

# WHOLE WHEAT

The truth is simple...just simply not known.

A PUBLICATION FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

## God's Nature vs. Human Nature

Once it is understood what God's nature is and that it is obtained by getting rid of human nature, we can begin to clearly understand the conversion process for true disciples of Jesus Christ. God's method is very thorough and requires diligence on our part. God knows that what we diligently practice to be, we will eventually become.

***God makes us perfect through suffering, the same as Jesus Christ, our example, was perfected through suffering.***

This process of having God's nature formed in us begins when we start to practice righteousness for God on a daily basis. We cannot be persecuted for righteousness unless we practice righteousness, can we? Noah couldn't be a preacher of righteousness unless he practiced righteousness (2 Peter 2:5; Gen. 6:9). Once we understand that God is righteous in regard to all His deeds, and that we are, by nature, evil and the most we can do is practice righteousness and allow God to do the perfecting, we can truly understand the phrase, "Righteous men made perfect" (Psalm 11:7; 33:5; 116:5; 129:4; 145:17; Heb. 12:23). God makes us perfect through suffering, the same as Jesus Christ, our example, was perfected through suffering (Heb. 5:8-9).

God tries and tests His disciples until the old nature is crushed and the new nature is perfected (Rom. 16:20; Heb. 12:11; 1 Peter 5:10; 4:12). Human nature will not die without a

fight. That's why you must fight the good fight of faith, and have faith that God will implant His nature in you (1 Tim. 6:12; Psalm 4:5; Phil. 2:12). You will then be a new creature in Christ Jesus (Col. 1:28; 2 Cor. 5:17).

When you have this new godly nature, then you will be righteous in all you do. You'll be like

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**i** To learn more about the subject of repentance click here!

To listen to the audible version (VO) of this newsletter go to our newsletter archive page.

**i** = link to more information

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# God's Nature vs. Human Nature

Jesus because you will be keeping His deeds (Rev. 2:26). When all you do is righteousness, then all you'll reap is blessings. You will be living the abundant life, full of joy and peace, that Jesus Christ came to show you (John 10:10; Acts 3:19, 26). You will understand that you were created to do good works and that the message of eternal life is righteousness (Eph. 2:10; John 8:51).

***'Be zealous for good deeds and overcome your human nature.'***

Satan hates it when you practice righteousness for God's glory because this is how he is put to death in your flesh (Matt. 5:16). Don't let him stop you! Be zealous for good deeds and overcome your human nature (1 Peter 3:13; Rom. 12:21; Psalm 37:27). That's how you resist Satan and have God's nature formed in you (James 4:7; Eph. 6:11, 13). The God of peace and love, who is calling you to this holy Way of life, will soon crush Satan under your feet, and after you have suffered a little, God will perfect His nature in you (Rom. 16:20; 1 Peter 5:10; Gal. 4:19).

***'Start living for God and ask Him for His Spirit, and He will give it to you.'***

Once we are involved in the godly process, God considers us perfect, blameless, holy, upright and sinless. Our sins are forgiven—past, present and future. They are not held against us, but are sealed in a bag (Job 14:16-17).

God's Ways are so wonderful that they are beyond human understanding; that's why you need God's Spirit to understand them. Start living for Him and ask Him for His Spirit, and He will give it to you (Acts 5:32; Luke 11:13).□



**MISCONCEPTIONS  
VS.  
TRUTH**

***"All you have to do is believe in Jesus to be saved."***

**The truth is...**



# Are We Born Evil?



Our Creator says we were created flesh with a nature of flesh, and if we continue living to the flesh we must die (John 3:6; Rom. 8:12-13). What is the flesh nature in man that we were given?

The deeds of the flesh are evident (Gal. 5:19-21). They are evil. Put a “d” on evil and you have devil. That’s what man’s nature is (John 6:70). Man’s heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick, it is beyond understanding (Jer. 17:9).

***‘Even Jesus was born of the flesh with a fleshly nature, not knowing enough to refuse His evil impulses and choose good over evil when He was a child.’***

Man’s nature is capable of doing anything wicked—absolutely anything—while [God’s nature](#) is only good. Just study these Scriptures, and be prepared for a shock: Deuteronomy 28:53; Isaiah 9:19-20; Ezekiel 5:10; 2 Kings 18:27; Isaiah 36:12; Zechariah 11:9; Matthew 15:19, Mark 7:21, and 2 Timothy 3:2-5.

