

Rivers of Living Water

the sinful, Adamic nature; and the spiritual, Christ nature. The first Epistle of John gives us a clear unfolding of this truth.

"If we say that we HAVE no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

If any Christian, however full-grown, says he has no sin and is entirely freed from his old nature, he deceives himself. He does not deceive his family or his friends, least of all does he deceive God. He only deceives himself. In the next verse God makes provision for the sins of Christians.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

The "sins" and "all unrighteousness" mentioned here are those of saints.

If there is "no sin," then the believer "can not sin." Every stream, however tiny, must have a source. The apostle John knew well that some people longing after holiness would be tempted to go beyond Scripture, so he uses very drastic language by way of warning.

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him (God) a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:10).

The gross, fleshly sins may have gone from