



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Ephesians, Chapter 3 (verses 14-21)

Paul's Prayer and Doxology

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Paul's Intercessory Prayer (14-19): What is Paul's posture in prayer? What does kneeling signify? Are we required to kneel when we pray? What is the source of our answered prayers? What are Paul's specific prayer requests? Inner man: who is this? who is the inner man in conflict with? How do we strengthen the inner man? Indwelling Christ: when does Christ begin His residence in our hearts? Is it permanent? Is He residing in your heart? Love of God: How can we be rooted and why is rooting important? what comes to mind when you think of breadth, length, depth, and height of God's love? What can we learn from Paul's intercessory prayer?

Paul's Doxology (20-21): What is God able to do for us and how? How should it impact us?

Personal Reflection: Is your inner man healthy? When was the last time you checked?

5.19.21



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Paul's Posture in Prayer (14)

Paul's Intercessory Prayer (16-19)

Paul's Doxology (20-21)

Inner man, Indwelling Christ, Love of Christ

Personal Reflection: Is your inner Man Healthy?

5.19.21

Paul's posture

On his knees

- Symbolic of reverence and humility
- **Many examples of kneeling:** Solomon (I Kings 8:54), Daniel (Daniel 6:10), Stephen (Acts 7:60), Peter (Acts 9:40) and many more ... **Jesus prayed on His knees** (Luke 22:41)
 - Kneeling is highly desirable, but not essential
- **Examples of standing and praying:** Abraham (Genesis 19:27), Mark 11:25

Prayer Request (16-19)

Strengthen with might by His Spirit in **inner being**

... that Christ may **indwell**

... Be Rooted in **love**

to comprehend and experience His Love

Source of answered prayers (16)

According to His Riches

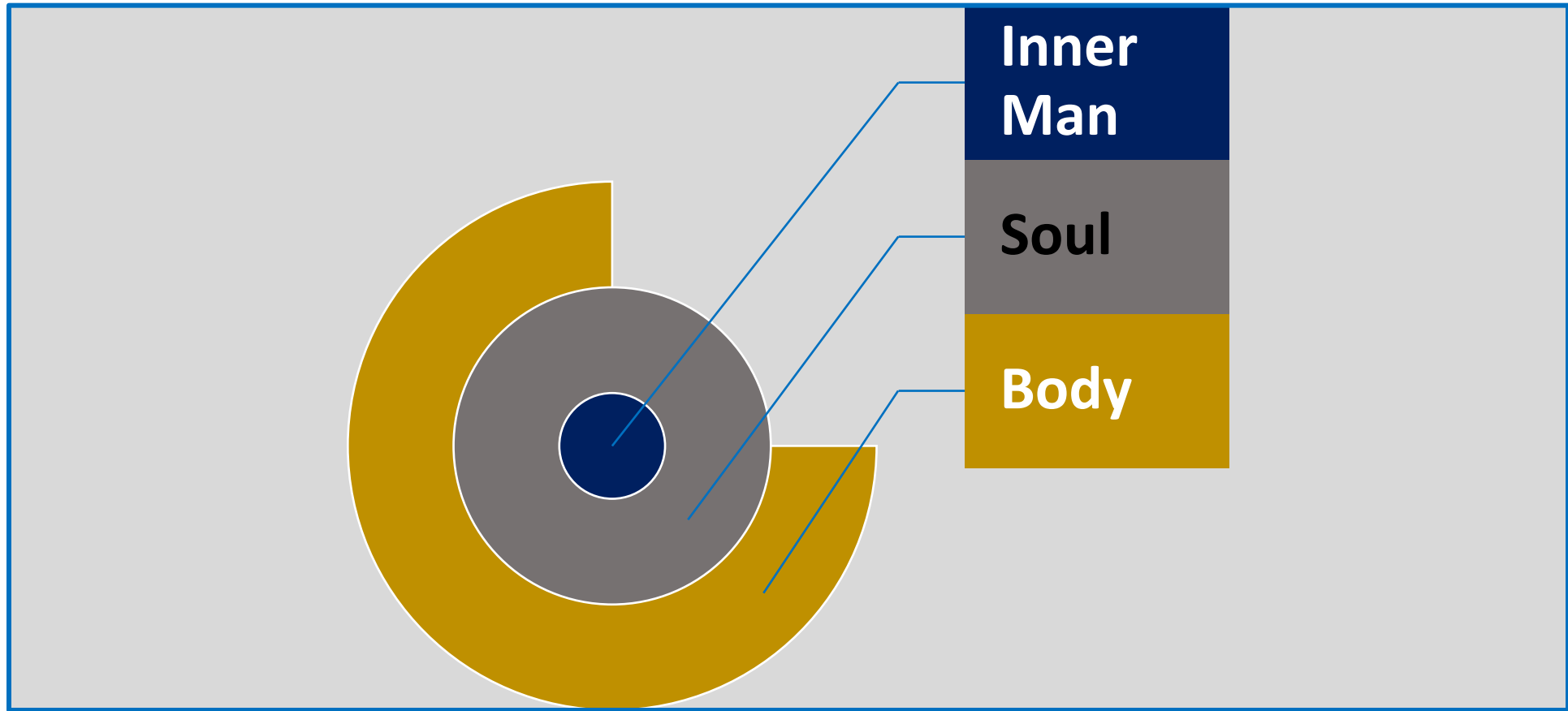
- According = in proportion to His riches
- God's riches are overflowing, abundant, and beyond our imagination
- There is enough to meet the needs of everyone!
- Glorious riches (NIV)

