

# ULTIMATE REALITY

## AND THE RARE DISCOVERY

My own personal recollection of how I came to that RARE DISCOVERY  
And the ULTIMATE REALITY. *Pastor Del Wray*

*“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT.”* Matt. 7:14

*By Pastor Del Wray*

Our nature is that which makes us distinctly human. Our nature is distinct from that of the animals and the rest of creation in that we can think and feel. One of the chief distinctions between human beings and the rest of creation is our ability to reason. No other creature has this ability, and there’s no question that this is a unique gift bestowed by God. Our “reason” enables us to reflect on our own nature and the nature of God and to derive knowledge of God's will for His creation. No other part of God’s creation has a nature capable of reason.

The Bible teaches that God created human beings in His image. This means that He enables us to have some understanding of Him and of His vast and complex design. Our human nature reflects some of God’s attributes, although in a limited way. We love because we are made in the image of the God who is love 1 John 4:16. Because we are created in His image, we can be like Him, compassionate, faithful, truthful, kind, patient, and just. In us, these attributes have been and are distorted by SIN, which also resides in our nature.

Originally, human nature was perfect by virtue of having been created so by God. The Bible teaches that human beings were created “very good” by a loving God Genesis 1:31, but that goodness was marred by the sin of Adam and Eve. Subsequently, the entire human race fell and became victim to the sin nature. The sin of human nature and its sinfulness is a rare discovery. Men simple will not believe God? The greatest discovery is that the Bible is true and I am guilty of not believing it’s every WORD.

I’ve discovered a lot of things in my lifetime and this message is about the greatest finding I’ve ever made. Every day new breakthroughs are possible but this one finding has to do with myself and it has to do with my nature. But very few ever make this discovery. There is one “find” that very few ever make during their lifetimes and failure to do so is the difference between Heaven and Hell. How rare it is in the church today to find a person who has come to a genuine reality of the truth about himself. The biblical recognition and the realization of the truth about man’s nature is such a deadly blow to the individual that the heart of men being what it is refuses to accept God’s estimation of man’s real condition. We will not see ourselves as God sees us, refusing to admit to our lost, sinful condition and we who have been saved are just as guilty thinking we are something when we are really “nothing” but filthy rags or should I say all our righteousness is nothing but “filthy rags.” before the eyes of ONE who is the Holy God. Nothing worthy, we are, of the least of God’s favor. Should it be shouted and known throughout all

eternity, Hell should have been our eternal abode except for the ONE who came and stood in our place at Calvary. It's all because of Jesus that we are not burning in Hell right now. Who am I? Who is man to plead his own righteousness, his excuse before a Holy God who has clothed Himself with the Universe and made the earth His footstool? To plead his case before a God who speaks and the stars and moons go whirling through His ever increasing habitat? What a God! And what a God He is to penitent sinners. Hell surely must be continually enlarging itself to make room for all those souls that are living and dying in delusions never acknowledging that God is righteous in decrying "there is none good no not one." None good! But God! Rare indeed is it to see true repentance anymore in our churches from the individual who from his heart falls on his face before a perfect God dressed in blazing, flaming, fiery white-hot holiness hotter than any ten thousand suns and admitting "I'm wrong and you're right," You've always been right God and I've always been wrong. Such "Shekinah Glory," such love, such holiness for sinners such as us? Who am I, that the God of this Universe would love even me? What a God! "No man ever spoke like this man!" Jesus only said what was given to Him by the Father to say. Do you hear?

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13-14*

#### THE ULTIMATE REALITY:

It is not always obvious how sinful man is? Or how lost man really is? This is by reason of the "cavern" of depravity that is in his own heart and because of the depth of sin that has sunken his very nature. For a man to see himself as God sees him must be by believing the very WORDS of God. This is also true of other men seeing how low sin has befallen each of us. If we could only see how deep the depth of depravity has taken each of us we would only be horrified. The traumatic experience would only have us falling on our faces before His Holiness. Our eyes have been blinded, our ears deafen, our minds corrupted, our tongues set on fire and our feet swift to shed blood. Hatred is at the very root and core of our hearts. From our heads to our feet iniquity dominates every inch of our being and that goes for every one of us. And we refuse to own it! That does not make it any easier to determine how sinful man is, because there is, in every one of us and in this world of men a wont to believe that there is a "spec of good" in each of us, a sort of common goodness. When God says, "**there is none good,**" we are religious folks, morally, good people who will tell anyone we believe God and help our neighbors; we'll join fraternal organizations, volunteer in our communities, give large sums of money and help the needy, the poor. All of which are good and gratifying. We appear on the surface, to be holy and to be righteous; we are certainly religious. We appear to love and obey God, and to keep His laws, and to uphold His Word. And there are times when we think we are the most religious people in the world, as far as the world is concerned, and no one really knows how utterly vile and sinful we are, because of the masquerade of religion, which we carry on so well. But when we come face-to-face with Jesus Christ there goes the facade.

