

**Module** : The Spiritual Man**Session 6** : Characteristics a Mature Spirit

Continued directly from Session 5

The Spirit within our spirit is warring against the weakness of our flesh. The prize for this battle between Spirit (spirit) and flesh is the dominance and control of the soul. The soul's proper placement and function is to yield obediently and unquestioningly to the Word of God received within our spirit. The soul is to blindly follow the spirit, and thus obedience in the body becomes normal and reflexive. Where the flesh rules via indulgence in carnal thoughts and deeds, the souls' ability to obey is eroded, and it becomes a slave to the fleshly desires of the fallen nature instead of being obediently enslaved to the Word of God operative within the spirit.

**In Session 5 we discussed the following principles that are essential in overcoming carnality:**

- ✓ Do not love the world, or the things that are in the world. [1 John 2:15-17]
- ✓ Do not set your mind on things of the flesh. [Rom.8:5-8]
- ✓ Do not have close associations and intimate alliances with friends who are carnal.
- ✓ [Psalm 1; Ex 12:37-39; Numb 11:31-35; Psalm 106:7-16; 1 Cor. 10:1-12; 2 Tim 2:22; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Rev 18:4,5]
- ✓ Always be in a position where you are accessing GRACE. [2 Cor. 1:12; Titus 2:11,12]
- ✓ Walk and live in the Spirit, which is being obedient to the Word of God.
- ✓ [Rom. 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-26; Acts 5:32; 1 Pet. 1,2; Ezek. 2:1-2; Gal. 6:8; Rom. 6:16-18]
- ✓ Pursue love as the ultimate goal. [1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim 2:22; 2 Pet. 1:2-8; 1 Cor. 13:4-8]
- ✓ Give no place to the devil – do not give him opportunity through carnality to advance his work further in you. He should have 'nothing in you'. [John 14:30; Eph. 4:17-32; Rom. 12:14]
- ✓ Abstain from all appearance of evil.
- ✓ [1 Thess. 5:21-24; 4:3-5; 1 Pet. 2:11,12; 2 Tim. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:22; Job 1:1,8; 28:28]
- ✓ Cleanse yourself as a vessel of honour and pursue holiness.
- ✓ [2 Tim. 2:19-22; 4:11; Gen 39:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:1-2]
- ✓ Hate iniquity and love righteousness. [Heb. 1:8-9; Psalm 40:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:12]
- ✓ Consciously lay aside every weight and sin that easily trips you up.
- ✓ [Heb. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23]
- ✓ Put on Christ. [Rom. 13:14a]
- ✓ Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust – do not engage in deliberate planning to satisfy the flesh. [Rom. 13:12-14; Eph. 4:22-25]

Defilement of flesh can cause defilement of soul and ultimately defilement of spirit. A defiled or filthy spirit is cured through hearing the Word of God. Jesus said to his disciples, "Now are you clean through the Word I have SPOKEN to you." (John 15:3). Note the emphasis on the word 'SPOKEN'. If words are spoken, then they must be HEARD. The hearing of the word can bring cleansing to the spirit, but obedience to the word purifies the soul as indicated in 1 Peter 1:22. But the spirit has got to be

positioned correctly to hear (rehearse all the principles of hearing that we have previously discussed). A defiled spirit can reject the Word. Judas heard Jesus's word, but HIS words did not 'cleanse' him.

**John 13:10a,11**

And you **are clean**, but **not every one of you**. For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, Not all of you are clean

We must guard against hardness of heart and defilement of spirit.

**Consider: John 15:3**

**CEV:** You are **already clean** because of **what I have said to you**.

**ERV:** You have already been prepared to produce more fruit **by the teaching I have given you**.

Let us explore conditions the human spirit may experience.

