



Inner-Most Feelings—Part II

The Bible has much to say about the soul, how it works and the value it can bring to people in your life. More specifically, since the soul is the seat of your emotional life, from where your feelings originate, innermost feelings come into play in many Word-centered activities. The Greek word for compassion is spagchnizomai. This word is often translated compassion; it specifically refers to inner-most feelings. The root word, spagkhnon, means intestine or bowels. Figuratively, it refers to feelings from your gut. You are familiar with phrases like ‘gut feel’ or ‘my deepest feelings’. These and more have their basis in this Greek word.

Part II continues looking at more usages of this Greek word, beginning with compassion that Jesus had for the multitudes.

Feeding the masses



Mark 6 contains a record where Jesus cared for many people, ones who seemed like shepherd-less sheep. Jesus’ innermost-feelings compelled him to reach out and help. I’ve never witnessed such giving in or around my life; I have seen videos of masses of people being fed in India. The production of food preparation was significant, nothing compared to what Jesus did.

(Mark 6:34-37 KJV)
And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was **moved with compassion** toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he be-

gan to teach them many things. {35} And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: {36} Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. {37} He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

The disciples wanted to send the people away so that they could find food.

(Mark 6:41-42 KJV)
And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them*

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to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. {42} And they did all eat, and were filled.

Jesus had a far different idea; he wanted the disciples to feed them. They were in the desert and it was late. Jesus' prayer released God's power, and there was enough food for all.

(Mark 6:38 KJV) He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.

After breaking them into groups of 50 people each, Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes and fed this multitude. Can you imagine? And all because of Jesus' inner-most feelings. Yes, he had power, but his deepest feelings triggered his desire to act.

Helping unbelief

The striking account of a child being burned in a fire by a devil is taught the world over, yet how deliverance came about isn't.

(Mark 9:22-24 KJV)

And oft times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have **compassion** on us, and help us. {23} Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. {24} And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

The man believed in Jesus but he didn't have enough believing to heal his child. He asked for help. This father asked Jesus to share his inner-most feelings and help his family. That's remarkable. Jesus recognized that the man was learned in spiritual ways, probably highly uncommon in this day and time, and set out to teach him. The man knew about the law of believing, cried and admitted that he had unbelief.

(Mark 9:25 KJV) When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, *Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him,*

and enter no more into him.

Jesus took it upon himself to deliver this child; he rebuked the dumb and deaf spirit, commanded him to leave and to never come back. Jesus' inner-most feelings led Jesus to this powerful act of deliverance.

To give light in the shadow of death

Manifesting his inner-most feelings was one of Jesus' primary purposes.

(Luke 1:78-79 KJV) Through the **tender** [splaɡchnon) **mercy** of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, {79} To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

He was called to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. His inner-most feelings were a primary tool in guiding people into the way of peace. How utterly significant. When Jesus fulfilled his purpose, he did it through God's inner-most feelings. Verse 78 translates

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our Greek word as mercy. Inner-most feelings are not mercy; they are feelings from deep within that compel significant acts of deliverance. God loves us and has deeply rooted feelings for us. His son Jesus Christ also loves us and has deeply rooted feelings for us. It is through Jesus Christ that we are removed from darkness and the shadow of death, and are guided into the way of peace.

Changing sorrow into godly awe

Generally speaking, the mere sight of a situation or a people can evoke inner-most feelings.

(Luke 7:13-15 KJV) And when the Lord saw her, he had **compassion** on her, and said unto her, Weep not. {14} And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. {15} And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Jesus raised a dead person back to life; he changed sor-

row into godly awe. Jesus walked with God, his father. This was a powerful act sanctioned by God. Can you imagine the joy, the awe captured in this event? And, all because Jesus didn't deny his inner-most feelings.

The Good Samaritan

This Good Samaritan was a busy man because of inner-most feelings.

(Luke 10:33-34 KJV) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had **compassion on him**, {34} And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

He was busy binding up wounds, providing shelter, caring in recovery, and providing financial support to a wounded and disabled man. Why? Because of his inner-most feelings. We don't see the manifestation of great power; we see great acts of kindness.

A Story of Forgiveness - The Forgiving father

A story we're all familiar with, normally labeled the Prodigal Son. It is better titled as The Forgiving Father.

(Luke 15:20 KJV) And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had **compassion**, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

The Prodigal Son's father saw his son returning, and his inner-most feelings were instantly roused. I'm sure you can relate to something like this. Have you ever returned home and been greeted by a loved one, someone who cried when they realized you were really back home? This is yet another example of inner-most feelings that did not have significant spiritual power manifested. Yet, the situation provided healing, forgiveness, love and reunion.

Relieving distress caused by unbelief and unbelievers

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We see a direct translation using ‘bowels’ in verse 12.

(2 Cor 6:12-14 KJV) Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your **own bowels**. {13} Now for a recompense in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged. {14} Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Straitened means, ‘distressed.’ Distress takes place in your gut (bowels), and happens there because the soul is the seat of your emotional life. If you are experiencing distress, Paul says it’s not happening in someone else; it’s happening in yourself. Enlarged also means distressed. Paul went on to say that being unequally yoked with unbelievers causes this. He wanted deliverance for the Corinthian believers, but they needed to realize that they were causing their own distress. Darkness and light don’t mix, neither does righteousness and unrighteousness. We are not supposed to

distress ourselves because of who we fellowship with.

Abundant Sharing

One of my favorite biblical topics, abundant sharing makes great use of inner-most feelings.

(2 Cor 7:15 KJV) And his **inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.**

Inward affection is translated from our Greek word for inner-most feelings. Paul claimed that his inner-most feelings were more abundant toward the Corinthian believers because of how they received Titus. Paul loved that these believers so kindly received Titus. This reception was agape behavior.

Doting upon others due to sympathy - to promote agape

This is my most favorite biblical topic—agape. Paul shared some very personal feelings with these people.

(Phil 1:8-9 KJV) **For God is my record, how**

greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. {9} And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Again, this is a direct translation of the body parts that this Greek word reflects. Paul recognized that, because of Christ in him, he carried around Jesus Christ’s inner-most feelings. This is an astounding revelation to Christians; Christ in us represents all that Christ accomplished and is. We feel like he felt; often, we are motivated by the Christ in us, and this is exactly why we can learn to trust our ‘spiritual’ feelings. Inner-most feelings are not primarily feelings of the flesh, the old man, the dead man. They are renewed feelings, feelings that are parallel with the ‘bowels’ of Jesus Christ. He stated it so clearly, it’s been there all along, but we’ve refused to believe it. Don’t be afraid of your feelings when situations require the manifestation of power, or, like the Good Samaritan, require great sacrifice and care. We are told to put on the new man, Christ in us, and we are told to walk in newness of life. Can you

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imagine your soul being rejuvenated by this fantastic Word of God? Trust what you are learning, what you are reading, and what you are being compelled to do in situations of great need. You are the one who can touch blind eyes, ruined flesh, hungry souls, and directionless people. You can make a difference because of Christ in you and because of how God designed your soul to work so closely with the new birth, Christ in you.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown