



Reflections (October 6, 2018)

THE NATURE OF MAN

Genesis 3:4-5 (NKJV): ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.
⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

I pray everyone who settles in to read this newsletter is doing well, and if not, I pray the Father has begun a good work in your heart that He is sure to complete. In those times, life may not look good, it may not even feel good, but if we surrender to His work, it will BE GOOD. Towards that end, I want to share what I just came to understand myself: the nature of man. Here is the excerpt from MY UTMOST FROM HIS HIGHEST that really started me to thinking:

"The nature of sin is not immorality and wrongdoing, but the nature of self-realization which leads us to say, "I am my own god." This nature may exhibit itself in proper morality or in improper immorality, but it always has a common basis— my claim to my right to myself. When our Lord faced either people with all the forces of evil in them, or people who were clean-living, moral, and upright, He paid no attention to the moral degradation of one, nor any attention to the moral attainment of the other. He looked at something we do not see, namely, the nature of man (see John 2:25)."¹

Today, what struck me is this explains why the Father doesn't look at how good or how bad we are, but He looks at the nature we inherited from the first Adam UNTIL we are born again into the Last Adam, Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus) or Lord and Savior!

When the serpent told the Woman she would be "like God, knowing good and evil," it would seem he wasn't just referring to the wisdom of knowing good and evil, but also the ability to decide for oneself what is good and what is evil!

Think about it for a second! If the Woman had trusted the Father, the One who had created her and presented her to Adam, with her life, then she would not have needed to know good and evil for herself let alone to be like God! Yet, to this very day, do we not do the same thing? Even now, I am being awakened to just how much I have been my own "god" in terms of the soil of my heart.

Today, I realized my journey through the soils was primarily about me. It was more about MY heart, MY transformation, MY salvation, MY blessings, than it was about me responding to the Good News of my salvation in Yeshua so He could truly live through me! Yes, I've been transformed in so many ways over these past 13 years of WoW²,

¹ Retrieved from <https://utmost.org/the-nature-of-degeneration/>.

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but now my heart is sad, because there is one thing I missed along the way. The new commandment Messiah gave us, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34 NKJV).

Because I always linked this to Matthew 22:36-40 where He teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, I totally missed the difference in the two, and it is this difference that finally clicked when I understood my sin nature is not whether I do right or wrong, but “my claim to my right to myself.” The difference is that, even in my response to the seeds of His Word, I CAN and I HAVE responded selfishly when my obedience has been for my gain rather than to love others as Christ has loved me! OUCH!

Even now, this brings tears to my eyes, because while I am incredibly grateful and thankful for all Abba has done in my heart over these past 13 years, I am also very sorrowful that I have not truly loved His daughters as He has loved me – unconditionally and sacrificially. I guess you could say while I gave my will over to be able to do what I thought was loving, He now has my heart to do what He KNOWS is loving! And, there truly is a difference! Maybe I needed to get where I am in the journey to be able to have ears to hear and eyes to see what He is speaking in this part of my journey. And, I’m okay with that, because I know His timing His perfect!

So, Abba, Father, Lord and Savior of my life, I thank You and I praise You for this revelation. What I inherited from the first Adam is the desire to control my own life. What I inherit from the Last Adam is the ability to give total control of my life over to You that I may love others as Messiah has loved me! I thank You for opening my eyes to what love really means, and I pray You will bring understanding and clarity where needed to every soul that reads this newsletter. I pray You will pour out Your Spirit of grace to divinely touch every heart that needs to receive this. I pray each heart that truly receives this message will have the understanding needed so the enemy of our soul will not be able to steal it. I pray they will have the grace they need to love You with ALL of their heart, ALL of their soul, ALL of their strength, and ALL of their might that they may be able to love others as Christ has loved them. Father, I pray Your Holy Spirit will convict each of us in every area of our lives where selfishness and self-will exist that we may truly humble ourselves before You! I love You, Abba, and I repent to You for the selfish nature I have unwittingly harbored in my heart all these years. I thank You for the work You have begun, and I thank You for all You will do to complete it. In Yeshua’s name, I pray. Amen!

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