When Jesus came the first time, they were confronted with Him, He exposed their charade immediately and their rejection of the Son of God was seen, no matter what else they pretended to be, it was clear how sinful they were. So the Lord calls them, "**Whited sepulchers, a brood of snakes, evil, vile, perverted, wicked men with black hearts and poisoned mouths.**" He curses them again and again, as recorded in Matthew 23. The real evil of those hearts would

never have come to the surface if Jesus hadn't come, but by their rejecting Him, turning on Him, hating Him, and ultimately taking His life, they manifested the true nature and character of their evil hearts. Are we any different today? No! Ten thousand times no! Human nature has not changed in the least. But still we go on flaunting our self-righteousness our nature thinking we are better than we are, committing the same sin as they did. What deception, what depths of sin has the heart of men fallen? Ultimately, our sinfulness is never admitted.

The one sure way to know how sinful a person is is to compare him with Perfect Righteousness, with Jesus Christ. Right here it becomes apparent and explicit. The sinfulness of man is clearly seen when a person comes face-to-face with Jesus Christ; at this point, there can be no hiding it. No matter what the life is like, it is unmasked for its sinful reality in confrontation with his Creator. The sin issue becomes clear when a person is forced to face Jesus Christ. That is the crux of the revelation of man's sinfulness in the Bible. And even then men still choose to live in darkness, unrepentant refusing to believe they are as bad as God's Word says we are. Sin is the driving force to rid the world of the Bible. It is the power that drives the self-destruction of nature and the nature of man himself. Jesus plainly stated, "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin." Jesus said in John 15,

*"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."* John 15:22

It truly is a rare discovery for man to acknowledge his sinfulness. If we Baptist preachers could only help people to see themselves as half as sinful as we are ourselves America could be saved. We would not be in the condition we are in today as a nation and hell's coffers would cease to overflow. A RARE DISCOVERY indeed!

For the sake of sounding redundant let me quote from one of my previous writings "The Truth about Human Nature": It would do us well to consider and ponder what God wants to reveal to us about our own condition, our own heart!

WHAT IS THE HEART, WHAT IS MEANT BY THE WORD "HEART" BEING USED IN THE BIBLE? First, I'll state the obvious: this article is not about the heart as a vital organ, a muscle that pumps blood throughout the body. Neither is this article concerned with romantic, philosophical, or literary definitions. Instead, I'll focus on what the Bible has to say about the heart. The Bible mentions the human heart almost 300 times. In essence, this is what it says: the heart is that spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell. In the Bible the heart is the term used for the "center of man's thinking", emotions and will. Man "thinks" in his heart, Gen. 6:5, Prov. 23:7. Man "understands" with his heart, Prov. 2:2. He "deviseth his way" with his heart, Prov. 16:9. He "meditates" with his heart, Ps. 19:14. He "considers" Deut. 4:39, "purposes" Dan. 1:8, "reasons" Luke 5:22, "desires" Rom. 10:1 has "intents" Heb. 4:12. From the heart proceed all the actions and motivations of man, Prov. 4:23, Matt. 15:18-20, Mark 7:21-23.

Before we look at the human heart, we'll mention that, since God has emotions and desires, He, too, can be said to have a "heart." We have a heart because God does. David was a man "after

God's own heart" Acts 13:22. And God blesses His people with leaders who know and follow His heart 1 Samuel 2:35; Jeremiah 3:15.

The human heart, also called our nature in the Bible, in its natural condition, is evil, treacherous and deceitful. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" In other words, the "fall" has affected us at the deepest level; our mind, emotions and desires have been corrupted by sin, and we are blind to just how all encompassing that sin is, how comprehensive the problem, the total ruin of man. The deceitful heart! Even in believers "**there is none good, no not one**" we all still carry around the sinful nature, the old man, that dirty heart that has been corrupted by the fall. **The only difference between the natural man and the saved man is the Holy Spirit.** God the Holy Spirit who has moved in and desires complete control; He is the Preacher, the Soul-winner the very life essence Himself. We may not understand our own hearts, but God does. He "knows the secrets of the heart" Psalm 44:21; see also 1 Corinthians 14:25. Jesus "knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man" John 2:24-25. Based on His knowledge of the heart, God can judge righteously: "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:10.