In our fleshly state, we are considered as beasts or dogs (Eccl. 3:18; Matt. 7:6; 15:26;

Rev. 22:15; Psalm 22:16, 20). Man is evil from his youth (Gen. 8:21). Even Jesus was born of the flesh with a fleshly nature, not knowing enough to refuse His evil impulses and choose good over evil when He was a child. He had the same evil nature we have, for if He hadn’t, He could not have been our example of how to overcome (Is. 7:14-16; Heb. 5:8; 1 John 4:1, 2; 2 John 7; John 16:33; Rev. 3:21). Remember, everyone who comes in the flesh is born with a fleshly nature.

Jesus, who created us, says we are wicked from the womb and we go astray from birth (Col. 1:16; Psalm 58:3). We have all seen a child throw a temper tantrum, so we know this is true! No, you don’t have to teach a child to be evil, do you? Instead, you must teach a child to be good, because human nature is not good. In Proverbs 22:6, it says we are to train up a child in the way he should go, they must be trained in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:15-17). This is why Jesus said He was not good (Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19; Rom. 7:18). Yes, Jesus knew what was in man (John 2:25; 6:70; Matt. 16:23).

***‘Our evil natures can be overcome if we practice righteousness for God zealously until God gives us the desire to do good from the heart.’***

# Are We Born Evil?

We were all born with evil natures that must be overcome (Rev. 2:11, 26; 3:5). Our evil natures can be overcome, if we practice righteousness for God zealously until God gives us the desire to do good from the heart (Eph. 6:6; Matt. 5:20; 6:1).

***'...True disciples of Jesus Christ are told not to get weary in doing good.'***

When we are zealous in doing good, God will crush Satan in us (Rom. 16:20). That is why true disciples of Jesus Christ are told not to get weary in doing good (2 Thess. 3:13; Gal. 6:9-10; Rom. 2:7). Then, with God's help, [we can truly be set free](#) from that evil nature (1 Peter 5:10). Thank you, Jesus!

***'Remember, the people who killed Jesus Christ and the apostles were very religious.'***

Consider these Scriptures: John 6:44, 65; Ephesians 2:1-3; and Titus 1:16. Remember, the people who killed Jesus Christ and the apostles were very religious (Phil. 3:2; John 16:2). Many religions throughout history have grown great because they killed off their competitors. In the sixteenth century, for example, over 50 million people died. Those who killed them thought they were worshiping God, (Mark 7:7) however, they still had the rotten natures they'd always had, because they had not been told how to overcome.

***'We must do the practicing and God does the perfecting.'***

Yes, we are born evil! Yes, we must overcome that evil heart and become pure and righteous, living to please the Lord each day by living His Way (Matt. 5:6, 8; Acts 10:35; Rev. 22:12-14). We must do the practicing and God does the perfecting (1 Cor. 3:7; Col. 2:19; 1 Thess. 4:9-10). God's word says if we do not practice righteousness for God daily, we will remain children of the devil (1 John 3:7, 10).□





# The Benefits of Repentance



God has promised many good things to those who repent and live to please Him every day in all they think, do, and say (2 Chron. 16:9). **There are many ways we can please God in our daily lives.**

We please God when we hold no ill-will toward our fellow man (1 Cor. 13:5). God commands us never to pay back evil for evil but do good to those who mistreat us (Prov. 20:22; Luke 6:35; Matt. 5:44). Never argue with anyone since that, too, is a form of paying back evil for evil (Titus 2:9; 1 Tim. 6:4). Living a charitable life, serving others in need and just showing love to everyone at all times, is living a repentant life before God (1 Cor. 13:2; Matt. 25:33-40).

**God blesses us tremendously when we truly repent. If you repent, God will:**

- Forgive your sins (Acts 2:38).
- Answer your prayers (1 John 3:22; James 1:6).
- Heal your diseases (Matt. 4:23).
- Make sure you have food and clothes (1 Tim. 6:8).

- Protect you from harm and protect your possessions (Prov. 12:21).
- Protect you in war (Job 5:20).
- Feed you in times of famine (Prov. 10:3).
- Give you eternal life (Gal. 6:8).
- Reward you double for all you do for Him on earth in Jesus Christ's name (Zech. 9:12).
- Repay your enemies (Heb. 10:30).
- Bless you in all that you put your hand to do (Gen. 17:6).
- Be your friend (John 15:14).
- Perfect you in all your ways (1 Peter 5:10).
- Allow you to live longer (Prov. 10:27; 2 Kings 20:5-6).
- Resurrect you when He returns and give you a glorified body (1 Cor. 15:52).
- Bring you a suitable mate (Gen. 24:7, 12-19).
- Bless your children (Prov. 14:26; Is. 44:3).
- Give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).
- Give you abundance (Luke 6:38; Mal. 3:10).
- Promote you in your career and give you power to get wealth (Eccl. 5:19).
- Protect you when you stumble (1 Pet. 1:4-6).
- Make your enemies be at peace with you (Prov. 16:7).
- Make a way where there is no way (Mark 10:27).