### A SANCTIFIED, COMPLETE, BLAMELESS AND PEACEFUL SPIRIT

#### 1 Thess. 5:21-24

21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the **God of peace** Himself **sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body **be preserved complete, without blame** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Note the desire of God for our spirit, soul and body expressed in the following terms:

**'Sanctify' = hagiozo** = to make clean, to render pure; to make holy; purify; consecrate;

**'Complete' = holokleros** = whole, having all of it's parts, perfect in every part, i.e. perfectly sound, entire

This word 'complete' refers to 'that which retains **all that was initially allotted to it and lacking nothing for its wholeness.**'

**'Without Blame' = amemptos** = faultlessly

Note that the specific quality of God's nature that is amplified here in His intent to bring sanctity, completeness and blamelessness to our entire being, is that of **PEACE**.

**Peace = eirene** = tranquility, health, welfare, prosperity.

This is equivalent to the Old Testament Hebrew word for 'peace', viz. SHALOM, meaning wholeness, soundness, hence health, prosperity. The God of peace wants to bring peace to my spirit, soul and body. All these three parts need to be filled with the PEACE of God, i.e. **tranquility, health, wholeness, completeness, soundness, wealth, prosperity and welfare**.

## FILTHINESS OF SPIRIT

**2 Cor. 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**Defilement = molusmos** = filthiness

**Perfecting = epiteleio** = to complete, perfect

“These promises” referred to above are indicated in the previous chapter in 2 Cor. 6:16-18.

### **2 Cor. 6:14-18**

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be MY people.

17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.

18 And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me, Says the Lord Almighty

### These promises include the desire of God to ...

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Make us His permanent dwelling             | : | <u>[I will be in them]</u>                        |
| 2. Walk among us executing His purposes       | : | <u>[I will walk among them]</u>                   |
| 3. Unashamedly be called our God              | : | <u>[I will be their God]</u>                      |
| 4. Express total ownership of us              | : | <u>[They shall be my people]</u>                  |
| 5. Draw us near and relate intimately with us | : | <u>[I will welcome you]</u>                       |
| 6. Express His FATHERHOOD to HIS SONS         | : | <u>[I will be a father ... you shall be sons]</u> |

Paul's appeal for us not to come to the place of defilement of flesh and spirit is so that the above promises, which reveal the intent of God, will be realised. These promises are compromised and potentially aborted should defilement of the flesh and spirit persist.

**Defilement = molusmos** = a stain, figuratively refers to **immorality** or filthiness (Strong's); An action by which anything is defiled (Thayer).

Contextually, in the previous chapter, Paul commands us not to be negatively influenced by ungodly associations and company as these can result in defilement leading to immorality. Moral corruption and decay within a man can result through associations and friendships with carnal individuals.

**1 Cor. 15:33** Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.

Refer to Session 19 in this series where I discuss how the carnal ‘rabble’ or ‘mixed multitude’ incited Israel with fleshly desires in the wilderness. This has the potential for defilement of flesh and spirit. It may be well said that the state of a man's spirit reflects the quality of his company.

**Note the order – flesh AND spirit.** The defilement usually starts in the flesh but the ultimate impact is in the spirit. Carnality impacts the soul negatively and also the spirit. It is possible for one's spirit to be defiled. While the Holy Spirit in and through one's spirit fights the flesh for dominant influence over the soul, it is possible to get to the place where unbridled fleshly carnality so defiles the soul to such a degree, that even one's spirit becomes contaminated.

The Word of God is able to divide and separate spirit and soul – to influence and bring renewal to both spirit and soul. Recall that in Scripture, **LIGHT is represented by and thus symbolically refers to four things:**

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. God Himself         | [Psalm 104:2; 1 Tim 6:16; 1 John 1:5] |
| 2. His Word            | [Psalm 119:105; 19:8; Prov. 6:23]     |
| 3. Spiritual Fathering | [2 Sam. 21:17]                        |
| 4. Your spirit         | [Prov. 20:27; Psalm 18:28]            |

