

Operating System – 10/06/2018

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Gal.5:16

Beloved in the Lord,

The operating system is a vital part of a computers makeup. The operating system is the brains that powers all the programmes and features on the computer. If the operating system is corrupted, then, even if the programme that you are running is faultless, it will not work correctly. Everything is dependent upon the operating system.

These days not only do our computers have operating systems, but also our smart phones, smart tv's and other electronic gadgets. Keeping that thought in mind let us turn our thoughts to man. We are beautifully and wonderfully created beings. David writes:

“For You formed my inward parts;

You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.” Ps.139:13-14

David is thanking God that he is fearfully and wonderfully made. If David knew this to be true back in his day, how much more do we know so today. With the wonderful advancement in science and technology we are able to study the human body in ways never before dreamt of. We see now how complex our organism is, and how everything functions. For example the eye which is just over 2cm in diameter has over 2 million moving parts. The eye can distinguish between 500 shades of grey and can distinguish 2.7 million colour tones. Our eye is only a very small part of the total human body, which God has fearfully and wonderfully made. The sheer complexity of the eye alone, makes it impossible for me to believe in evolution. Only the handywork of the Divine Creator could produce such a complex organism.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made, and yet we all have a major problem, and that is that we are born with a corrupt operating system. It wasn't so, with Adam, whom God created, His operating system was good until he fell, and then it became corrupted. He has passed on his fallen nature to all his descendants which is all of us. We are born with a flawed and broken operating system. Our natural tendency is to sin and not to good.

No matter what programmes we may try to employ to fix the flaw, they do not work. They may be great programmes, but they cannot work for the operating system is corrupt. This is why religion of itself does not work. Religion tries to change a persons external behaviour with its rules and regulations, and rituals, but it doesn't work because the problem is an internal one, it is a matter of the heart.

Martin Luther felt this very strongly. Before he had a proper understanding of God's grace, he tried so very hard to change. The closer he got to God, the more he felt his unworthiness and sinfulness. He wanted his heart to be clean. He set himself to do all that the Church

prescribed: He meditated, fasted, beat himself, performed untold rituals, all to no avail. It was only when he fully surrendered his heart to Jesus, did he really experience true peace and freedom from the bondage of sin.

With a computer, if the operating system is corrupted, it needs to be reinstalled and reconfigured. It is the same with us. This is why the Word of God teaches us that we need to be born again. Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:3;5-8

When we are born again our operating system is renewed. When Jesus Christ becomes our Lord and Saviour, then God the Holy Spirit comes and lives in our heart. When we were baptised we were sealed with the Spirit of God, as God’s children. We were given a new nature. The Holy Spirit took up residence in our heart, but as I have taught before, we need to learn to let Him work in and through us.

We really need to let go of the steering wheel and hand over control to the Holy Spirit. When we choose not to do so, but go our own way, The Holy Spirit allows us too, but then we are operating under the old corrupt operating system and nothing good can come of it.

Paul so clearly tells us this in his letter to the Galatians. As we read these words, let us see that the old operating system is our flesh and the new operating system is the Spirit.

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” Gal.5:16-25

Paul so powerfully contrasts the fleshly operating system with the Spiritual one. I don’t know about you, but I want to see less of the flesh, and more of the Spirit in my day to day life. I want to see less of the works of the flesh, and more of the fruit of the Spirit. Which one will have dominance is the one we feed. There is a great little poem that expresses this:
Two natures beat within my breast
The one is foul, the other blessed.

The one I love, the one I hate
The one I feed will dominate.

There is a great truth in these simple words. The one you feed will dominate.

Our old nature takes on junk food very easily, because there is an over supply. We are bombarded from all quarters with what the world has to offer our sinful nature. It is hard to maintain control and resist temptation.

The Spiritual food is harder to take. We need to work at it, but God has made it easy for us in that all we need is contained in one Book – The Holy Bible. In order for our lives to be less flesh oriented and to manifest less bad works, they need to be daily transformed by the power of God's Word. If we want to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, we must feed our nature with good wholesome spiritual food. We need to feed not only on Sundays and Thursdays but everyday.

It is possible to overeat in the physical realm, and if we do so constantly, we become fat and unhealthy. Interestingly, when it comes to the spiritual realm, the opposite is true. We cannot overindulge in God's Word. In fact the more we partake of God's Word, the leaner and stronger and spiritually fit we become. Our spiritual muscles grow and we have a good and healthy operating system.

Paul is teaching us to walk in the Spirit. We need to do this daily. We need to daily rely upon the Holy Spirit to lead us and to guide us. We need to be praying without ceasing, we need to be thankful in all things. We need to be feeding our spirit with God's Word regularly. As we do we will see a change in ourselves. It won't happen over night or even in a week, but slowly and steadily.

I exercise most, if not all days. Since I have been training regularly, I have noticed that my physical body is changing. I am growing stronger and better able to function.

The seasons that I really concentrate on training my spirit, I see change for good. Throughout my life I have both walked in the flesh and walked in the Spirit. I know from experience which one is better. The Spirit! Less works of the flesh, more fruit of the Spirit. Just like physical training requires effort and commitment, so to spiritual, but it is worth it. May we walk in the Spirit and bear much good fruit for the glory of God.
Amen.

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