

A HOUSE OF TWO ROOMS

The Son-Spirit and the Servant-Soul

by David E. Stewart

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Version* of the Bible

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Introduction

There are two major keys to understanding the New Testament scriptures. The key to understanding the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) is the understanding of the similarities and the differences between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. Without that particular understanding, there is a confusion of seemingly contradictory statements. The second major key to understanding is the key to the Pauline epistles. That key is understanding the relation and the contrast of soul and spirit. Without these two essential keys we are forced into a bizarre contortion of ideas to try to make unrelated passages harmonize. It is a focus on the second key that this book tries to make more understandable, the difference and importance between soul and spirit.

If I were an ostrich, I would be able to speak with some authority on the nature of the ostrich. I am an expert on the human, being one myself. And so are you if we pay attention and receive the revelation of the Scriptures. Amazing how an awe-filled respect for the Lord starts us on a journey of understanding and wisdom.

Chapter 1

Our Confusing Experience

We are at a special worship service at a church or at a convention. We feel so close to God. It seems as if we are standing at the edge of an immense ocean. It is like we have waded into the shallow waters of a knowledge that stretches to the horizon of our understanding, then way beyond that. The breath of God seems to gently brush past our face. How can this get any more real? The meeting ends. We drive home. Someone cuts us off in traffic. We pronounce anti-blessings upon the driver promising to pursue him to the next exit, then crush his skull with a tire iron...or worse.

Can this really come from the same person? Can a mouth that was blessing the Lord God be the same mouth that curses someone a few minutes later? (James 3:9)

How can we explain this apparent

contradiction we may often experience?

There are a multitude of variations on the following story:

One evening, a Cherokee elder was teaching his grandson about life.

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. This battle that goes on between the two wolves is inside us all.

One wolf is Evil. He is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.”

He continued, “The other is Good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf will win?"

*Wisely, the grandfather simply smiled and replied, "The one you feed."**

We may experience a Godly moment, then minutes later we find ourselves indulging in a romantic thought about the neighbor's wife (or husband). We know the Bible says we are a new creature. (II Cor 5:17) Have we not grown enough? Are we only partially saved? Have we fallen from grace? Is the Bible even true? Do we really have two natures? We can find a clue to these answers in the most unlikely of places: The Tabernacle of Moses.

** Gail Jokerst is a frequent contributor to Montana Senior News and its sister publication Idaho Senior Independent. "While sorting through some papers recently, my husband came across the following Native American legend that he had saved. He thought I might enjoy."*

Chapter 2

The Tabernacle

The prophet and the king with his entourage slowly headed up the mountainside. This was the third time, trying to gain a better vantage point. Balaam, the seer, had been unwilling to curse the nation of Israel twice before, though he had been offered a substantial reward by the king of Moab. The king thought that perhaps from this angle the prophet could get a better idea of the enormity of his enemy's camp and the threat the king felt. (Num 22)

As they made their way around the last towering formation of rock, the camp came into view. They saw thousands of tents and the smoke from ten thousand fires. They stretched into the distance seemingly without limit. No wonder king Balak was terrified. These people who had recently come out of Egypt were like a plague of grasshoppers, covering the ground.

If they were able to see the center of this multitude, they would have noticed a distinguished tent. There was a courtyard defined by a curtain-like fencing. Inside the courtyard was a single tent of skins. The most important thing about this sight was what they could **not** see. The tent inside the courtyard was actually made of two separate compartments though that fact could not be seen from the outside. This tabernacle was the dwelling place of God and it represented His nature. But it also represented something else; something similar, in a sense.

The ancient Chinese philosophers said that man was made up of two parts: a part you could see; the body, and a part that could not be seen, an immaterial component. That is as good an observation as one could get, being limited to the input of the senses.

The only way you could know that the tabernacle in the middle of the courtyard was two compartments would be to know a priest. This was someone who was allowed into the tabernacle. He could tell you what the inside looked like. If your uncle or neighbor was not a priest there still was another way to know about the secret construction of the tabernacle.

If you could read the scriptures that Moses wrote about the construction of the tabernacle you would understand that it had a compartment that the priests could enter. This was called the Holy Place. Then there was a thick curtain creating a second compartment called the Most Holy Place where only the High Priest could enter. This pattern also is a picture of the construction of the human being which was later revealed that it was intended to be the dwelling place of God.

Both of these methods of knowing about the inner construction of the tabernacle involve something beyond the five or six natural senses. It requires Revelation. That is, information from outside yourself. The senses are not enough to understand about the plan of God. You need extra information.

Chapter 3

Jesus, the Son and the Servant of God

*And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved **Son**, in whom I am well pleased. (Mark 1:11)*

Every true Christian believes that Jesus is the Son of God. No doubt Jesus was a son, The Unique Son. He said He was also the servant of the Lord.

*And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do** always those things that please him. John 8:29*

Among other truths, Jesus came to DO something.

*Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to **do thy will**, O God. (Heb 10:7)*

Jesus called Himself a servant.

*For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I (Jesus) am among you as he that **serveth**. (Luke 22:27)*

The prophet Isaiah talks about a servant who is coming.

*Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. (Isa 42:1)*

The writings of Zechariah along with Isaiah identify this servant.

*Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth **my servant** the BRANCH. (Zec 3:8)*

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: (Isa 11:1)

Jesus is Lord of all.

The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:.) (Ac 10:36)

If Jesus is clearly Lord and Master (John 13:14) how can He be a servant?

Jesus, The Son **IS**. Jesus, the servant **DOES** something. When John, the Apostle, says that the Word was in the beginning, he has some difficulty saying that the Word was both WITH God and He also WAS God. Human language has a little trouble dealing with infinity and eternal concepts.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

Interestingly, the Spanish translation says that

In the beginning was the **Verb**. (John 1:1)

The Merriam-Webster dictionary says that a verb is

a word that ... expresses an act, ... or
mode of being,

The Verb of God IS but He also does something.

We, who are believers, **are** sons of God. (I John 3:2)

*...as (Jesus) is, so **are** we in this world.* (I John 4:17)

If we are going to be like Jesus, we will have a special state of being. We will BE sons of God (I John 3:12). If we are like Jesus, we will also DO something.

We are to be Sons and Servants. This is the dual aspect of our inner man.

Chapter 4

The Creation of Man

In the beginning of Time or the beginning of Adam's family (depending upon your theology), God created (or re-created, depending on your theology) the heavens and the earth. (Gen 1:1, Ex 20:11, Ex 31:17) There is no Biblical reason to understand this as anything other than 6 literal days.

God created everything that man might need, including making preparations for a fall into sin. God did not wait until man was hungry, then furiously looked around for a way to supply food. He thought of the supply first, before the creation of man. After everything was prepared, God made one man on the sixth day.