The list could go on and on. [The more zealous we become in serving God, the more He blesses us.](#) Yes, He will test our motives for doing good to make sure we are not doing good for selfish reasons (Matt. 6:1). Our repentance must come from our hearts and when it does, the blessings come pouring down from the Father above (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38)! God's Ways of repentance are truly easy and pleasant (Matt. 11:30).□



## *A Woman of God is a Good Example*

In Hebrews 11:31, we learn about a woman of God named Rahab. Rahab was not, at all, the perfect human being before God called her; but, by faith, she did not perish along with those who were disobedient. Her faith was demonstrated when she welcomed the spies (God's people) in peace. She covered for God's people when they needed help because the enemy was after them. Rahab was a harlot, which was not a good life. This lifestyle is full of evil and curses. When Rahab received her faith by the service she did for God, He completely forgave her and all her past sins (James 5:20 and 1 Pet. 4:8).

Sometimes the lives of people in God's word are so extreme and, as a result, we can see just how merciful God our heavenly Father really is. Rahab's life was extreme, but she was willing to stick her neck out for someone else and trust in God's wonderful promises of love and safety (Psalms 4:5). We need to be willing to do the same as we serve God every day. She could have played it safe and stayed in her comfort zone. How often have I done just that! God forgive me. Thankfully, **God gives us time and opportunities to practice becoming like Him**, and He gives us His strength to overcome our weaknesses of the flesh (2 Cor. 12:9).

God does promise that all things work together for good for those who follow Him, but all good things do not happen immediately (Rom. 8:28). God waits for us daily to see if we will choose to do good or evil. It's like parents watching their children, hoping and praying that they choose to do good over evil. How extremely happy is the parent that has a child who continually chooses good! This is how God and His fantastic plan of salvation relate to us. If Rahab were your daughter and began a new life of choosing to do good and forsake her old evil ways, how thrilled you would be?! God feels the same way about us when we choose to obey Him (John 3:36).

Living the "good life" is our challenge right now. By living in God's Ways of love and righteousness we allow God to change us. **We directly affect all the lives that surround us**, just like Rahab did. The good that we do impacts the precious lives of family, friends, neighbors, and possibly even some enemies we may have. Of course, no one wants to have enemies, but people in the world struggle with jealousy, covetousness, and many other feelings. I have a neighbor who, when I first moved into the neighborhood, didn't like me very much. I put God's principles of love and righteousness into action in this situation, and today she is one of my closest friends.

Rahab was a friend of the world until God called her. That's when she became God's precious friend, and her life turned around. God had a plan for her. **Focus on God's plan for you**. Don't want what others have or wish you had a different life. God can, and will, use you right where you are.

**Jesus Christ, our example, came to show us how to live His way and how to love others from the heart**. He even gave His life for us. Now it's our turn to say thank you to Jesus for all He has done for us. It's time to be a living example of good, in all things. It's time to be forgiving and merciful as our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our lives of love will change the entire world around us.

Would you like to see your family, neighbors, and friends living righteous lives full of love? Pray for God to open their hearts and minds. This is the answer to all their problems. God is making miraculous changes in those around us continually, as well as in us. I am so thankful for His ways of love and righteousness. **Let's live in God's love with His peace and joy unspeakable** (1 Cor. 13:1-13).

*Your Sister in Christ,*

*Karren*

[i For more articles on being a "Woman of God" click here.](#)

# Letter From the Editor

Dear *Whole Wheat* Readers,

This issue of *Whole Wheat* revolves around one of the greatest mysteries of man. It also gives understanding to why the world is the way it is, and why good and bad things happen in our lives.

As a general rule, [humans think they are basically good](#). I've talked with people that think the Bible is wrong, when it comes to human nature. These people, by the world's standard, live a good life. They have a good job, pay their taxes, etc. However, I have talked with others, who have not lived this model citizen life, and they had no problem believing they had an evil nature.

When humans compare themselves to others, it is sometimes easy to judge between who is more upright. However, when we compare our nature against [God's nature](#), that is when we face the stark reality (Isa. 55:8,9). To see just how evil man can be, read the verses in our article, '*God's Nature vs. Human Nature*.' You will be shocked, as I was, when I first read these verses many years ago.

The truth is, we are all born with a fallen nature. Our article '*Are We Born Evil?*' brings this to light and shows what the word of God says on this subject. The word of God does not lie, nor does it change.

When I started to live this way of life, over 30 years ago, I didn't realize how evil my nature was. Our founder, Ron used to say, "You meet your true self going in, as you are going out."