*"But the LORD said unto Samuel, look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."* 1 Samuel 16:7

Jesus pointed out the fallen condition of our hearts in Mark 7:21-23: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Our biggest problem is not external but internal; all of us have a heart problem. It's been said that we all were born wrong! In order for a person to be saved, then, the heart must be changed. This only happens by the power of God in response to faith. "With the heart one believes unto righteousness" Romans 10:10. In His grace, God can create a new heart within us Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26. He promises to "revive the heart of the contrite ones" Isaiah 57:15. God's work of creating a new heart within us involves testing our hearts Psalm 17:3; Deuteronomy 8:2 and filling our hearts with new ideas, new wisdom, and new desires Nehemiah 7:5; 1 Kings 10:24; 2 Corinthians 8:16. The heart is the core of our being, and the Bible sets high importance on keeping our hearts pure:

*"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. In every one of us, there is someone inside of us looking out at the world around them, looking out by way of the eyes of our body, the eyes of the soul. "*The eye is the entrance to the soul*", by which that someone sees the world around them and that someone is the real you, the heart. Actually no one has really seen Del Wray they see the body in which he lives. You've never seen me a day in your life! No you haven't! I'm inside my body looking out at you. Let me put it this way scripturally:

*“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”* John 1:18

*“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”* John 14: 7-10

It may seem contradictory but it's not when understood as a trichotomy. The soul and the spirit are the two primary immaterial aspects that Scripture ascribes to humanity. It can be confusing to attempt to discern the precise differences between the two. The word “spirit” refers only to the immaterial facet of humanity. Human beings have a spirit, but we are not spirits. However, in Scripture, only believers are said to be spiritually alive 1 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 4:12; James 2:26, while unbelievers are spiritually dead Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13. In Paul's writing, the spiritual was pivotal to the life of the believer 1 Corinthians 2:14; 3:1; Ephesians 1:3; 5:19; Colossians 1:9; 3:16. The spirit is the element in humanity which gives us the ability to have an intimate relationship with God. Whenever the word “spirit” is used, it refers to the immaterial part of humanity that “connects” with God, who Himself is Spirit John 4:24. The word “soul” can refer to both the immaterial and material aspects of humanity. Unlike human beings having a spirit, human beings are souls. In its most basic sense, the word “soul” means “life.” However, beyond this essential meaning, the Bible speaks of the soul in many contexts. One of these is humanity's eagerness to sin Luke 12:26.

Humanity is naturally evil, and our souls are tainted as a result. The life principle of the soul is removed at the time of physical death Genesis 35:18; Jeremiah 15:2. The soul, as with the spirit, is the center of many spiritual and emotional experiences Job 30:25; Psalm 43:5; Jeremiah 13:17. Whenever the word “soul” is used, it can refer to the whole person, whether alive or in the afterlife. The soul and the spirit are connected, but separable Hebrews 4:12. The soul is the essence of humanity's being; it is who we are. The spirit is the aspect of humanity that connects with God. The soul and the heart may be considered as one and the same, vile, corrupt and evil apart from Jesus Christ! The real you! Visiting a missionary friend of mind several years ago in Virginia, she was in her late nineties, on her dyeing bed in the living room of her sister's home, after having spent her entire adult life on the mission field in Africa. This dear woman had granted her library to me and we went by to thank her. We, my wife and I talked with her for hours, her mind and speech was clear as any fifty year old. She told us something that I'll never forget as she described the heart of man. She said, “In every one of us there is a serpent that's out to kill us and that serpent is the heart.”

She knew human nature very well. And the crux of this article is just this: We do not know our own hearts! Human nature! We who are believers do not know the depths to which SIN has taken and befallen the Human Race. Our hearts deceive us! We deceive ourselves! The human race is its own worst enemy! And if I've learned anything during the last seventy-two years it's to hate myself. I don't even trust myself

*“The fool trusteth in his own heart.”* Prov. 28:26

*“The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.”* Psalms 14:1

My own heart has deceived me so gravely and dangerously. Ninety-eight percent 98% of sin in this sin cursed world and in the individual life comes from the heart of man. Only two percent comes from being tempted by the world, flesh and the devil. **Only a fool will not believe what I’m writing here!** Let me give you a perfect example and I do not wish to be callas as I write of the most recent death of Robin Williams the Hollywood comedian, who was found dead having hung himself, committing suicide. Robin Williams they say took his own life because of depression. He had everything a man could want, money, fame, popularity, lived in a mansion with a wonderful family. Still he committed suicide; his heart got the best of him. Nothing could fill the void in his life even after all he had acquired.

People, only Jesus Christ can fill the void and empty longing in a man’s heart. Speaking for myself, I’m afraid to act, to speak without the power of God on me and certainly it hast to be within the confines of God’s precious holy Word! Knowing one day I will give an account to Him! I take it very seriously! Let me quote William Tyndall:

"I call God to record against the day we shall appear before our Lord Jesus Christ to give a reckoning of our doings that I never altered one syllable of God's Word against my conscience."

