

OLD AND NEW DESIRES

Study this lesson carefully before answering the questions.



A. TWO KINDS OF DESIRES

Have you ever felt a struggle going on inside of you? Often young Christians become discouraged because they do not understand why they are troubled. They begin to think that they are not saved.

However, this struggle is a good sign that they are saved. The good, **New Desires**, that Christ has given them, are fighting against the **Old Desires** to sin.

B. GOD GAVE US THESE NEW DESIRES

When we were born, we received **earthly life**. With this life came **sinful desires**. Read Jeremiah 17:9 and Gospel of John 3:6. When we were born again, we received **New Desires** that are good. Read Gospel of John

1:12 and I Corinthians 2:12.

There is an old story of a princess who had a pig for a pet. Every day she washed it and put a fresh ribbon around its neck. She trained it very carefully, trying to teach it to be clean. One day she took it for a walk. All went well until they came to a mud puddle. In spite of the pink ribbon, the little pig jumped in and splashed to its heart’s content. Just then a good fairy appeared and said that she would give the pig the heart of deer. A deer is very clean animal. The pig, with its new heart, would love to be clean. Of course, this is only an imaginary story, but it is a picture of what God does for us. God does not fix up our old desires, but instead He gives us **new** desires. The old desires are **bad**, no matter how carefully we try to train them. Whenever we give in to them, they will cause us to sin.



C. GOD WANTS TO PROTECT US FROM OUR OLD DESIRES

God doesn’t force us to do things. We must be willing before He will help us do what we should. If we want the new desires to rule, we must not do anything to please the old desires. Our old desires are like a lot of wild animals. If fierce animals are fed often, they become strong and can harm people. If they are starved, they become weak. Our old desires will become weaker if we do not think of and obey them.

We need help in giving up our old ways. If we read, believe and obey the Bible and pray, Jesus will help us win! We will often be tempted to do wrong, but temptation is **not** sin. **Yielding** to temptation **is** sin. Sometimes the fight goes like this. The old desires make us think, “Yes, go ahead and do that, mother won’t know.” Jesus reminds us that it would be disobedient. Perhaps He brings verses of Scripture to our minds, and the fight begins. We will win this struggle only if we **want** Jesus to win. Only the Lord Jesus is strong enough to cause us to say “No” to our desires to sin.

A little girl was asked how she conquered sin. She said, “I am a Christian. Christ lives in my heart. When sin knocks at my heart’s door, I say, ‘Jesus, You go to the door.’ Only Jesus can keep sin out.”

D. THE NEW LIFE WE HAVE IS CHRIST’S LIFE

The Lord Jesus Himself came to live in our hearts when we were saved. That is why the Bible says in Galatians 2:20, “Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me.**”

A man had an orchard of small almond trees. He wanted to have these trees grow plums. When the trees were large enough, he cut off the tops and made little slits in the remaining branches. In these he put little pieces with buds on them from plum trees. He tied the plum twigs to the almond stems. The little buds began to grow right in the almond trees. These trees had almond roots, but they soon bore plums. This was because the plum life had become part of them. The almond trees would never have grown plums by themselves, but when the plum buds became part of the trees, they brought a new life.



As the trees grew from year to year, they became mostly their new nature, the plum one. The old nature, the almond, was kept cut back. The new plum nature grew stronger and stronger and bore fruit. So we too will grow and bear the Fruit of the Spirit if we let Jesus have His way in us. He will show us His way as we read the Bible and pray. He will keep the old desires from growing. Each day our new desires will grow stronger and the old ones will grow weaker and weaker. We will grow more like the Lord Jesus.

E. ONLY WHEN JESUS COMES WILL THOSE WHO ARE SAVED BE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT



Some people have been fooled into believing that they cannot sin any more. This cannot be true for God’s Word says that “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (I John 1:8). Sin is a terrible thing, yet everyone sins at times. Sometimes we sin without knowing it (Leviticus 4:2). Sin hurts our Heavenly Father and it should make us sad, too. Let us pray that **Christ**, and not the old desires, will have control in our lives. When the Lord Jesus comes for us, the old desires will be taken out of us. We shall then go to Heaven having only the new desires. With a new body, entirely controlled by the Holy Spirit, we shall be **perfect**, like the Lord Jesus. There will be no more struggles inside.