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. (Gen 2:7)

God formed the man's body from earth; dirt. It was a handsome piece of craftsmanship. It was beyond remarkable in its construction, as visible from the outside. Inside, there were millions of miles of circulatory pathways and nerve highways. An amazing feat of engineering and manufacturing. Only one problem, it was an inanimate object. Remarkable, to be sure, but an over-engineered clay statue, probably lying on its back.

God breathed upon this inanimate sculpture. He gave it life. The thing that could not do or be anything by itself, was given a gift; life. It probably was not Eternal life, but it was a sinless natural life. Since it came from God, it was like God in many ways but not God's own eternal life. It was the greatest gift that could be bestowed upon an earth creature.

Man is now a body, sharing many things with the animals. He also has something that no other earth creature has: life from God, though it was not God's own personal life. This was a force from another realm. It was not the essence of the individual but it was a gift that no other earth creature had, a pure natural life that came directly from the Creator.

When this breath from God touched the man's clay body from the earth, something amazing and wonderful happened. A third element was produced. Genesis says that man became a living being. The King James Version actually says SOUL. Spirit touching dirt produced an interface between the two called soul.

I am not a language scholar but from reading the scriptures, something stands out to me. The Hebrew of the Old Testament seems to be somewhat poetic, especially compared to the precision of the New Testament Greek. Nonetheless, the KJV reads SOUL in Genesis 2:7 which would fit well with our discussion, I think.

This seems to fit well also with the understanding that Paul had.

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Thess 5:23)*

When God's Spirit touched the earthen shell (of the first man) there was an interface produced: the soul or individual consciousness of the human

being. We see, then, that the human being is constructed with three aspects: his body, the spirit of life, and the result of the first two contacting each other, the soul.

Do we really have two natures? This may seem like splitting a hair, but I think it is important to be accurate on this topic.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (II Cor 5:17)

The old nature is dead. It is forever gone. But it doesn't feel like that is so. This is the problem of the dual aspect (I try to not say "nature") of the inner man. With a saved element along with an unregenerate part making up our inward man, we are subject to all kinds of confusing feelings. This explains a lot. Actually, this explains EVERYTHING. It seems it would be nearly impossible to walk out the Christian journey without understanding what is going on inside of us. It really is necessary to have some understanding of what the human being is. It almost seems odd to BE a human yet not KNOW what our construction is like.

Chapter 5

Illustrations and Examples

Example of three men in one belt

Suppose I asked 2 men to help me with an illustration. I would have both of them stand next to each other but behind me. Then I would take a long rope, representing a belt and place it tightly around all three of us. You could see me, in the front. You could see less clearly that there are 2 men behind me but all of us are contained in the same long “belt” or rope.

I realize this is not technically accurate, but this illustration gives us a helpful picture. What I have done is give us a useful image of what you and I and every human is made like. There is the visible part, symbolized by the man out front. He represents our body, the physical man. He is the part you can see. Less obvious are the two men who represent the inner part of every person. We are actually two persons in our heart. (That

explains a lot of things.) Remember the tabernacle. It looked like one tent at the core of the tabernacle property but it was actually two rooms. Hence, **A House of Two Rooms**. More correctly, there is a house AND two rooms. These are the three elements which make up the construction of the human being, the intended dwelling place of God.

In the beginning of the race of Adam, we were created “like” God. We were made like God in many ways. We say that God is Three Persons in One Godhead. This is impossible to fully understand but in a similar way, we are like two persons in our inner being.

However, if someone has two (or more) personalities there is a serious problem. This indicates the presence of one or more foreign residents or parasites, the talking kind.

We all have a personality; an awareness. This is soul. There is another element that we are not normally in touch with. This is the spirit.

The Newsletter Example

There was a pastor a few years ago that would have his sermons transcribed. Once per

month he would send these sermons out to his mailing list. He was a masterful communicator. He could paint a picture with his words that was graphic. Judgment and destruction were often his subjects. His sermons were filled with such scenes of fire, brimstone, and damnation you could almost smell the sulfur in the air.

The month following one of these scathing sermons he would send out a message of peace and comfort. You would turn over the letter and wonder, Who wrote this? It was hard to believe it could come from the same person who just the month before had delivered such wrath. But he was truly a gifted communicator. The sermons about love and joy came with the gentleness of a nursing mother.

But watch out for next month. He would give you no reason to live. It seemed to go this way. One month, death and destruction. The next month, peace and comfort. I am not sure how he reconciled these things to himself, but it was obvious he recognized both of these major themes in the scriptures.

Men's Meeting Example

Several years ago I was a part of a weekly men's meeting at a church. The meeting was small enough to allow almost anyone who wanted, to speak what was on their mind or heart. Usually, something that was said in the meeting reminded me of something I heard earlier. I was eager for the opportunity to share. This was memory at work. Then someone would say "...clue..." which would sound like "new" so I had to share about the latest new thing I had heard. This was rhyme at work. Before long someone would mention a problem some other church in town was having. That seemed to jar a similar story loose in my head and I had to share that also. This was association at work. On and on and on it went.

One night at this weekly meeting I seemed to hear some strange words inside my self, "Be quiet!" I instantly thought this was the devil trying to shut down my wonderful insights that everyone needed to hear. I slowly realized it was the Lord. The thought came to me so clearly it seemed as if I heard a voice, "I do not want you so say anything [in the meeting] until I say so."

I had nothing to share in the men's meeting for months, literally. This was agony since my mind was still coming up with all these important truths that just had to be spoken. One night, after

being closed up for many months, I heard the Lord say, “Now.” He gave me something to share with the group although I was a little hesitant after such a long period of silence. When I spoke, it was as if a “life-bomb” had gone off in the room. The men were powerfully impacted with the real truth, this time, of what had been released by the Lord.

It was that night I began to learn the difference between soul and spirit. The activity of soul is our memory, rhyme, random phrase generator, associations, and ideas that come from our own estimation of ourselves. Spirit gives life which comes from outside of our self-awareness. It is a life-long process but we begin to grow in the Lord by recognizing what comes out of soul and what originates outside of our self-life, from the Spirit.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb 5:14)

We need to walk with the Lord and learn by trial and error (or success) what is and what is not from the Lord, the Holy Spirit. What is objectively from the Bible or not should be

obvious. It is in those areas where the Bible is silent that more discernment may be required. We have two persons inside us. One is to be listened to and obeyed. The other is to be a servant.

What difference does any of this matter?
What is the point of any of it? To win at Bible trivia?

