

# Shedding a Layer

Rachael Martin 2,15,2016

Have you ever seen a burn victim going through the process of healing? I know this is gruesome to a degree to think about so I will try to keep most of the medical details simple, but the Lord prepared this message in my heart back on Friday and then Alicia sent me her message for this Wednesday and the general theme, (if you haven't noticed) has been revolving around denying the flesh, feeding our spirit-man – making sure our soulish desires are in check and Holy Spirit gave me this title immediately as I was emailing Alicia back.

## **John 3:30 - He must increase, but I must decrease**

I've watched enough medical shows to know that when people are in unfortunate predicaments and succumb to the effects of hazardous fire accidents, there is a process with which they have to endure to get healthy skin to grow back as normal as possible if the burn degrees aren't that bad, they have a better chance at the skin looking more healthier than if the degree of burn is worse where there's not much skin left.

If there isn't much skin left in one place, then most likely they will look for areas where non-affected skin exists and they will take skin from healthier places to help the areas that don't have skin. It's called a skin-graft. I know this because I've had this done in my mouth. (another story for another day maybe!)

You may be saying at this point – OMGoodness get to the point already! My analogy of this is that of dying to your fleshly desires daily. Over time, as you do your best to make right decisions – righteous choices – your fleshly desires will start to shed layers and you will start to grow more healthy spiritually. The process of pruning is not too far from that of medical skin grafts because it's painful, the major difference being that one is physical and the other is spiritual.

**1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God**

In order to progress with the Lord, as with the healthy skin talked about above, we need to make healthy choices. Reading the Word is a big one as Gina pointed out last week. It's an inward choice that starts to make an outward appearance as we try our best to do things like speak words that edify and create a healthy environment for ourselves and others. When we flourish and make forward movements in anything it's because we have given it a healthy start. Trying

not to make decisions based on our bad emotional experiences is very important so that we don't operate in clouded thinking.

What does walking in the spirit look like? I can tell you this much – it starts on the inside with love and it ends with love – and when you operate in love, the layers of “self” begin shedding. Some of you may have been on track and feel like you've been kicked down and you are struggling to get to that place again – don't focus on how fast you can get back to that place with the Lord – focus on the way you are getting there. Let the Lord fight your battle and meditate on His goodness and you will start to shed the layers of flesh that tend to get in our way.

**Galations 5:7-17 - You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

**<sup>8</sup> This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. <sup>10</sup> I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. <sup>11</sup> But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. <sup>12</sup> I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves. <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

Friends, we are under the Almighty Grace of a Good God!! I'm praising Jesus for the many layers already shed and the many layers that will soon be falling off!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ-fghqc8Oo&list=PLuNGT91qkpxhcO7X6faECb4RmyJKV1WdL>

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