach tree, you cut off. And then you make another session. And you take a twig out of a good peach tree.

That peach tree bears sweet fruit. So you just graft this twig into the old tree. And then the tree began to grow.

And when it grows up, you find that all the branches will bear sweet peaches. Because it has taken up the new nature. But you have to be very careful.

Because underneath that cut, branches will also come out. And when these branches come out, they will bear sour peaches. Above the incision you have sweet peaches.

Below that incision, you have the old sour peaches. So what the farmer will do? He will watch. Whenever there are branches coming underneath, below that incision, he will cut it off.

And then you'll find the whole peach tree will bear sweet fruit. So that is our story. We are the poor, bad fruit tree.

But the cross cut into our life. And Christ is being grafted into us. So naturally, supernaturally, naturally, you'll find that it will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

But unfortunately, underneath that cut, you'll find branches are still coming out. So the Holy Spirit will do this work. He will put the deeds of the body unto death that you may live.

So dear brothers and sisters, they who are of the Christ have crucified their flesh with the passions and the lust. This is how the Spirit of God will work. This is how we experience the cross in our daily life.

So may we believe in what the Lord Jesus has done for us. And let us obey the Holy Spirit as He works the cross into our daily life. This is the way of deliverance.

Thank God. Dear Lord, we just lay these words at Thy feet. If it is of Thee, use it.

If anything is not of Thee, put it to death. If anything is not of Thee, put it to death. We ask in Thy precious name.

Amen.

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