Chapter 6

Son-Spirit and Servant-Soul

The soul and the spirit of a man are intimately joined, but they are distinct elements. The following old example would apply to most people, I think. If I gave you the instructions to count backwards from 10, you would begin “10, 9, 8...” If I suddenly gave the instruction to tell me your name, you would say, “John”. What happened to your counting? It stopped because it was interrupted. Most people are going to find it impossible to do both at the same time. Why? Because both tasks involve the same aspect of their being, soul (through the mind).

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth,...(I Cor 14:14)

Paul said, If I pray in tongues, it is my spirit that is performing that task (through the body). It is possible to pray in tongues and do a crossword puzzle at the same time. Why? Because you

would be using 2 separate elements of your being. (This would be highly not recommended. If the mind or soul cannot participate, it should at least stand by respectfully waiting for interpretation or instructions.)

Another realistic example: A mechanically inclined person could pray in the spirit and disassemble and rebuild an automobile engine at the same time, in their mind or in actuality. Again, this is highly discouraged. But how do they do it? It is because they are using 2 separate parts of their being, spirit and soul.

Here is something that may be helpful in your Bible reading. When you find the word, “flesh” in the New Testament, it is usually referring to the body and the soul together. When you find the word “heart” in the New Testament, it is referring to the soul and the spirit together. Soul tends to favor the body (both being unregenerate in this lifetime) though it belongs to both “flesh” and “heart”.

Chapter 7

Bible Characteristics of Our Reborn Spirit

Until now we have established that there is a difference between the two aspects of our inner man. Now, let's look more closely at the attributes of each. First, let's look at what the scriptures say about the **spirit**. I don't use that word in a poetic manner but in a very technical sense.

The revelation or hidden information was that you and I have, in a sense, two lives at the same time. We who are believers are Sons and yet at the same time we are Servants. The Christian lives in 2 realms at once: the natural and the Spiritual.

*And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own **son** that **serveth** him. (Mal 3:17)*

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (1Co 14:32)

The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. Therefore spirit is not the exclusive, personal SELF. The essence of the person's decisions lies somewhere else.

Since spirit is made exactly like Christ, it is the most important aspect of man and we are all alike in this respect: We are complete in Christ. (Col 2:10)

We, who are genuine Christians, are **Sons** who also **Serve**. When God caused us to be born again, He created a new spirit in us. We are joined to the Lord in the Spirit.

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (1Cor 6:17)

This is the work of God. Interesting to note, that He left our servant part, our soul, unregenerate, if you have noticed. I think this makes a statement that our most essential component, spirit, is entirely the work of God. It is reborn completely without our effort/work/contribution. Only our correct response (faith) is required. Our relationship to

God is not a product of God's grace and our works. We don't just do the best we can and then rely of the grace of God to make up the difference. We must never get the idea that the new eternal life we participate in, is a combination of God's work and our effort. Even though we are to serve God, we do so out of our gratitude for His kindness, not out of trying to produce His favor.

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. (I John 5:18)

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Eph 1:13)

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.(Eph 4:30)

The reality of our reborn human spirit is almost too good to be true. It **cannot** sin. It is sealed by God. Sin cannot affect it. Evil cannot penetrate this seal. It is thrilling to know, by

revelation of the Scriptures, that there is a part of us that is not capable of sin. Now, I know it may not feel like it. It may not seem like it, but this is what the Apostles John and Paul thought, for what it is worth. We can either go by what feels right or live by the information from the Bible.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Co 5:17)

You may have heard an old saying that says that the word **all** in our Bibles comes from a Greek word that means “all”. I have said that myself many times. I now believe that is not true. “All”, Biblically, means everything minus the obvious and noted exceptions.

Imagine several people at the altar of a church, responding to a call for salvation. A fat man gets saved, He stands up, and his pants fall down due to now being 150 pounds and 15 inches smaller. Did that happen to you? You do not get a new body at salvation.

Another man gets saved at the altar. He stands up but now he has to get out his driver's license to introduce himself due to a new memory.

If everything is new, he has a clean slate in his mind, right?. He wonders, Where did I park the car? What's a car? Imagine a brand new brain, mind, and memory. Did that happen to you? You do not get a new soul at salvation, either.

If all things became new, why do I still feel the same for the most part? All things **are** new, according to the Scriptures. All things in the realm of our spirit are new. Everything that was there, in our old spirit is gone. All things in our born-again spirit are new. So, do we now have two natures? Absolutely not. Everything in our old spirit is gone. Everything in our new spirit has never existed before. God is true. Our feeling is a liar. However, there still exists a residue from the old nature in our soul. There still exists a principle of sin in our body. There is good news and bad news. The good news is that we are forgiven all sin and our new spirit is joined to the Holy Spirit of God. The bad news is that you are still you, in your soul, for a while longer.

My Personal Opinion

I want to share with you something that I have never heard anyone teach. It is my own opinion, for whatever that is worth.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (Jude 1:20)

You want to pray in the Spirit. Among other things, it builds you up. It strengthens you. Your spirit cannot be built up. It is already exactly like Jesus. It is the gatekeeper of your mind that is permitting the spirit to exert its power and influence on your soul. Some would ask, “Why would I want to pray in tongues?”

You can rely on the spirit to replace some functions of soul, a bit. It is my opinion that you can allow the spirit to build up yourself, particularly in the area of memory. The day you might lose your mind and memory would be a tough day. I am not suggesting it would be easy. If you are in the habit of praying in the spirit now and walking with the Holy Spirit now, you can compensate, somewhat, for a reduced memory function. Maybe it is not to a great degree, but if you can draw upon the spirit to remind you of what day it is, that will be quite significant at that moment. If you wait till your memory is completely gone to try to access the spirit, it may be too late.

You Know All Things

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. (1John 2:20)

I don't want to get too mystical nor do I want to make it sound like I am an expert but I can tell you something odd. You can be “in the spirit” and in this state/place you know everything. It is the weirdest thing. You just know everyone and everything. To not be able to know a particular piece of information is the anomaly.

And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. (II Kings 4:27)

A woman's son had died and she hurried to the prophet Elisha to ask his help. The prophet thought it was very strange that God had NOT revealed to him what was going on. He thought it would be normal to know what the woman needed before she said anything.

Were you aware that you now know everything? Someone says, “I don't know

everything”. I guess that God is a liar, then. At least you are calling Him a liar. Of course, we do not know everything in our brain or in our soul. In the spirit we know everything. Anything you need to know is in your spirit. It does not mean that every piece of data in the universe is present in our immediate consciousness. It seems more like being plugged into God's internet. Your spirit can access any information that God wants you to know. The problem is getting it out of there (the spirit) into a form and manner that is usable in this life. Paul said he found a way to do exactly that.

