

overcome these enemies as we maintain our fellowship with God, through operating daily in His power and by studying and applying His Word.

In the early chapters of **Genesis**, these three enemies are introduced to us in reverse order. First we meet the devil in **GEN 3:1 -5: Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"** The serpent said to the woman, **"You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

Then we meet the flesh in **GEN 4:3-8: So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."** Cain told Abel his brother. **And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

And then, we meet the world in **GEN 4:16** when ... **Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.** We see the descendants of Cain making progress, but it is progress without God. It's progress in the world!

{to be continued}

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THE TEN TREE OF LIFE

THE POTTER'S WHEEL OF PROGRESS



Part 1

June 5, 2016

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST..



BEFORE we begin, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, take a moment to name your sins to God the Father. This will allow you to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as you read this booklet (EPH 5:18 & 1JO 1:9). IF YOU HAVE never believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have that opportunity right now. Simply tell God the Father that you are believing on His Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you make that decision, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God! When you die, you will spend eternity with Him forever in heaven! (JOH 3:16 & ACT 16:31).

The Potter's Wheel of Progress refers to the doctrinal principles which Paul writes about in **ROM 8:28: And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** This means that whether the believer is progressing or retrogressing, the Potter's Wheel is for our own benefit. In fact, many times what appears to be retrogressing is actually progressing!

The Potter's Wheel of Progress is like the principle of anabolism and catabolism. Metabolism is defined as the process that takes organic and inorganic substances (such as proteins and water) and changes them into energy for the physical body. Metabolism refers to the chemical changes in living cells by which energy is provided for activity and action. In metabolism, new material is taken in and digested to repair the waste. Just as metabolism takes place in the physical realm, it also takes place in the spiritual realm. This is how the believer becomes strengthened or filled with Spiritual Energy.

A very interesting process takes place in metabolism. For instance, there is what is known as anabolism. Anabolism is that part of metabolism that is converted for good; it is called the constructive part of metabolism. It takes small cells of energy and enlarges them. Then there is catabolism which is the part that is broken down and destroyed; this process breaks down the cells which could be destructive. The Potter's Wheel of Progress does two things: it destroys some things that are no good and it builds you up – just like Bible Doctrine.

Bible doctrine doesn't always build you up; sometimes it tears you down. That is why the pastor-teacher is given delegated

authority.

So the Potter's Wheel of Progress includes both positive and negative parts. For the believer who responds to the Potter's Wheel, the result is genuine humility followed by genuine brokenness that reveals to the humble and broken believer that his outward man and his inward man are not in harmony or agreement with one another. And so as **AMO 3:3** states: **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?** This verse becomes a major issue in the spiritual life. So, just like in metabolism, it is the purpose of the Potter's Wheel to strengthen the new nature or new man while at the same time weakening the old man or the old nature. The believer who responds to the Potter's Wheel of Progress, by means of genuine brokenness, realizes the inability of old man to submit to the control of God the Holy Spirit, rendering him incapable of obeying God. No matter what you think about mankind it's what God thinks that really counts.

ROM 3:10-18 states: **"There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; Their feet are swift to shed blood, Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."** There is no person other than Christ who is as righteous as God is righteous. There are no degrees of righteousness in God's eyes. We can only have this kind of righteousness when God puts in us that kind of righteousness (imputation). The idea that God can declare us as righteous as He is, is the good news of the gospel. Christians need to take God's special revelation seriously in their lives. Scriptures will show us exactly what we are. We may struggle with what it says but it will tell us the truth. We cannot change our lives without the truth.

The clay that is being broken will quickly discover that the greatest difficulty lies in the distractions and hindrances from the outward man. This is because it hinders him from learning and advancing in God's Plan. Remember, the three great enemies of the believer are the world, the flesh and the devil. They seek to hinder us from glorifying God. These enemies do not want us to apply God's Word to our lives. They desire to enslave us to the circumstances of life and prevent our spiritual growth. We