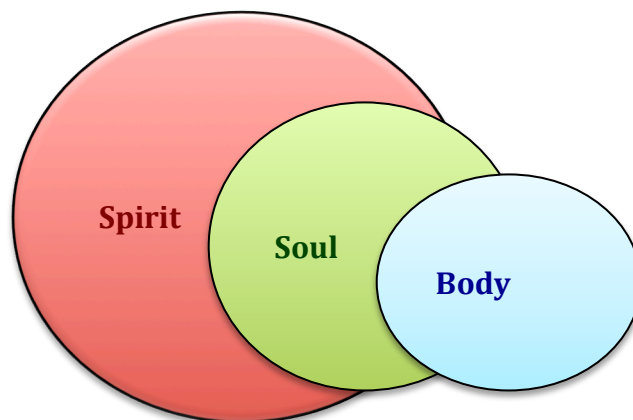
The Word (light/lamp) comes to your spirit (light/lamp) through one, your spiritual father (light/lamp), who is a representation of the nature of God Himself (Light) to you. This illuminated Word shines into your spirit, and so searches out and highlights the darkened areas of the soul. If you do not recognise and respect the one who brings the Word of God to you in this manner, you negate the very means by which your soul will be restored.

#### **A WORD-ILLUMINATED SPIRIT IS THE PRE-EMINENT FACULTY THAT SHOULD LEAD THE SOUL AND BODY.**

The body without the spirit is dead. The soul finds expression through the body via the five senses. The spirit is to predominate over the soul and body. The spirit is to be the governing agency and regulating factor within us. A defiled spirit is powerless and compromises its ability to do this. We may diagrammatically depict the supremacy of the spirit over the soul and body as follows:

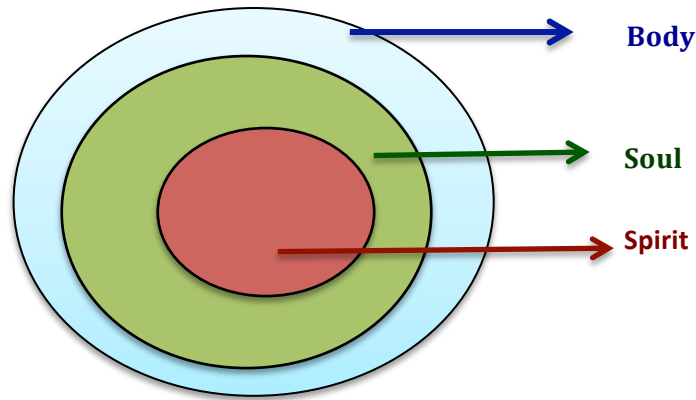
#### **Diagram 1:**

The size of the circles indicates the predominance and influence of each part.



**Diagram 2:**

The centrality of the spirit indicates its pivotal and strategic placement and function in the man.



### A DARKENED SPIRIT

**Prov. 20:20** He who curses his father or his mother, His **lamp** will go out in the **time** of darkness.

Disregard and dishonour for spiritual fathering will cause your lamp - your spirit (**Prov. 20:27; Psalm 18:28**) - to 'go out in the time of darkness'. In the original Hebrew, the word '**time**' (iyshon) relates to the **pupil of one's eye**. The **pupil** is a hole located in the center of the iris of the eye that allows light to enter the retina. The person who curses and does not honour the representation of God, the light vested within the person of his spiritual father who brings the light of the word to him, will experience 'darkness' in his spirit - symbolically no light will enter the pupil of his spiritual eye. The eyes of his spirit will be blinded. This occurs especially in times when his spirit is required to be well illumined with the light of God's Word - a time 'of darkness'. The word '**darkness**' refers to '**misery, destruction, death, ignorance and sorrow**'.

The state of the eyes of your spirit either permits or prohibits the entry of light (Word) into it. The eye speaks of your spiritual sight and perception - Ephesians 1:18 speaks of the "eyes of your understanding being enlightened". The condition of the eyes of your spirit determines the state of the rest of your entire body. Matthew 6:23 teaches that the eye is the lamp of the body, and a clear or healthy eye will allow the whole body to be filled with light.