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. (1Cor 14:14)

Paul says that our Gatekeeper can will to pray with the spirit. However, the information can still be unavailable to our understanding. No problem, just keep listening to Paul.

Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. (I Cor 14:13)

He is specifically talking about church meetings here, but the principle is the same. It can

be used in private prayer as well. In fact, that is going to be a major part of the activity of the spirit, private prayer and worship.

Generally, we are not in touch with our spirit. We cannot see it or receive any sensory input from it the same way that we are in constant touch with our body and soul.

...because as he is, so are we in this world.
(1John 4:17)

In the spirit, we are identical to Christ. If we all are identical to Jesus, that means that we are identical to each other. It is in our personality or soul that we differ from one another.

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph 4:24)

Ask people to define *holiness*. If people were honest and not trying to be religious, they would probably say something to the effect, “weird to the nth degree”. If you have traveled around a bit, meeting church people, you know all about fake holiness. Here, Paul says God has made our reborn spirit in **true** holiness. This is being like God in truthfulness, in kindness, in

generosity and love. This exists in your spirit.

Yes, we are all sons of God (the believers, that is) (see I John 3:2). In the spirit we are all made in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24) but when the Scripture speaks of us as servants; it uses terms describing us being very different one from another. How can we be the same yet different? This is explained by the construction of the human being. We all are Sons who are servants. We are all exactly the same yet we are different. How can this be?

Chapter 8

Specific Characteristics of Soul

It is marvelous to know that an element of our being is as saved as Jesus is right now (spirit). It is also of great encouragement to have God's own promise that someday our body is scheduled for transformation. There remains, however, a great question mark over the third remaining element of our being, the soul, or our self life. The soul is the person as an individual.

God, in His wisdom, left our soul and our body in a unregenerate state when He made all things new in our spirit. A common question is, Will we know each other in Heaven? Will God do such a work in us we won't know anyone? A great change is coming. This transformation is scheduled for our body, but our soul is not scheduled for an automatic change. This is up to you and me.

And be not conformed to this world: but be

ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...(Rom 12:2)

We have the ability to choose to allow God's Word and His Spirit into our souls or we can keep Him out. This almost unbelievable authority is a sacred function that God will defend, even to our detriment. This is the will and the power to choose. We can decide to command our “gatekeeper” to allow everything that is from God in, to pass from spirit to soul. Our soul will fight this unless we can command it to obey our decisions.

A naturally loud, bold person stresses we ought to be bold (which is true). “Just like me”, he says. The quiet, timid person stresses the fruit of the spirit (which we need) “just like me”, he says. There is no work of God here. But when the bold Christian exhibits peace and patience and the naturally quiet person exhibit boldness, THIS is the work of God.

Since our soul is a servant, it should be standing by, off to the side, waiting for its next instructions. Instead, where do we find our soul? Sitting on the throne of our being, barking orders. Proverbs tells about some things that are disastrous.

For a servant when he reigneth...(Prov 30:22)

The soul/servant is not meant to sit any any throne.

In praying in the Spirit (I Cor 14:14) or in tongues, the soul is extremely agitated. It wants to know and understand everything that is said. It is forced to stand by and patiently wait to be called upon. The soul, even of the Christian, will try to usurp the Spirit; even shut it down. The soul wants to be dominant. It does not want to be a servant. It insists that it be King and dictate everything from the throne of one's life. The soul's place is not on any throne. It is to stand in the corner until it is called upon to serve. Instead, we let it rule all of our decisions.

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (Phil 3:19)

Whose god is their belly. Soul, along with our appetites, tells us when to eat, what to eat, how much to eat, and how fast to eat it. And we say “yes” to Lord Gut and everything he

commands. An unregenerate element of our lives gives all the orders. That explains a lot, doesn't it?

Have you ever slept on your arm the wrong way? It can cause pain but you are asleep. Often the unconscious soul will give you a dream. Maybe it is about a shark biting your arm off. You wake up and your arm hurts. Why didn't your mind just wake you up and tell you your arm is in a bad position?

My father suffered a severe stroke and/or brain injury in his later years. This left him paralyzed on the left side. He would tell me that there were Japanese World War II soldiers under his bed that shot his left arm off. Sometimes he would tell of an alligator that lived under his bed, which also ate his arm. He was serious. It was real to him. It seems like the soul, through the unconscious mind, would seek for an explanation for some physical problem.

In a similar way, the soul will try to interpret messages from the spirit. This often is in symbolic language using pictures or images of something, trying to give a natural context for something supernatural. Soul may also receive from spirit and interpret it in a dream or strange idea. Soul seems to be the interpreter of both the

body and spirit, being intimately connected to both.

The Spectrum of Soul

We all live in the realm of the soul. It is how we understand the messages that the senses from our body sends to our mind. Some people live very much in the realm of the emotions, which are a function of our soul. They feel happy and so assume everything is well. Then they soon get sad about something and they are convinced that all is lost. They have a vague sense of impending doom. They roll back and forth between these feelings, whatever they may be at the moment. These are what I call the Emotional Idiot. They have never had it occur to them that...Actually, nothing has ever occurred to them. They are either giggling or crying.

There is another type of person who, at first, seems to be the complete opposite of the Emotional Idiot. They are ruled by the intellect. Seemingly distant from any feeling, they follow their own rules of rigid logic. They are unmoved by anything, except their own inventions. This is the Intellectual Iceberg. "Give me 17 reasons why I *should* smile."

It would be from shocking to horrifying for these two types of people to learn that they are actually twins. The Emotional Idiot and Intellectual Iceberg are really on opposite sides of the same spectrum, which is soul. They are on opposite ends of the same stick.

The healthiest position is probably somewhere towards the middle of this soul spectrum.

It Is More Important Than We Realize

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)

Jesus is saying that the soul of a man is larger and more valuable than the entire earth with everything that is in it. These are not small stakes that we are gambling with. Imagine being the mayor of New York City. At the same time, let's say you are also the President of The United States. At the same time, you are heading the European Union. At the same time, you are the owner of the continent of Africa. Jesus says that losing your own soul is more important than that.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose

it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matt 16:25)

Once we begin to understand how big and important the soul of man is, Jesus says something which may be confusing. In order to save this element of your being, you must give it up! When the Bible reads *his life*, Jesus actually says **soul** (ψυχή psuche). If you try to save your soul, or your natural life, you will lose your soul. The only way to save your soul is to lose it **for My sake**. Whoever hangs on to the natural self life will lose it. We will take a look at how to gain our soul by losing it in a later chapter.

Salvation of Your Soul

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (I Pet 1:9)

Peter, the Apostle, gives us the bottom line of the entire Christian life: The Salvation of Your Soul. The idea is to walk with God, esteem His Word as true, and become more like Christ. One day, these things will result in enjoying The Father forever in the total absence of sin.

