



6. WHY DON'T I DO WHAT I KNOW I SHOULD?

My actions tend to betray my intentions!

If you are honest, you will admit that you have suffered personal failures. If you say you haven't, you are only fooling yourself. Every human being does the wrong thing at times, even though he fully intended to do the right thing. Why do you say things that hurt others and do things that damage your credibility and integrity? The Bible gives us clear guidance on this subject. You cannot do what you know you should because you were born with a sin nature. The Bible says, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). The sinful nature which you inherited is what qualifies you as a member of the human race, but it also means you need a Savior. Jesus Christ came to give you the ability to overcome your tendency to sin.

When a person receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, he receives a new nature. The Bible tells us, "Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (2 Peter 1:4). This new nature is God living in you. The new nature is spiritual, but you still have your old nature, which is fleshly: it still wants to do the wrong thing. However, now you have a choice. You can choose to follow God's way and experience life and peace to its extreme fullest. The Bible puts it this way, "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). This does not mean that you will become perfect. It does mean that after you receive Jesus Christ as Savior, you have the God-given ability to do what is right. The conflict is still there, but the divine nature of God is also there to empower and guide you.