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The Hidden Man Of The Heart Ew Kenyon

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The Hidden Man of the Heart: Understanding E.W. Kenyon's Vision of the Inner Self

In the landscape of Christian spirituality and self-discovery, few concepts carry as much depth and transformative potential as the idea of "the hidden man of the heart." Popularized by the early twentieth-century Bible teacher and author E.W. Kenyon, this phrase refers to the innermost part of a person—the spirit, the real self, the core of one's identity. Kenyon's teachings on the hidden man of the heart have influenced millions, yet they remain mysterious to many. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what the hidden man of the heart means according to E.W. Kenyon, why it matters for personal growth, and how you can apply its principles to your everyday life.

The term itself originates from Scripture. In 1 Peter 3:4, the apostle writes about "the hidden person of the heart" which is "incorruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." Kenyon seized on this imagery and developed a whole theology around the reality that your spirit—not your body or your mind—is your true self. For Kenyon, the hidden man of the heart was not a metaphor but a living, powerful entity that every believer must learn to nurture and understand. This article will unpack the key ideas behind E.W. Kenyon's vision of the hidden man of the heart, offering practical insights for those seeking a deeper spiritual life.

Who Was E.W. Kenyon?

Essek William Kenyon (1867–1948) was an American pastor, author, and teacher whose works continue to shape charismatic and Word of Faith movements. He studied at Emerson College of Oratory and was heavily influenced by the New Thought movement, but he later distanced himself from its metaphysical roots. Kenyon's central message revolved around faith, the believer's authority in Christ, and the reality of the spiritual realm. His book titles—such as *The Hidden Man of the Heart* and *The Two Kinds of Faith*—reflect his emphasis on understanding the inner spiritual world.

Kenyon taught that the heart is not merely a symbol of emotion but the seat of the spirit, the place where God's Word takes root. He believed that transformation begins when a person recognizes their hidden man of the heart and aligns it with God's promises. His teachings laid a foundation for later figures like Kenneth Hagin and the modern prosperity gospel, but at its core, Kenyon's message was about identity: who you are on the inside determines what you experience on the outside.

Defining the Hidden Man of the Heart

At its simplest, the hidden man of the heart is the real you. It is the spirit that lives within your physical body. Kenyon distinguished between the outer man (the physical body and its senses) and the inner man (the spirit, which can commune with God and receive divine truth). He often quoted 2 Corinthians 4:16: "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." For Kenyon, the inward man is the hidden man

of the heart.

This concept goes beyond psychology. It is not the subconscious mind or the personality, but the immortal, eternal part of a person that was reborn at conversion. Kenyon insisted that Christians must learn to live from their hidden man of the heart rather than from their physical senses or carnal reasoning. When you understand that your spirit is the real you, you can begin to operate in faith, authority, and love—qualities that flow from the hidden man.

The Biblical Foundation

Kenyon built his teaching on several key scriptures:

- 1 Peter 3:4 – “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”
- Romans 7:22 – “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.”
- Ephesians 3:16 – “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.”
- Proverbs 4:23 – “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

These verses point to the reality of an inner self that is distinct from the outer self. Kenyon taught that the heart—the hidden man—is the control center. Everything you say, think, and do originates from this inner place. Therefore, to change your life, you must first change your heart, which means renewing your hidden man of the heart with the Word of God.

The Role of the Hidden Man in Faith and Healing

One of the most practical applications of Kenyon’s teaching is in the area of faith. He believed that faith is not a mental ascent to facts but a conviction that springs from the hidden man of the heart. When the hidden man is filled with God’s promises, faith becomes natural and powerful. Kenyon wrote extensively about “the faith of the heart” versus “the faith of the head.” The faith of the head is intellectual agreement, but it fails under pressure. The faith of the heart—the hidden man—holds firm because it is rooted in spiritual reality.

This distinction is crucial for those seeking healing, financial breakthrough, or emotional wholeness. Kenyon argued that many Christians pray but see no results because they are operating from their outer man. They look at symptoms, circumstances, and natural limitations. But when you learn to listen to your hidden man of the heart, you begin to speak words of faith that align with what God has already promised. Your hidden man knows the truth, and as you give it voice, that truth transforms your experience.

Practical Steps to Connect with the Hidden Man

Kenyon did not leave his readers with theory. He provided practical disciplines to strengthen the hidden man of the heart:

1. Meditation on Scripture – Not just reading, but chewing on the Word until it becomes part of your inner man. Kenyon called this “the meditation of the heart.”
2. Prayer in the Spirit – Praying in tongues or in quiet contemplation that bypasses the intellect and speaks directly from the hidden man.
3. Positive Confession – Speaking what your hidden man believes, not what your senses report. Kenyon was a pioneer of the concept that words carry creative power.
4. Silence and Stillness – Learning to quiet the outer noises of life so you can hear the voice of your spirit, which is in tune with the Holy Spirit.

The Hidden Man and Personal Identity

For many people, the search for identity is a lifelong struggle. We define ourselves by our jobs, relationships,

failures, or successes. E.W. Kenyon's teaching on the hidden man of the heart offers a revolutionary perspective: your true identity is not found in any external factor but in your spirit. When you are born again—according to Kenyon—your hidden man becomes a new creation. You are no longer the old person; your spirit has been made righteous and holy.

This understanding can free you from guilt, shame, and the fear of judgment. The hidden man of the heart is secure in Christ. Kenyon taught that once you grasp this, you can walk with confidence and love. You do not have to strive to be good enough; you already are good in your spirit. The work of sanctification is the process of renewing your mind to agree with your hidden man.

Common Misunderstandings About the Hidden Man

While Kenyon's teachings have blessed many, they have also been misunderstood. Some critics accuse him of promoting a form of mind-over-matter spirituality or even denying physical reality. However, a careful reading of Kenyon shows that he never denied the existence of the outer world; he simply emphasized that the hidden man is more powerful and eternal. The hidden man of the heart is not a fantasy or a psychological trick. It is a spiritual reality that must be cultivated.

Another misconception is that the hidden man is only for super-spiritual Christians. Kenyon insisted that every believer has a hidden man, but many ignore it. The goal is not to become a special spiritual elite but to live out of the same reality that Jesus lived from—the reality of the inner man united with the Father.

The Legacy of E.W. Kenyon's Teaching

Today, the phrase "the hidden man of the heart" appears in sermons, books, and online teachings across many denominations. E.W. Kenyon's work has influenced not only the Word of Faith movement but also general charismatic spirituality. His emphasis on the inner life aligns with the broader Christian mystical tradition, yet he made it practical and accessible.

If you want to dig deeper, Kenyon's book *The Hidden Man of the Heart*is a classic that expands on these themes. It challenges readers to stop living from the surface and start living from the depths of their spirit. The hidden man of the heart is not a passive concept; it is a dynamic force that can change your health, your relationships, and your purpose.

Conclusion

The hidden man of the heart, as taught by E.W. Kenyon, is a profound truth that can revolutionize your spiritual journey. By recognizing that your real self is your spirit—the hidden man within—you can access a realm of faith, peace, and authority that transcends circumstances. Kenyon's call is to nurture that inner person, feed it with the Word, and allow it to guide your life. Whether you are new to his teachings or have studied them for years, the hidden man of the heart remains a source of endless discovery. Embrace it, and you will find that the kingdom of God is indeed within you.

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