Chapter 9

Mind

Please allow another rough illustration. Imagine three sheets of paper, stapled together in the corners. The sheets of paper are three separate items but the staple is common to all three and holds all three in proper relation to each other.

*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **mind**, and with all thy **strength**: this is the first commandment.*
(Mark 12:30)

Here Jesus gives us four areas to love God with. Heart, soul, and strength (physical body) are the three separate elements of our person, but in addition He commands us to love God with our mind.

Mind is common to all three aspects of the human creation. We have a physical brain. This part can affect our entire being. If a person is

given a head injury with a lead pipe, it can affect everything. The senses are affected. Speech can be slurred. We may not be able to walk well or maybe not at all. It can alter our perception of reality. Injury to our brain can affect our entire person.

Mind is also a function of the soul. Plus, in our reborn spirit we have the mind of Christ. (1Co 2:16) The mind seems to transcend all the other aspects of our being and yet it is common to all and holds them all in proper tension.

There is another very important function located in “mind”. It seems that our will and determination (together) is located here. I like to call it “**The Gatekeeper**”. It is something that determines choices. There is something that allows or rejects passage between soul and spirit. That can be good or bad. We choose to allow evil things to enter our soul. We can choose to allow the Holy Spirit or our reborn human spirit to move into our soul with His influence or instructions. We can choose to refuse any passage from spirit to soul. Paul says,

*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
So then with the **mind** I myself serve the
law of God; but with the flesh the law of*

sin. (Rom 7:25)

He says he can allow his mind to determine to serve God. (He also says he is hindered in doing that.) Paul says he has determined in his mind to serve God but he or another man could determine he will not serve God. With the mind I serve Christ. With the flesh I serve sin. If our mind (Gatekeeper) is faithful, the body isn't far away from God. If our mind is unfaithful, we are in trouble. Paul says something else related:

...I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. (1Co 14:15)

His will allows his spirit to access his mind and body. This is so powerful. God Himself will rarely interfere with a person's will. In our effort today to try to understand the nature of the God that inhabits Eternity (Isa 57:15), we have minimized our responsibility: To serve God with all our mind. That includes our will.

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (1Cor 14:32)

This is amazing. Paul says that you do not

have to speak something out for everyone to hear, even if it is from God. The spirit does not force you to speak. The spirit is subject to the determination of the will. I believe this is referring to the Gatekeeper of our mind. We can either will to speak with the spirit or we can will to refuse the Holy Spirit to act through us. I think this is beyond remarkable that our will can release the activity of the spirit or we can limit the Holy One of Israel (Ps 78:41). We can even will to allow the activity of evil spirits, either by deception or by stubborn choice. This is far-reaching and potentially dangerous power. God has placed it within the choice of the Gatekeeper of our minds.

Chapter 10

The Schedule

At the time of salvation or at the time of trusting in the Lord, the believer is

...sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.
(Eph 1:13)

His reborn human spirit is sealed by the Holy Spirit. Thus, it never suffers the effects of sin and evil cannot penetrate this seal. The fact of our spirit's change is already a finished reality.

Our body is scheduled for transformation someday. One day, known to the Father only, we will be changed.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1Cor 15:52)

The truth of our body's renewal is a future promise.

*Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear**, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1John 3:2)*

Today our **spirit's** transformation is complete and perfect. Our **body** is scheduled for future transformation. There remains one more aspect of our being that is in question, the **soul**.

As the tragic horrors awaiting the unbeliever are so serious because they are permanent, so the state of the deliberately disobedient Christian's soul is so serious because it is forever. We might tearfully warn the Christ-rejector to flee the wrath to come because it is for eternity. It is unending in its experience. In a similar way we should be soberly interested in the future state of our body and soul, our unregenerate parts, because our “rank” or setting will last for eternity.

My Ungodliness Justified?

It sounds like my eternal salvation is

secured forever. It also seems that I have this unregenerate part of me. My most important aspect (spirit) cannot be touched by sin or evil. Someone may say, "Everything is fine then. My ungodly soul is going to do whatever it wants." As I have already said several times, That explains a lot. Someone may say, "Therefore my ungodliness is explained and I will just go on with my life anyway I want. I will be meaner than hell's snake and twice as evil because it will all work out just fine. After all, I have this evil-soaked soul that there is nothing I can do about." Really?

In a sincere Christian, the fact of our Son/Spirit and our Servant/Soul existing together can explain why we have a struggle to do the right things. Paul talked about this exact thing.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. (Rom 7:19)

The English grammar is a little tough here. Paul says that he does not do what he intends to do but the evil he wants to avoid, he ends up doing.

It is where there is **no** struggle that the

problem lies. Some people do not even try to resist sin. At very best, the baby Christian has a born again spirit along with an untransformed soul. At the worst, this person's profession of being a saved person is a lie, a fraud, and a deception. That is quite a range of possibilities. We do not know another person's heart, but the Judge does. Even though the most righteous man may struggle and even fail, there is no reason for us to think that a deliberately wicked man is a saved person.

Chapter 11

Transformation

We, who have trusted in Christ are saved right now (Spirit). We have been judicially declared righteous. We are also being saved, more or less, in this life (soul). We will be saved (our body) at the resurrection someday. This is man in three aspects.

We are forgiven of sins (past, present, and future) but we need to confess our sins and be forgiven. That sounds confusing. What does it mean? We are saved but we need to be saved daily. Our spirit is complete in Jesus. Our soul, however, operates on a practical, daily basis. Do you mean to tell me that my spirit is saved but my soul can be lost? The soul **is** in question.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, (Rom 12:2)

This is the major task of each one of us in this lifetime, to renew our minds and thus be transformed. The Bible is a very great gift. It reveals the thoughts of God, His opinions and His words. We all have the same documents. Almost any translation has the same ideas as any other. I have read the books about the superiority of a certain kind of manuscript or a certain translation. In a sense, they are ridiculous. Disbelieving and disobeying God in one translation is not greatly different from disbelieving God in another translation.

Someone says to a friend, “You know, the KJV says 'Thou shalt not commit adultery'.”

His friend says, “I didn't commit adultery. I just went to bed with my neighbor's wife.”

The first guy says, “Oh? Then you're fine. We wouldn't want to disobey God in KJV.”

It is near nonsense. Even with the different translations (except for a very few) and even in other languages, we all have the same documents.

This is the goal: Allow what God has said to displace the thoughts in our minds that are naturally occurring. To the degree that we allow

that, we find our minds and our souls being transformed. This is nearly effortless change. The seed of the Word of God automatically grows and produces fruit in our lives. The struggle is to let go of our own ideas and think God's thoughts. The self-life has to go. If we hold onto it, we will lose it anyway. If we let go of our self-life for Jesus' sake, we will actually find it.

