



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

SERIES: Ephesians

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 1-3

TITLE: Being Spiritually Alive

Do you remember that line from *The Princess Bride*? Billy Crystal delivered that famous line, talking about the hero of the story, Wesley. Crystal says, "It just so happens that your friend here is only **MOSTLY** dead. There's a big difference between mostly dead and all dead. Mostly dead is slightly alive. With all dead, well, with all dead, there's usually only one thing you can do."

Well, the Apostle Paul says that when we're born, we're not mostly dead. We are actually totally dead, spiritually speaking.

This is what Paul says in Ephesians 2, "Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. (Eph. 2:1-3, NLT)

Ask anyone on the street today if people are born good or bad. The majority of people believe that we are good, but over time we lose our way. Paul says, "Wrong! No way! You're bad. You're born bad. You're so bad, you're actually dead - Not mostly dead; totally dead."

Why? Because of our sin and disobedience. But how is that? I mean, "You're not telling me that Lil' Johnny is born sinful, are you, Pastor Nat?" That is what I'm saying, because God said it first.

We are all born with a sin nature. We are ready to sin from the moment of first breath. You see, you don't need to teach a child to be naughty. You need to teach a child to be good. Don't believe me? When the nurseries are back open at church, go serve there. You'll see children with no siblings stealing toys, pushing over kids, saying "No", and running away from the teacher.

So we're born spiritually dead. Paul would go on, to say that we were loyal to the devil himself. So, because of our sin, we are subject to God's judgment and wrath. In other words, we had a big sin debt to God, and God needs to get paid. You see, this spiritual deadness is why you struggle with anger, lust, destructive thoughts, greed, lying, and so on. It's what your heart desires, apart from God.

If you're in a constant struggle with these issues – with sin - you're not alone. Just like in *The Princess Bride*, in order to bring Wesley to "mostly alive", it took someone else. It took Crystal's character to heal him. Well, no human can fix our spiritual deadness. It takes the God-Man: Jesus Christ.

Today, if you've never asked Christ to forgive you of your sins, my challenge is for you to do it. Only Christ can make you spiritually alive. No amount of good works, charitable gifts, or service hours can do it. Ask Christ to forgive you, and give your life over to Him.

If you have done this, but you're still struggling with your old sins, my challenge for you is to ask God for help, and then ask someone else to help you in your struggle. With my hardest sin struggles, I've needed God's power, and a brother to walk with me.

Today, you're not alone in your struggles. God is there and ready to help. Ask Him. Ask others. And then enjoy being alive!