

Joseph Carey Merrick (5 August 1862 – 11 April 1890), often erroneously called John Merrick, was an English man with severe deformities. He was first exhibited at a freak show as the "Elephant Man", and then went to live at the London Hospital after he met Frederick Treves, subsequently becoming well known in London society. Merrick was born in Leicester and began to develop abnormally during the first few years of his life. His mother died when he was 11 and his father soon remarried. Rejected by his father and stepmother, he left home and went to live with his uncle Charles Merrick. In 1879, 17-year-old Merrick entered the Leicester Union Workhouse. In 1884 he contacted a showman named Sam Torr and proposed that Torr should exhibit him. Torr arranged for a group of men to manage Merrick, whom they named the Elephant Man.

Some persons remarked on Merrick's strong Christian faith (Treves is also said to have been a Christian), and his strong character and courage in the face of afflictions earned him admiration. - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Merrick

The Inward Man

1 Samuel 16:7 *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

"I sometimes think my head is so large because it is so full of dreams." - **Joseph Merrick**. *Dream, Thinking, Sometimes*. 71 Copy.

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.

Society today is infatuated with the outward appearance; millions of dollars are spent in order to maintain the outward appearance; to fight a war against time and age which marches on regardless of the efforts to hold it back. It is a strange thing to fight the inevitable with so much vigor while the inner man is neglected. The inner man that is what God delight in and yet it is ignored for the outward man.

It is the inward man in which God delights; it is the inward man that truly matters and is pleasing to God. The inward man will spend eternity in heaven or hell; it will depend on the decision each one makes. The beauty of the inward man is in a meek and quiet spirit and is adorned in the mercy, grace, and salvation of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and needeth nothing of the world to make it beautiful; for it had been made that way by Faith in the Living God and it cannot be corrupted and it is eternal and does not need to be put on day by day; but is rather everlasting. It is the inner man we should be focused on; to focus on the outer man is vanity. God looks upon the inner man and that is what is important.

*Tis true, my form is something odd
but blaming me, is blaming God,
Could I create myself anew
I would not fail in pleasing you. – Joseph Merrick*

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;

Beloved our strength is not in the things of this world for they hold nothing for the inner man which is but a pilgrim upon the place; rather the inner man is strengthened by the Spirit of God for those that are saved through the blood of our LORD Jesus Christ. The inner man will not give in to the ravages of time; the inner man in the Spirit of God will dwell with the most high for all eternity

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

The inward man discerns this world as it really is and is fed by the hope of the future Glory promised to all believers. The inward man possesses the power of speaking of the grace and hope in the salvation of the LORD Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit we can testify to the truth of God. The inward man delights in the things of God; the inward man seeks a life of obedience to God; to follow His Word; to love as He loves. The inward man cherishes the things of God.

Luke 12:23 **The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.**

The body is indeed more than the flesh for the flesh will perish and does not last; yet it is the flesh which this world tries so hard to satisfy. So much effort put into the flesh; we wage a war against the ravages of time which in the end will claim victory over the flesh. Yet little attention is given to the inner man the spirit which is eternal. We fight for the appearance of the outward man which the world values in what it determines as beauty; all the while the inward man is neglected and that beloved is a grave error. For we ought to be pleasing God and not the world. God looks on the inner man.

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

*If I could reach from pole to pole
or grasp the ocean with a span,
I would be measured by the soul
The mind's the standard of the Man.*

- *False Greatness* by Isaac Watts, first published in *Horae Lyricae* (1706) Bk. II:

The inward man is measured by the spirit; for it is Faith in God and the spirit of God that makes the blind man see. The spirit of God resting in the body of man creates in him a new creature. The inward man is not fed by the things of this world but is rather fed by the spiritual meat of God.

Feeding the Inward Man

1 Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

The inward man is fed from the hand of God our Rock which cannot be moved; our rock is the LORD Jesus Christ. The inner man is sustained in the things of God and is fed from the LORDS table. The LORD Jesus Christ is our spiritual food and we should partake of His Word every day; for it nourishes the spirit as it wars against the flesh and this evil world.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

The inner man is fed by the Word of God. It is the Word that sustains the inner man day by day. No matter how much we feed the body and how healthy we eat; the outer man of the flesh still perishes little by little every day; but not so with the inner man; as the spirit is fed it grows stronger day by day as it feasts upon the Word of God and meditates in Prayer. As the outer man dies the inner man grows stronger; the inward man is renewed by the Word, Prayer, Joy, Peace, and all the bounties of the LORDS Table. As the outer man of the flesh dies the inner man lives more abundantly.

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

We feed the inner man with the Word of God and in its strength we are able to cast down the false wisdom of this present world and the false reality of Satan. The inner mans thoughts become captive to the LORD Jesus Christ. The inner man sees the world for what it truly is and what it will become. The world to the inner man is a battle field for the souls of man; it is a temporary place of dwelling and not his home and in the end will be judged by God. The things that are seen now will perish **2 Peter 3:10** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up;* but the invisible and eternal things that the inner man sees with the second sight of Faith will endure.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. **2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. **3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord -his will, desire, affection, every motive in his heart, and every moving principle in his soul, are on the side of God and his truth. He takes up the law of the Lord as the rule of his life; he brings all his actions and affections to this holy standard. He looketh into the perfect law of liberty; and is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word; and is therefore blessed in his deed. He not only reads to gain knowledge from the Divine oracles, but he meditates on what he has read, feeds on it; and thus receiving the sincere milk of the word, he grows thereby unto eternal life. This is not an occasional study to him; it is his work day and night. As his heart is in it, the employment must be frequent, and the disposition to it perpetual. -*Adam Clarke*

Sadly the blessings of the inward man of the spirit will not be recognized in or awarded to the outer man of the flesh; whose spirit is of the world.

Psalms 1:4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

But not so for the inward man

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Beloved the inward man shall commune with God He will then be in the presence of the things only once seen with the eyes and heart of Faith of the inner man.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

So what of Joseph Merrick?

In the end the desire to be normal was perhaps too much for Joseph. In a world today in which we desire to stand out; in a world of look at me, selfies, slo-mo selfies, the desire for attention; the desire to be what God wants us to be is no longer enough. Joseph went through this world as a spectacle and the attention we desire today he had thrust upon him through no fault of his own. By accounts of those closest to him Joseph was a Christian. Perhaps when we who are born again get to Heaven; I have a feeling we want recognize Joseph.

He died on 11 April 1890, aged 27, asphyxiated by the weight of his own head, apparently after trying to lie down. The cause of his condition is still uncertain but many researchers favour Proteus syndrome, a rare genetic disorder - <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-48149855>