**The 'clear' (single) eye versus the 'bad'(evil) eye :**

#### **Matthew 6:22-24**

- 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.
- 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
- 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**Clear = haploos =** Single, i.e., not complex, easy, used of the eye as not seeing double as when it is diseased. When the eye accomplishes its purpose of seeing things as they are, then it is *haploús*, single, healthy, perfect. Singleness, simplicity, absence of folds.

A derivative of the Greek word, 'haploos' is 'haplós' = **bountifully**.

Thus the single or clear eye refers to **SINCERITY** but also to **GENEROUS** and **BOUNTIFUL** giving.

**Bad = ponēros =** Evil in a moral or spiritual sense, wicked, malicious, mischievous  
(Root word = penes = starving, indigent-poor] (see Prov.28:22)

A clear eye is one which is not diseased, but 'healthy' – it has a clear and healthy perception of people and events. It sees things as they are - it does not see things through a particular prejudice. This sight is sincere and godly. It also includes a perception which is bountiful in its giving financially (for the biblical context of this passage is a discussion on finances). This also could include the clear eye being one which is benevolent in its regard for others – it gives the benefit of the doubt to others – thinking of their good only and viewing them as pure.

On the other hand, the evil or bad eye refers to the perception of others with malicious or hurtful intent. Also, it includes being stingy in financial giving and can also apply to being deliberately sparse or starving in the manner in which you view others – robbing and taking away from them the honour or good that you should bestow on them.

See people and events through a WORD-INFORMED spirit eye, not through a diseased eye of the soul. Until the eye of the soul is healed of its prejudice and disease, you cannot rely upon it. We use our natural eyes to SEE, but we do not see with these eyes, but rather, we see THROUGH our eyes. See WITH the eyes of your spirit man THROUGH your soul and natural eyes.

We do not perceive nor appraise anyone after natural standards, but after their new identity in Christ.

### 2 Cor. 5:16-21

- 16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.
- 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
- 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
- 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

**2 Cor 5:16a :** **CEV :** We are careful not to judge anyone by what they seem to be ....  
**GW :** From now on we do not think of anyone from a human point of view  
**AMP:** Consequently from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]

The spec versus the log:

**Matthew 7:1-5**

- 1 Do not judge so that you will not be judged.
- 2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.
- 3 Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?
- 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?
- 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye

Clear the prejudice in your own perception first before you judge others.

If your esteem and honour for your spiritual father is poor, it means your sight or perception of him is poor, and this would inhibit the transfer of light (Word) from him to you. Then, when you need this light (Word) the most to sustain you through a period of darkness, you will not have it. Thus your spirit (your lamp) is darkened in a time of darkness. But, where your esteem and respect for spiritual fathering is established accurately, then the Word brought to you illumines the eyes of your spirit such that by the revelation of the Word you have received, you will WALK THROUGH any condition of darkness.

**Consider:**

<b><u>Prov. 20:27a</u></b>	The <b>spirit of man</b> is the <b>lamp</b> of the Lord ...
<b><u>Psalms 18:28</u></b>	<b>You light my lamp</b> ; The Lord my <b>God illumines my darkness</b>
<b><u>Prov. 16:15a</u></b>	In the <b>light of a King's face</b> there is <b>life</b> ...
<b><u>Psalms 112:4a</u></b>	<b>Light arises in darkness</b> for the upright ...
<b><u>Job 29:3</u></b>	When his <b>lamp shone over my head</b> , by his light <b>I walked through darkness</b>

A 'lamp that is gone out' is a spirit with no Light from God's Word, because the means that God has determined to bring this Word to you, i.e. your spiritual father, is cursed and not honoured. One way in which this happens is by not positioning oneself under the sound of his voice.