I have to order the Gatekeeper of my will to let in all that is from the Holy Spirit. I can just as easily refuse to let God's words have any place in my heart. If that is so, I will lose an immense part of my life.

To what degree have you let the Words of God replace your own ideas? The Lord is the Judge, but we know if we are in deliberate disobedience.

Imagine a long rope stretched across a platform. Hanging on the rope is a red card that can be slid to any point across the rope. Let the left side of the rope represent no transformation or 0%. Let the opposite side of the rope represent 100% transformation. Where would you place the red card? If you were just saved yesterday, you might be near zero. To what degree do you think that you have allowed the thoughts of God to

displace your natural thoughts? Could we say with honesty that we 50% transformed? Might someone dare to place the card at 60%? I think that the spiritual giants among us might be able to say they are 75% transformed. Is the average Christian at 10% or even less?

A lobotomy is a surgical procedure which involves severing connections in the brain's prefrontal cortex. It was used for severe mental problems. This is a severe surgery with serious lifelong consequences. So serious, in fact, that many consider this a procedure too dangerous to be considered.

If you were to take your honestly obtained transformation number, X%, do you think you would suffer no consequences from a neurosurgeon operating and leaving that percentage of your brain?

Another illustration: Suppose a 50 year old man has a 5 year old soul, in terms of his transformational attainment. He enters eternity as a 5 year old forever.

Too much? I don't think so. Now please hear me. I do not think the two preceding illustrations are technically accurate, but they do

underline a truth. The self-life will **not** enter into the things of God, heaven or His Kingdom. Heaven would soon become hell if these unclean attitudes are let in. They have to go. This is severe.

God has a plan for this.

Chapter 12

The Bema Seat

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10)

We have an appointment. I call it The Evaluation. It is really serious. Even though it might be severe for some, you will be glad you are here. Only Christians are here at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you are not here, you have more problems than can even be described.

What is being evaluated here are the works we have done for Christ since we have been saved.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take

heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 ¶ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

*14 If any man's **work** abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

*15 If any man's **work** shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (I Cor 3:10-15)*

Of course, we are not saved by works. You must be firmly grounded in grace, which, sadly, I think many are not. If we were solidly grounded in the grace of God, we would not be shaken by understanding the place of works in the Christian life. (Eph 2:8-10)

The fire of God's nature will come upon our works and our degree of transformation. Those things that are like God will survive and be brought to the light. Those things that are not like God will be burned up. Some people will be like a

sleeping man who was rushed out of his house by a fire. He did not have time to take keys, wallet, or clothes. But he himself will be saved.

I include some comments by the late Dr. Chuck Missler,

Also, notice that the “**work**” is being appraised, not the **person**. It is the *work* being tested by fire, not the individual. All are building on the same foundation, but the results are vastly different.

Salvation is a present possession; rewards are a future attainment given by Him at His Coming. [Matt 16:27](#); [2 Tim 4:8](#); [Rev 22:12](#).

So you have been saved: **what have you done with it?**

That which is done for sake of personal gain, popularity, influence, or its impression on the world, will be for naught.

[Lot](#) was vexed daily. [Abraham](#) was not vexed; he had separated himself from the world. God destroyed [Sodom](#) but saved Lot, “yet as by fire.” Everything he had lived for was burned up.

Reward is for those who persevere under trial ([Jam 1:12](#)) Seems like part of the evaluation

of works is the **private** enduring in the soul (Transformation) , not just **public** works.

Dr. Missler continues,

Tears in Heaven?

Why? (There will be no sin, no sickness, no death, nor lack of anything...)

“Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: “it might have been.”

— *John Greenleaf Whittier*

When I take my life under review, I will be deeply distressed. Not for the sins I’ve committed: they have all been paid for by my Saviour. I will be distressed for the time and opportunities I’ve wasted; for the time frittered away on foolishness; for the people I might have helped; for the moments I lacked the courage to exploit for Him; etc., etc., etc...

I believe that part of the works that are evaluated is allowing the transformation of the soul, or refusing to allow it. Are we allowing the thoughts of God to become our thoughts?

The unregenerate soul cannot enter into the things of God.

Imagine an emergency evacuation out of a country by airplane. People grab all their possessions: pictures, musical instruments, artwork. The man in charge of quickly loading the people on the plane says, “I’m sorry folks. Only one carry-on bag can go. All the rest has to stay.” The airplane takes off, banks sharply and the runway they just left comes into view. They see everything littered upon the ground. There was not enough room on the plane. Similarly, nothing unregenerate may enter the Holy City.

Sins will not be **brought** up. Their memory will be **burned** up.

Are you holding tightly onto the temporary things of this natural life? It will all burn, literally.

Imagine the joy of the person who comes through the fire with minimal removal of works and loss because of much transformation. Imagine millions who come through that fire with a hospital gown only; compared with what could have been.

One thousand years of tears. **After** the Millennium God will wipe away all tears (Rev 21:4). These are not the lost but the **regret** is

similar.

It is hard to remember that these are the saved. Only the saved are here at the Evaluation. I don't even want to think about the unsaved.

*Receiving the end of your faith, even the **salvation of your souls.** (1 Pet 1:9)*

This is a major part of our salvation. This is one reason for faith being required in this lifetime.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess 5:23)

This is the reason for the apostle's cry in this prayer. Of course, he wants to see every person saved from eternal torment, but he also desires that every Christian will enter into the Glory of God entire, complete, and fully able to enjoy God forever.

Does this make you sad? You mean to say that you were not intending to allow the eternal life of God in your spirit to have any influence in

your life? I don't know what to say.

You see, this is going to be the happiest day for many, the obedient servants of the Lord.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. (I Cor 4:5)

This is The Great Olympic Rewards Ceremony. God Himself will mention your name and grant you a reward that is far beyond comprehension. Even giving a child a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple will not be forgotten and will receive the reward that The Judge determines.

Chapter 13

The Kingdom

The Kingdom of Heaven is not the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of Heaven is not heaven, either. The Kingdom, whose authority is from Heaven, is the right to rule. God is the ultimate Ruler and Authority. He has given this to Jesus and, in turn, He has promised this to His servants.

It is unclear, at least to me, what part the present day Christian will have in the earthly Millennial Kingdom. This has been promised to national Israel. Apparently, those living during the Age of Grace, both Jew and Gentile will be administering the Kingdom from “heavenly places” (Eph 2:6). If so, we would be replacing the original Sons of God who were in places of great influence in the Spirit realm supposedly aiding and governing the earthly realm.