Until we who make up His visible, local church come to grips with this matter of the depravity of heart, human nature, we only bring derision and scorn upon ourselves and His church.

“Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high minded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not Thee.” Rom. 11: 20-21

America is in the condition that it’s in right now because believers won’t believe God when it comes to the condition of the human heart. The poison from the serpent, “hatred in the human heart” has affected us all. It is this reason that God chose to write the Bible and to speak to humankind on planet earth in His revelation through His Written Word that all men are lost and need to be saved! In a nutshell Jesus summed it up this way, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Rom. 3:23.

THE ULTIMATE REALITY is that all men by their very nature are lost and need to be saved. Have you made that discovery?

You may ask “WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?” Let’s let Paul answer that for you as found in Acts 16,

*“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”* Acts 16:31

THE BATTLE OF TWO NATURES

The Battle of Two Natures is going on in the heart of every believer, from the second birth until death.

“When you get saved, it is like putting a refined, civilized man in the same cage with a savage barbarian or a wild beast.”

I believe that I was conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, and that ever since, I have been continually conceiving mischief, and bringing forth vanity.

This article of my faith I must of necessity believe, whether I will or no; for if I could not believe it to be true, I should therefore have the more cause to believe it to be so; because, unless my heart was naturally very sinful and corrupt, it would be impossible for me not to believe that which I have so much cause continually to bewail; or if I do not bewail it, I have still the more cause to believe it: and therefore am so much the more persuaded of it, by how much the less I find myself affected with it. For certainly I must be a hard-hearted wretch indeed, steeped in sin and fraught with corruption to the highest, if I know myself so oft to have incensed the wrath of the Most High God against me as I do, and yet not be sensible of my natural corruption, nor acknowledge myself to be by nature a child of wrath, as well as others. For I verily believe, that the want of such a due sense of myself argues as much original corruption as murder and whoredom do actual pollution. And I shall ever suspect those to be the most under the power of that corruption, that labour most, by arguments, to divest it of its power. And therefore, for my own part, I am resolved, by the grace of God, never to go about to confute that by willful arguments, which I find so true by woeful experience. If there be not a bitter root in my heart, whence proceeds so much bitter fruit in my life and conversation? Alas! I can neither set my head nor heart about anything, but I still show myself to be the sinful offspring of sinful parents, by being the sinful parent of a sinful offspring: nay, I do not only betray the inbred venom of my heart, by poisoning my common actions, but even my most religious performances also, with sin. I cannot pray but I sin, I cannot hear or preach a sermon but I sin, I cannot give an alms or receive the Scripture but I sin; nay, I cannot so much as confess my sins, but my very confessions are still aggravations of them; my repentance needs to be repented of, my tears want washing, and the very washing of my tears needs still to be washed over again with the blood of my Redeemer. Please hear this, the plea of my soul and don't be of the many that never come to **ULTIMATE REALITY AND THAT RARE DISCOVERY!**

Thus, not only the worst of my sins, but even the best of my duties, speak me a child of Adam. Insomuch, that whensoever I reflect upon my past actions, methinks I cannot but look upon my whole life, from the time of my conception to this very moment, to be but as one continued act of sin. And whence can such a continued stream of corruption flow, but from the corrupt cistern of my heart? And whence can that corrupt cistern of my heart be filled, but from the corrupt fountain of my nature? Cease, therefore, O my soul, to gainsay the power of original sin within thee, and labour now to subdue it under thee. But why do I speak of my subduing this sin myself? Surely this would be both an argument of it, and an addition to it. It is to Thee, O my God, Who art both the Searcher and Cleanser of hearts that I desire to make my moan. It is to Thee I cry out in the bitterness of my soul, "O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Rom. 7:24. Who shall? Oh, who can do it but **THYSELF?** Arise Thou, therefore, O my God, and shew Thy self as infinitely merciful in the pardoning, as Thou art

infinitely powerful in the purging away, my sins. Rarely is these truths DISCOVERED or become that ULTIMATE REALITY as so they should. Marking the difference between Heaven and Hell! I'm guilty is my cry! Here we see the battle of two natures going on in the life of every believer.

Within every Christian there are two natures: One is the old Adamic nature with which he is born, and the other is a new nature created by the Holy Spirit at the New Birth. Paul wrote about that old nature.

*“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.”* Rom. 7:18-21

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* Gal. 5:17

This is the conflict between the old nature and the new. Two natures is proof that a person is saved, for only a man who has been born twice has two natures. So then sin is innate in all of mankind, all mankind is instinctively evil.

*“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked...”* Jeremiah 17:9

HAVE YOU MADE THAT RARE DISCOVERY, THE ULTIMATE REALITY?