This is also illustrated in the healing of the blind man in John chapter 9. In this chapter there are three well-known sayings of Jesus which are all connected, viz.

- that He is **the LIGHT** of the World,
- that He can only work in **the DAY**,
- and the necessity to **WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM**.

**John 9: 1-7**

- 1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.
- 2 And His disciples asked Him, “ Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”
- 3 Jesus answered, “ It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- 4 **We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.**
- 5 While I am in the world, **I am the Light of the world.**”
- 6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,
- 7 and said to him, “**Go, wash in the pool of Siloam**” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing

We are sons of the day or sons of the Light and we must function in the light or revelation of the Word of God. The word Siloam means ‘SENT’ – as does the word ‘apostle’. We can only do God’s apostolic work in the day or in the light, for the night comes when no man can work. This light or day in which we are able to work refers to the quality of revelation within us. **As we SEE, so we WORK.**

**John 8:28** So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but **I speak these things as the Father taught Me**

**John 14:10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The **words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works**

But if you are in darkness – or ignorance, devoid of any light or revelation from His word, then your ability to do apostolic work is aborted, for you can only work in the ‘day’. Water in the pool of Siloam is symbolic of apostolic doctrine – apostolic word. The word ‘wash’ in the Greek implies continuous washing, i.e. one has got to be exposed to apostolic doctrine continuously or repeatedly (see 1 Peter 1:12). He who works in the day has an illumined spirit full of revelation of the light of the Word, coming primarily from one’s spiritual father who teaches apostolic doctrine to you. Thus the caution not to curse a spiritual father takes on greater seriousness. As you SEE with clarity, you are able to discern the works of the Father more accurately and so do them.

**A Challenge :** As you also appraise others correctly after their new creation identity in the Spirit, this indicates your eyes are full of light. The accurate perception of your brother qualifies you as one who lives ‘in the day’ and thus can do apostolic work ‘in the day’. Choose not to focus on your brother’s weakness, but amplify the good qualities of Christ in him. Choose to be blind to the prejudiced eye of your fallen soul, until it is completely renewed.

**Isaiah 42:19** Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My messenger whom I send

Somebody said, **“If you change the way you see things, the things you see will change.”**



## STEADFAST OR RIGHT SPIRIT = ONE THAT IS ERECT, FIRM AND ESTABLISHED

David realised the extent to which his spirit had been affected by his sin of adultery and murder, and ardently appealed to God to CREATE within him a clean heart and RENEW a right or steadfast spirit within him.

**Psalm 51:10** **Create** in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a **steadfast** spirit within me.

**Renew** = **chadash** = repair, rebuild

**Steadfast** = **kun** = to be erect, to stand upright, firm, established, fixed,

The primary meaning of 'STEADFAST' is to cause to **stand in an upright position** that becomes **fixed or established**. Thus defilement within the spirit can cause it not to be steadfast – to lose it erect and upright position, and so lose its firm and established state. But the amazing reality is that the spirit of man can be REPAIRED and REBUILT by God. The spirit needs to be **erect, upright and attentive to the reception of the WORDS OF GOD**. This is important for the spirit to impact and impress the Words of God upon the soul so that obedience could result in and through the body.

**Psalm 78:37** For their heart was **not steadfast** toward Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

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## TO BE PRESSED IN SPIRIT IS TO BE ENGROSSED WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Different renderings of **Acts 18:5b** makes for interesting study. The context is the start of Paul's ministry at Corinth, which lasted for a year and a half.

**Consider: Acts 18:5b**

**NKJV** ... Paul was **compelled by the Spirit** ...

**KJV** ... Paul was **pressed in the spirit** ...

**NASB** ... Paul began **devoting himself completely to the word**...

**ESV** ... Paul was **occupied with the word** ...

**AMP** ... Paul was **completely engrossed with preaching** ...

**NIV** ... Paul **devoted himself exclusively to preaching** ...

There is no contradiction in these different versions. The NKJV's '**compelled by the Spirit**' (i.e. Holy Spirit) and the KJV's '**pressed in spirit**' (i.e. human spirit) are understandable when you accept that '**he who is joined (i.e. glued) to the Lord is ONE spirit with Him**' (1 Cor. 6:17).