For by (Jesus) were all things created, that

are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers...
(Col 1:16)

Many of these great beings rebelled in ancient times and are destined for unemployment and replacement, as well as everlasting torture. The faithful Christians will be taking their places. No wonder they hate us.

While Jesus is speaking to His disciples and to the nation of Israel, everything He says is said publicly.

*Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and **in secret have I said nothing.***
(John 18:20)

At the very least we can learn many lessons from the Kingdom passages.

The Rich Young Ruler

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? (Matt 19:16)

Many sermons have been preached from this passage. There is no doubt a great deal of benefit for us in the insights from this account. We, in the west at least, sort of smile at this foolish young man, trying to gain the favor of God by keeping the commandments. There is an unwritten assumption that Jesus, with His Baptist heritage and probably Irish lineage, ministered in the 1940s or so from His headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa. He is one of us and we Westerners all know the secret handshakes and are in the know concerning all spiritual and religious stuff. Those poor Jews of the first century. If only they were like us.

This may not be the correct case at all. **We** may be the ones that are looking through the window, outside of the conversation. Maybe we, who are on the other side of the planet from Israel, are the ones in the dark. This conversation was 2,000 years ago, in another culture and language. We may be the ones who do not understand the question this man asked Jesus or His reply.

This account is found 3 times; in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These are called the synoptic gospels. They share many of the same stories,

only from slightly different viewpoints. John differs more in his themes and sees things from an eternal perspective. Matthew, Mark, and Luke also deal with the Kingdom of God and the coming Kingdom of Heaven. Remember in the introduction I said this was the key to understanding the synoptic gospels: Understanding the Kingdoms.

I believe it may have been from this worldview that the young ruler approached Jesus. He would not been interested or have any concept of “being saved” or of the Eternality of Jesus. He wanted to know how he could have eternal life. Remember, he would not have an Evangelical worldview. His first century Jewish understanding probably would not contain the idea of going to heaven. His concern was eternal life. Some translations render the man's question, “what must I do to inherit the life of the age to come?” (NTE) The only age that anyone knew about was the coming Kingdom Age. Messiah would come as a great military and political leader and raise the nation of Israel to world class status or better.

I believe it is very possible that Jesus answered his question, not changed the subject. Of course, faith in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus would be necessary to obtain actual

eternal life as we understand it today. Jesus may have been simply answering the man's question, How do I get into a significant place in the coming Kingdom of Messiah?

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. (Mark 10:21)

Mark's gospel says that Jesus looked at him and loved him. Doesn't Jesus love everybody? God loves because He is love (I John 4:8), not because we are lovely. Every mother with more than one child has heard, "Mommy, whom do you love more, my sister or me?" The answer is the same in every case, "Why, I love you both equally." Of course, that has to be the only right answer. We all know, however, that some people are just easier to love than others.

For some reason, Jesus saw something that He liked in this young man, This is my personal opinion. Allow some speculation. Jesus made this man an offer that He did not make to anyone else. If he wanted a good place in the coming Kingdom which the Messiah would rule, he should sell

everything, give to the poor, and follow Jesus along with the other disciples. Jesus never made this offer to anyone else. However, the young man refused.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.
(Mark 10:22)

If the young man had agreed to Jesus' offer, I would have the privilege of saying,

“Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to present to you **The Minister of Finance for The Kingdom of Heaven!**”

Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot would betray Him. I believe that this young man was being offered Judas' position. Being the treasurer of the small group of disciples, Judas, if he remained faithful, would have been administering the greatest amount of material treasure in the universe. Now, this young man was being offered this great position. But instead he said, “Nah, I guess not” and he went away sad.

Extreme sacrifice, along with faithfulness, will translate into greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven.

There is a well known cult that makes much noise about the Kingdom. The problem is if you do not know the King you will never enter the Kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

Chapter 14

An Illustration

Let's say that a wealthy businessman is planning to open a new headquarters center in a certain city. He first secretly seeks faithful men. He is trying to find the best people possible to operate his new enterprise. This going to be the largest, most expensive and most impressive company in the nation.

This businessman has people planted in all the other companies in the country, helping him watch and recruit key people. Let's say that he is looking for a vice-president of Finance, along with many other financial employees. He is looking for faithful men, not just men-pleasers, for the new office. Character is more important to him than credentials. Faithfulness is more important to him than potential. Loyalty is more important than appearances.

There is a fine, young, handsome financial

officer in another company that seems to be a good candidate for the new company. Everyone in the board room is impressed by his delivery and knowledge of money matters. Any one of the other officers in the company would give him a very favorable review. Although everyone is highly impressed, a secretary hears him say some derogatory remarks about the other officers in the company and some unrepeatable insults about the boss. DISQUALIFIED. I'm sorry. This is not what the new mysterious businessman is looking for. As it turns out, someone else is granted the new vice-president's position. It might be a third shift supervisor from some small minority owned business who has proven himself to be a self sacrificing and faithful manager of someone else's affairs.

This mysterious businessman is also looking for a good person to head up the new Human Resources department. There is a woman heading up the personnel department in another company. Everybody loves her. She has the remarkable ability to remember the name of every employee in this company of several hundred employees. This woman seems to be the ideal candidate for the new headquarters location. However, late one night a cleaning employee saw something strange. The personnel woman was

seen secretly taking a few dollars out of petty cash to take home with her. REFUSED. This not the person the mysterious businessman is looking for to be put into a key position. She is not even going to be considered for a more menial job in the new company. It may seem like this was such a small infraction; not really even a crime. She was probably owed a few dollars as her routine was to often stay late, anyway.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (Lu 16:10)

Jesus is looking for persons that are faithful in the smallest things because they will be trustworthy in great things also. A person who is disloyal in tiny things is guaranteed to be unfit for large responsibilities, even though they may have great potential and ability.

Jesus is going to set up a Kingdom someday. It will be a literal political kingdom on the earth as well as in the heavenly places. (Col 1:16)

Jesus is the mysterious wealthy businessman who is preparing to rule on the earth

someday. He needs to fill numerous vacancies in His new administration. Perhaps you have wondered, How is Jesus going to use all those multiplied millions of people in His coming Kingdom? Won't it be super top-heavy; a bloated bureaucracy with all those multitudes of administrators and governors and other “government” jobs?

Say,...about that. I wouldn't stay awake nights worrying about that.

... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?
(Luke 18:8)

Jesus was giving a teaching on prayer to the people. We don't have Jesus' ministry on video from those ancient days, but I imagine something. I see Jesus preaching to a crowd with some disciples nearby. His voice trails off but just loud enough for a close disciple to hear. He pauses for a moment and turns His face toward the sky or toward the wilderness. He has a concerned look. His gaze seems blank and far-off as if seeing something. He almost whispers, “When the end comes, will I find any faithful people on earth at all?”

