

CHRYSALIS

We humans are indeed so limited by altitude. We have a hard time getting off ground level, both physically and mentally. We are rooted in the earth, accustomed to the pull of gravity, and very acquainted with that which accompanied us from our birth years. Just as we were afraid to stand up at one year of age, we are equally afraid to rise above the extent of our mental altitude. We like the conditions to which we were trained as a child, and have perpetuated as adults.

Our physical processes are but extensions of our mental; this shackle matures and becomes leathery and tough as we age. If and when we are miraculously born again, our spirit is created anew into the very Spirit of God Almighty. However, we still are driven by the same minds, and the same way of reasoning and sensing. The family spirit that was dominant during our formative years (conception to puberty) continues to play the superior role as to our behavior. We cannot change to whom, where, or in what manner we were born and reared. What we *can change*, however, is what we think and do now, after our spiritual rebirth. Our upbringing and all that was entailed in our formative years are very powerful magnets to our daily lives. We become adults with mindsets acquired from the sum total of all that is our total ancestry and upbringing.

The Adamic nature struggles with change; it conjures all sorts of negative images in our minds when confronted with a reversal of those conditions to which it has become accustomed. New truths, new rules, new ways, new environments, or any new set of variables will set it off. The addition of warnings, admonitions, chastening, discipline, withholding, or obedience to anything other than that, under which it was reared, will send it into a tailspin.

Jesus addressed this phenomenon by using the illustration of new versus old wineskins. New skins are flexible; old skins are hard and leathery. Trying to put a new substance into an old container will not work. Hence, Jesus provided the means, and Paul explained the way to deal with changing times, events, conditions, and most of all, a new spirit within us. The latter is totally unlike the image of Adam; in fact, it is the complete opposite.

The mental limitations inculcated into us as a child during our formative years continue to limit us vertically. We have a hard time accepting, much less employing, any new Biblical truth absent in our training as a child. The traditions of our fathers are most comfortable and agreeable, however untrue, however unscriptural. The way our fathers treated our mothers is usually the way we males will treat our wives and daughters. The way we saw our mother cook ham is the way we will cook ham. If our father failed to enact scriptural discipline upon us as a child, we will fail to do the same. If our parents were Catholic, we will lean that way; if Muslim, then that way; if Baptist, then to the Baptist Church we will go. If our parents did not read nor hold higher education in esteem, neither will we.

If we grew up with our mother as boss, then we will be perfectly comfortable with that in our own marriage. On and on the list goes, *ad nauseum, ad mortalis*.

But, *if* the Spirit of the Living God dwells within us, that entity strains, woos and perseveres in trying to wean us away from our earthly comas and lead us into the Heavens.

Romans 12 speaks to this mentally intolerable exodus from our boxes, by injecting a concept foreign and alien to the entire Protestant regime. This concept is that of being transformed by the renewing of our minds. The word “transformed” here means to be metamorphosed from one state to another. It is the Greek root word from which we get our concept of what happens from the caterpillar to the cocoon (chrysalis) to the butterfly. These are stages from one state to another. That is precisely the supernatural event to which Paul is referring.

For some Romanish reason we are programmed to believe and to behave as if God Almighty will cotton to us as **we** are, and get in on who **we** are, and what **we** want to do. He is not the least bit interested in our old selves, but instead our metamorphosing into the image of His Son. That, my friends, is accomplished only through the *rhema* Word (personal, internal) being inculcated into us and renewing our minds to match that of His. This silly notion that we’re OK will simply not stand scrutiny, nor will it in the least agree with scripture. What we do, and what we are, is bunk. If we do not literally change the direction of our minds and the way we think, it matters not what we do.

One of the Tribe of Issachar

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