The rest of the versions cited above have no reference to 'spirit' or 'Spirit', but to devotion to, preoccupation with the **WORD OF GOD** and specifically **the declaration or preaching thereof**. Thus a spirit, at one with the Holy Spirit, is one which is engrossed with and by the Word of God, and it declaration. Paul's spirit intensity was evidenced by his devotion to the Word of God. He taught God's Word at Corinth for a year and a half.

**Acts 18:11** And he settled there a year and six months, **teaching the word of God** among them.

In Paul's reference to this in his first letter to the Corinthians, he asserts the following ...

**1 Cor. 2:3-5** I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom men, but on the power of God.

Contextually, with scripture explaining scripture, the 'demonstration of the Spirit and power' at Corinth was the intense devotion to the Word of God and it's preaching. This may well include signs, miracles and wonders (which we wholeheartedly believe in and embrace) but these are not specifically mentioned. Also, the demonstration of signs and wonders by the Spirit is always built upon the basis of a strong culture of devotion to the Word of God. We need both the WORD and also the manifestation of the Spirit. The Spirit's work is built on the Word.

**Matt 22:29** But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither **the Scriptures** nor the **power of God**.

**Luke 5:17** One day **He was teaching**; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and **the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing**

**1 Thess 1:5** for our gospel did **not come to you in word only**, but also in **power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction**; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake

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### **A STRONG SPIRIT IMPRESSES GOD'S WORD ON THE SOUL**

That which the spirit is 'compelled' by or 'pressed' with must be **impressed** upon the soul.

**Deut. 11:18** You shall therefore **impress these words** of mine on your heart and **on your soul**; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

In the previous session we have laboured the point that the SOUL is purified so that it can submit to the will of God through HIS Word, as the Holy Spirit within the spirit of the man reveals it. Whenever God's Word is heard, it is to be received and encoded within one's spirit, and then be IMPRESSED upon one's soul (see Deut.11:18).

**Impress = sum, siym = to put, to set, to place.**

- This Hebrew word 'sum' / 'siym' is used to describe the **placing of man in the garden** (Gen 2:8). The garden was made for man and without man, it could not be brought **to maximum productivity**. Likewise is the effect of the Word of God in the soul of man. Without the Word of God impressed upon the soul, the soul will not be renewed or prosper.
- Man was positioned **in the garden and this would be the position from which he would rule, expressing God's sovereignty over all creation**. In its general usage in the Bible, the Hebrew word sum/siym predominantly indicates God's ability **to establish the order of things, bringing everything into alignment with His will**. So too, **the extent to which the Word of God finds expression in the soul of man will determine the degree of God's rule through him in this life**.

### INCLINING THE EAR TO HEAR WITH THE SPIRIT SO THAT THE SOUL MIGHT LIVE

**Isaiah 55:3**      **INCLINE your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will**  
**[ESV]**              **make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David**

**Incline = natah =**              to stretch out, extend, pay close attention to

Note in this verse there must be the deliberate **INCLINING of the EAR to HEAR**. We hear with our spirits – “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” – Rev. 2:7. When the ear is inclined to hear with the spirit, and what is heard is impressed upon the soul, the soul lives, not by the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but by the WORD OF LIFE from the Spirit of God.