Chilling.

I believe He will find saving faith. I believe He will find the Gift of faith. But will He find any faithfulness to Him? Will He find any loyalty to the Scriptures, since there is all kinds of resistance to it?

Millions of people will be disqualified from having any part in the Great Coming Administration of Jesus Christ. They will be saved from hell. They will have sins forgiven, thankfully. But millions (no exaggeration) will be refused from having any part in Jesus' next great event.

Christian friend, determine to be faithful, even in the smallest of things. Finding you thus will grant you the approval of the Judge of all hearts. (Not His favor; that is by grace alone. His approval however is His agreement with how you lived in the body.)

But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (Mt 19:30)

When I lived in Mexico, Wednesday was bank day for me. You might as well cross that day off the calendar because you could not count on

being able to accomplish anything else on bank day. At my bank I had to stand in line at the bank manager's desk for him to approve my check. Next I had to stand in line at the head cashier's window to be told which line you should stand in. I'm serious. It could take literally hours. Lastly, I had to stand in line at a particular cashier's window to cash my check. No wonder you could not plan on doing anything else on bank day.

One day I had to go my landlord's bank to deposit my rent in his account. It was a large bank in the downtown district. On this particular morning, the line consisted of hundreds of people. They filled the very large bank lobby. The line then went out the front door and down the street. I was about 20 people or so from the front of the line so I didn't feel too bad. An elderly woman tottered through the bank lobby and went up the front of the line. She asked the person in number 2 or 3 spot, "Is this the end of the line?" I saw him angrily point to the long line outside. She waddled back about 5 people and asked again, "Is this the end of the line?" Again, an agitated customer pointed back to the line forming down the street. The old lady waddled back about 5 more places in the line and did not ask anyone again. She gave her hips a sideways thrust and slammed herself into place in line. No one said

anything and she got away with it. I'm sure no one really wanted an old lady to stand in the hot sun for hours outside, but everyone was quite on edge anyway. I thought it was fun to watch.

Imagine a long line forming for an important interview. People start gathering early in the morning near an office door. People that were seated, waiting for the opening time, get up quickly and decide they better stand close to the door also. Other people who are a little late see someone they recognize toward the front of the line. They move forward and begin a phony conversation. They keep talking and assume their new place in line, moving ahead of many others. Others don't recognize anyone but thrust themselves into line as far toward the front as they dare. Everyone in line is getting frustrated. It is ready to come to a mass saloon brawl.

A loud voice interrupts the vying and jostling for the first places in line. It comes from the back of the room and confuses everyone. "Good morning, everyone. Thank you all for coming. We will begin now." A man points to a door in the back of the waiting room, not the front where everyone assumed it would begin. He takes the person at the end of the original line and ushers him into an office.

But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (Mat 19:30)

Jesus said that many who have a “Me only and to hell with everyone else” attitude will be refused for positions of responsibility. It will be a Day of great surprises and great shock. There is a place for ambition and even intensity for the Kingdom but NOT over other people.

There can be a need for extreme ruthlessness against your own inertia or fear. There is a need for a renewed anger against the enemy.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. (Eph 4:26, 27)

Summary: We are three elements, body, soul, and spirit. Mind is common to all and houses a Gatekeeper (our will) which allows or refuses passage between spirit and soul.

Chapter 15

The Final State - The Goal

When God created Adam, He knew that He would one day send Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb for the sins of the world. When Jesus became one of us through His mother, Mary, Jesus became one of us **forever**. He did not say, Well, I'm done with this cross stuff. I'll go back to the way things were before.

Another crude illustration: There was a brilliant research scientist who dedicated his professional life to studying microscopic single-celled animals, sort of like bacteria. This particular cell had only a short lifespan. For thirty years this scientist, Dr. Johnson, dedicated himself to finding a way to increase the life span of these small creatures. He found a way to increase their life span to almost indefinite. He loved his work. He was approaching retirement and would have to leave the lab he worked in for so many years. He would have to leave the work of bringing improvement to the microscopic cells.

He actually came to feel like he knew the bacteria personally. He actually came to...love his little creatures. (Dr. Johnson really needs to retire, at least a long vacation.)

In his last few months before his forced retirement, Dr. Johnson found a way to communicate with his single-celled friends, but it meant that he would have to become one of them; become a bacteria. There was one problem. If he became a bacteria, he would remain one of them for the rest of his life.

After Dr. Johnson's strange disappearance, his colleagues made a plaque to hang on the wall of the lab. It read:

For Dr. Johnson so loved the dish (of bacteria) that he gave...everything, including his own life.

Someone may say, “I can't believe I wasted 15 seconds of my life reading this retarded drivel!”

Wait a moment. The actual fact is thousands of times more real than the fictitious parable.

In being born as a human, Jesus would remain a human forever. As humans we remain human without end, saved or in hell someday. In creating the human race, Jesus realized He was going to be in this basic form (glorified, of course) eternally. In designing and manufacturing the creature He would be forever, He must have considered it carefully. He could have made the human being with wings. He could have considered making our limbs with three joints or more. He could have made us octopus-like, so He could eventually be able to mold Himself into almost any shape at will.

He chose to make the human race as He did, knowing He would forever be one of them. It must be a pretty good idea. God's design of the human spirit allows Him to inhabit us. The infinite God is compatible with the human being, both in His design of our bodies and in the special capacity of our spirit. The nature of Who God is (giving His Son yet remaining totally God) and the construction of His creatures allows Him to become one of us forever, being unable to return to the original state yet remain totally God. His plan allows Him to inhabit the human in fullness. His nature and our construction fit perfectly. None of this was an afterthought.

Even the Spirit of truth; ... for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:17)

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (John 20:22)

The very first night after being resurrected from the dead, Jesus appeared to His frightened disciples. He had told them before that He who had walked with them for 1 to 3 years is now going to be IN them. It seems God could hardly wait.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)

At the end of the Book we clearly see God's original intention for man and his home, his body and the earth. I believe this is the desire of the Father, Whom Christ died to bring us to.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring

us to God, ... (1Pet 3:18)

Paul tells us there is a special reward for those who have loved the truth of His Appearing. (2 Tim 4:8) How can we have a holy expectation for His Appearing if we know we are in deliberate disobedience?

Perhaps you have been a Christian for 5 or 10 years. But when are you going to start your Christian life? When are you going to esteem God as true and every man a liar?

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (I John 2:28)

If we live every day longing for His Appearing, constantly wanting His words to enter into our minds and souls and displace all our natural thoughts, it will be a Day of great joy.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20)

END

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