Boy is that ever true! I learned just how rebellious my nature of flesh was, as I began [living to the Spirit](#). Just like a little kid, my nature kicked, screamed and threw many a tantrums when it didn't get its way. I now know that nothing good dwells in me, as [Paul](#) had realized (Rom. 7:18).

The good news of all this, however, is found in our article, '*The Benefits of Repentance*.' There is hope for those who repent of their ways, turn to God and live by His Ways (Jer. 6:16). I, and so many others, [can personally testify to the benefits](#). They become reality when a man repents. Don't believe me because I said it, believe it because you read it, put it into action in your own life and have seen the results for yourself (Mal. 3:10)! Then, you will have your own testimony of how God has worked in your life.

After reading this issue, and studying the Scriptures for yourself, you will understand the battle you are fighting between good and evil - [between human nature and the nature we are striving to have built in us](#) - *Christ's nature* - that we may become new creations in Him. You will know how to enter the good life of [God's covenant blessings](#) (Deut. 28:1-14). Now that you know...what are you waiting for? Let's fight the good fight of faith, so that when the [Lord returns we are ready to meet Him!](#)

*In His Love,*

Scott

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# Understanding Human Nature

What is human nature? It is sneaky, indifferent, evil, underhanded, untrustworthy, double-minded, unstable, destructive, degenerative, unreasoning, uncooperative, competitive, vile and evil in every way. It looks for what is wrong rather than what is right (Jer. 6:16). It sees the negative and hates the positive. It is dark because it is evil and hates the light, which is goodness.

The Bible goes on and on, making list upon list about human nature and the deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21; Mark 7:21-23; Eph. 5:5; Jude 15-16; 2 Tim. 3:2-4; Rom. 1:29-32; Mal. 3:5). Human nature is evil and contains no good thing. Even the good we do in the flesh, is like filthy rags to God (Is. 64:6). The good we do in the flesh puffs us up, makes us haughty and arrogant, and makes us feel that we don't need repentance. All the good we do in the flesh is done for self-interest, or for gaining advantage in one way or another.

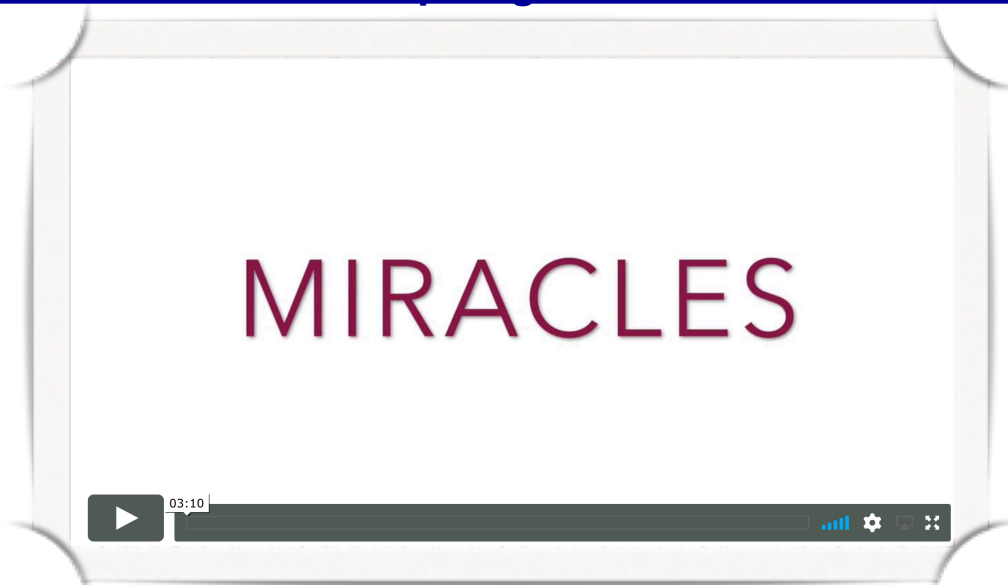


The good we do in the Spirit, however, is the complete opposite. When we overcome our evil natures by doing good works for God on a daily basis, and heed God's warnings to do what we do in secret and not blow our horns, we begin to feel our old evil natures die (Matt. 6:1; 5:16, 20).

We starve out the evil by just doing good for God with our bodies, our minds and our mouths. We force our bodies to do what is right with the power from the Holy Spirit, whom God gives to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

God never made a nature He couldn't crush, but He does need your cooperation, participation and effort to form Christ's new nature in you (Psalm 50:22-23). He wants you to practice righteousness for Him daily. He wants you to put your hand to the plow and not turn back, or stop, until that nature is put to death. Then, God has had a chance to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you in His love (Luke 9:62; 1 Peter 5:10; 1 John 4:18).□

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