

The Spirit of Man

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Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Ecclesiastes 3:21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

I. What is our spirit?

- A. It is what others sense about us when they are in our presence; it is what they read to get a take on our disposition and what kind of a person they are dealing with.
- B. Happy, melancholy, sad, depressed, angry, bitter, peaceful, troubled, proud, haughty, humble, kind, deceitful, obsessed, deceived, oppressed, burdened, free, caring, sympathetic, cruel, uncaring, cold, warm, respectful, hateful,
- C. When we speak of the soul we are referring to that immortal part of an individual person that is the essence of his being. It is the part of us that enables us to think and reason and therefore makes us subject to moral government.
- D. When we speak of the spirit we are referring to the that part of us which influences others and also allows our soul to be influenced by others, both spiritual and earthly. The spirit of man is that which perceives both that which is earthly and natural and that which is supernatural.
- E. Our spirit is that part of us that sees and hears; we receive information and knowledge through our spirit.
- F. It is that part of us that is aware of the universe around us.
- G. The spirit is the vital principle of life. It means breath.
- H. The spirit is what makes us alive and that life comes from God.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

1 Corinthians 15:44-46 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made

a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

- I. So those who “walk after the Spirit basically means those who operate in a much wider realm than carnal people do.
 1. Those who the Bible describe as “carnal” or “carnally minded” are blind and oblivious to the influence of spirits, both bad and good.
 2. They walk “after the flesh” and not after the Spirit.
 3. They are influenced and manipulated by unclean and evil spirits without even being aware of it, while they think they are exercising their freedom and authority over their life.

II. The spirit of man is that light within him.

Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

- A. The spirit of man is that which makes him conscious and aware of himself and the universe around him, as well as the fact that there is more that exists than he can perceive with his physical senses.
- B. The spirit of a man is what operates his conscience.
- C. It is that light within us that God lighted himself and for himself.
- D. God is called the Father of spirits as well as the Father of lights.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

- E. It is a discovering light by which we can come to know and understand others, and know their character and their designs.
- F. The spirit of a man is self-conscious and searches into the dispositions and affections of his own soul, as well as the thoughts and intentions of the heart, and approves or condemns them.
- G. Therefore, the conscience must be rightly informed and kept void of offense.

Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

- III. Our personal walk in this life could be so much improved if we would only walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.
- A. If we would just realize and believe that it is the influence of evil spirits that cause almost all the trouble in our life we would be on the way to doing something about it.
 - B. Once we realize this is true and we start recognizing their presence and their voices, we can simply resist them and they will flee.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

- C. Do not give him your ear – recognize his lying ways and reject him and his suggestions and his questions and tell him to “get thee behind me.”

2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

- D. Seek the voice of the Holy Spirit of God, walk after the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
- E. Jesus did this very thing when He told the disciples that He was about to be killed and would rise again and Peter rebuked Him.

Mark 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

- IV. By realizing that another person is what they are as a result of what is going on in their mind through the influence of different spirits, we can better understand how to deal with them to help them.
- A. Being ignorant of this truth we simply beat the air trying to understand and figure out why they are like they are, or we get angry at them for being the way they are.
 - B. We are impatient with them and despair trying to help them or understand them with words and facts and logic.
 - C. We imagine and prescribe all kinds of carnal ways to correct whatever is wrong with them and it is all futile because we are missing the mark.
 - D. Jesus rebuked the unclean and evil spirits – that means to “check or restrain.”
 - E. In order to have any chance of doing that the spirit must be identified that is causing the problem.

- F. When children or adults have what the world calls “behavioral” problems or issues, we would do well to look for what kinds of influences they are being subjected to.

- V. We have to look deeper into a person than what is manifested on the outside.
 - A. Most people struggle hard to maintain an outward appearance and impression that will hide what is really going on in their mind.
 - B. We have to look closely to see through the shield they have up to protect the secret places of their mind and heart.