**'Inclining the ear'** demands that **PRIORITY and TIME be given to the hearing, reading, study and meditation of the Word of God.**

### Proverbs 4:20-23

- 20      My son, **give attention to my words; Incline your ear** to my sayings.
- 21      Do not let them depart **from your sight**; Keep them in the **midst of your heart**.
- 22      For they are **life to those who find them** and **health to all their body**.
- 23      Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life

**Our responsibility is to incline our ear to hear. Note a six-fold process in this verse:**

1. Give attention to God's Words. **[v.20a]**
2. Incline Your ear to His Saying **[v.20b]**
3. Do not let His Word/Sayings depart from your perspective - or point of view **[v.21a]**
4. Keep His Word/Sayings in the centre of your heart -your inward spirit man. **[v.21b]**
5. The Christ Life will then manifest; physical health also. **[v.22]**
6. Watch over your heart (or spirit) – for out from it flows springs of life. **[v.23]**

You cannot be INCLINED toward that which you are not attentive to. Hence the instruction is first to give attention to, and then incline the ear to hear.

**Attention = qashab =** to prick up the ears, to cause to hear, harken or listen

“Do not let them depart from your sight”.

**Depart = luz =** to turn aside; to be lost from view

What you hear affects your SIGHT, i.e. let the Word to which you are attentive to and inclined to hear, shape and condition your perception and outlook. This then must be diligently maintained with great vigilance (‘WATCH’) as the perpetual state or condition of your internal state of heart/spirit. This is important, because out from the reality of an inward spirit man infused with the Word of God, will flow ‘springs of life’ – the abundant life of God will manifest and be seen (even physical healing).

The word **springs or issue** is the Hebrew, **totsaah**, which has two nuances:

- **A going out; an exit** : Everything in all your life exists from the state of your spirit. Your outward life reveals the condition of your spirit/heart.
- **A border; a boundary:** The extent of the sphere, influence and impact of your life is dependent upon the capacity or sense of enlargement within one’s spirit.

**Accessing and living out LIFE in Christ is impossible apart from the WORD of LIFE.**

**Meditate on the following scriptures relative to LIFE in the WORD:**

**John 1:1-4** In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was **life**, and **the life** was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it

**1 John 1:1** What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning **the Word of Life**

**John 5:24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears **My word**, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life

**Phil 2:14** Do all things **without grumbling or disputing**; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as **lights** in the world, holding fast **the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain

**Read proverbs 4:20-21 again**, and note the process described below:

**Proverbs 4:20-23**

- 20 My son, **give attention to my words**; **Incline your ear** to my sayings.  
 21 Do not let them depart **from your sight**; Keep them in the **midst of your heart**.  
 22 For they are **life to those who find them** and **health to all their body**.  
 23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life

- ✓ **Position yourself to HEAR**, like Mary sat at Jesus feet to hear His Word – ‘give attention’.
- ✓ **Hear with your SPIRIT** – ‘incline your ears’.
- ✓ What is heard in your spirit must **condition the perspective in your SOUL** – ‘do not let them depart from your eyes’.
- ✓ THE SPIRIT is to lead the soul – the word ‘midst’ implies something **in a central and leading position**, i.e. your spirit.
- ✓ When the SOUL adopts the perspective of the SPIRIT, **the BODY feels the positive effects of the ZOE life of God** – ‘life to those who find them and health to all their flesh’.

**WHEN YOU INCLINE YOUR EAR TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**, God will then open it and give understanding.

**Prov. 4:20** My son, **give attention** to my words; **Incline** your ear to my sayings

Here is a reminder of something from Session 2 of the current series that merits repetition here:

Words, which are spirit and life, must be heard with the spirit. To ‘hear’ implies a **conscious willingness to obey**. Our ‘ear’ is our hearing mechanism and ability. Spiritual words are heard in one’s spirit first. The soul must be submitted completely to that which is accurately heard in our spirit. The state of the soul must not in any way pose an obstruction to both the reception of God’s Word or the obedient execution thereof.

**Isa. 50:4-5** The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. **He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple**. The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back.

**Listen = shama** = to hear intelligently with a view to obedience.

The ear of our spirit needs to be far more keenly attuned and receptive to the hearing of the Word of God.

This phrase ‘**morning by morning**’ stresses the **regularity and hence consistent discipline** of accurate hearing.