#1 Inner Man Strengthened

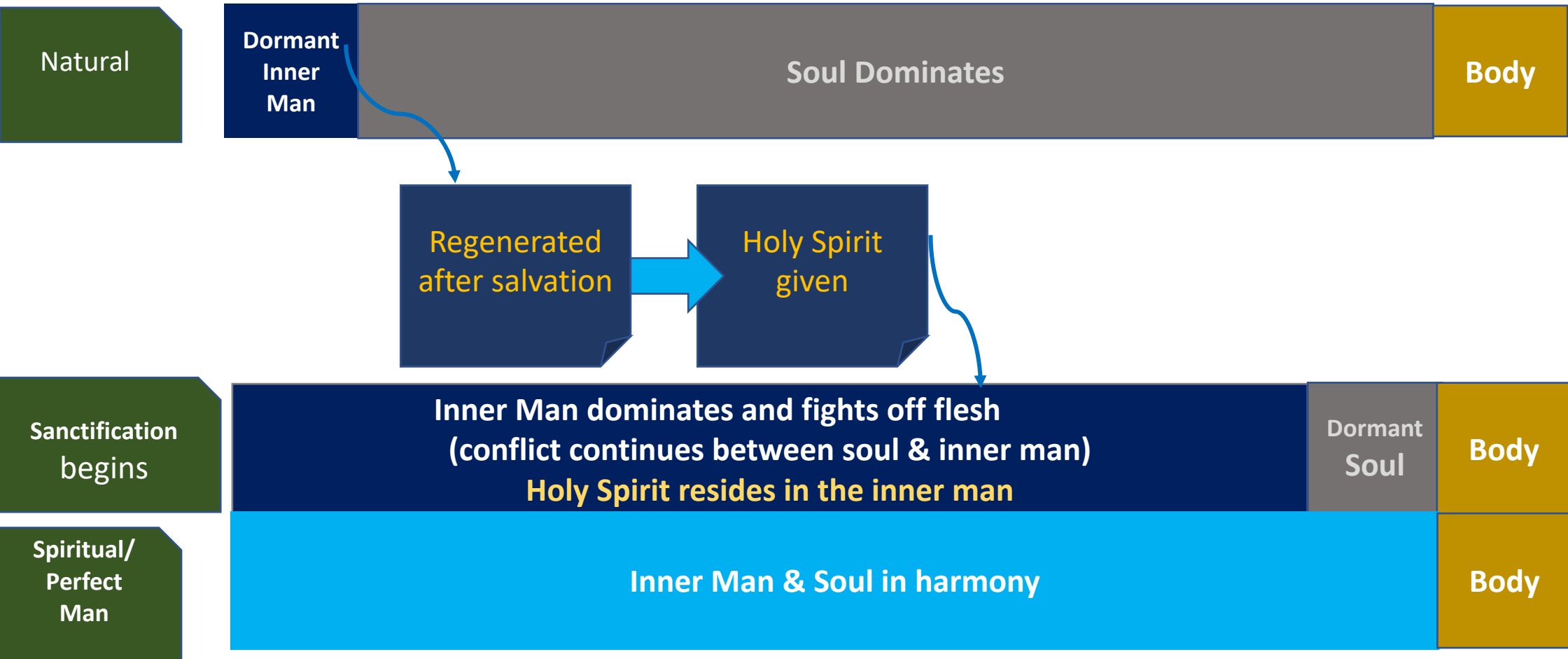
SPIRITUAL POWER Strength in the inner man through His spirit.

We could be strong physically, and yet be weak in our inner man.

- Who is this “inner man”?
- Who is the ‘inner man’ in conflict with?
- Where does the Holy Spirit reside?
- Is the “Holy Spirit” same as the ‘inner man’?
- How can we strengthen our ‘inner man’?



Paul's prayer:
Inner man to be
stronger



“on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness” (Matthew 23:28)

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17) ... what becomes new?

“but though our outward man perish, yet the **inward man** is renewed day by day” (II Corinthians 4:16)

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (I John 3:9) ... who cannot sin? Why does a born again believer sin? How is victory achieved? (Romans 7:24,25, 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20, 5:16, Mark 14:38, Acts 2:42)

#2 Christ would dwell in their hearts

Indwelling Christ in a Believer (Christ enters at time of conversion, John 14:23, Revelation 3:20)

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23)

Holy Spirit did not indwell a person in the Old Testament. Holy Spirit was given as needed in the OT.

- Trinity engaged ... Father (14) Spirit (16) Christ (17)