We hear ‘**as a disciple**’ i.e. one poised and ready to **take instructions**, so as to **embody the life and values of the teacher**. We hear always with a view and desire to want to change – to be transformed. If obedience is to result, our hearing is to be improved. We hear with the mind of our spirit, not our soul,

so that we will obey what we hear **‘and not turn back’** from accurately following the Lord, even being obedient to so-called **‘difficult sayings’** or seemingly hard instructions.

The Hebrew word for **‘AWAKENS’** here is **‘ur’** which means **‘to wake’** but it is identical to a Hebrew word which contains the idea of **OPENING the EYES**. Our accurate hearing gives us accurate perception. **If we hear it right, we will see it right and thus do it right**. In this sense Paul prayed that the ‘eyes of our understanding would be enlightened’ (Eph. 1:18).

As we have taught in prior sessions, the opening or entrance of God’s Word by one’s spiritual father brings light into one’s spirit, and from here, light is able to illuminate his entire being. The same idea is used here in Isaiah 50:4 - **The Lord God ‘opens our ears’**.

**Opened = pathach = to open wide; to loosen, plough, etc.**

The prophet affirms that he was **not ‘disobedient’ and did not ‘turn back’** to that which God opened his ear to.

**Disobedient = marah = to be bitter, to rebel.**

**Turn = sug = to flinch, to go back**

As is evidenced by the meanings of the words cited above, **disobedience, translated as bitterness here, can at times result because of depression, disappointment**, etc. within the soul that did not blindly follow the light received with the spirit. Many times we ‘flinch’ at the command of God, for although we have heard correctly, **we allow the negative state of the soul to predominate to a degree where our actual intention to obey (established within our spirits) is eroded by negativity within the soul**.

### **WITH THE SPIRIT WE UNDERSTAND**

The spirit of man receives understanding of divine things and transfers this to the mind of the soul.

**Job 32:8,9**

8 But it is a **spirit** in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives **them understanding**

9 The abundant in years may not be wise, Nor may elders understand justice

The principle here is that understanding is not necessarily a function of age or time, but of spirit. A spirit attuned to God can, in a short space of time, accelerate understanding depictive of accumulated years of experience.

### **WITH THE SPIRIT, WE KNOW**

With and within our spirits, God may give us supernatural knowledge, even of the thoughts of others. Any mature believer can function in this.

**Mark 2:8** Immediately Jesus, **aware in His spirit** that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, **Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts**

## WITH THE SPIRIT, WE GO – AND TRANSCEND PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS/RESTRICTIONS

A fully mature or developed spirit can even know things as the Spirit deems it necessary to reveal it, even though physical conditions militate against this. This is especially true and important for spiritual leaders to function in. When Gehazi went after Naaman to fraudulently extract finances from him by misrepresenting Elisha, Elisha knew of this because his spirit (or heart) went with Gehazi – even though he was not physically present with him.

**2 Kings 5:26a** : Elisha said to him, **Did not my spirit go with you** when the man turned from chariot to meet you.

Although physically not present at Corinth, Paul could impose judgment upon an immoral man in the same manner as though he were present. He asserted to them that he was present with them in spirit every time they gathered. These realities of the spirit life have got to be fully explored and restored to us.

### 1 Corinth. 5:1-5

- 1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.
- 2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.
- 3 For I, on my part, **though absent in body** but **present in spirit**, have already judged him who has so committed this, **as though I were present**.
- 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
- 5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus

This dynamic seems to be the possibility afforded to spiritual fathers who have oversight of the spiritual welfare of people. Both Paul and Elisha functioned in a mature fatherhood grace over people. Paul also rejoiced over the good state of the Colossians, people he never actually ever physically met. Again he asserted the reality of the possibility of being present with them in spirit.

**Col. 2:5** For though I am **absent in body**, yet **I am with you in spirit**, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ

These possibilities of the spirit within man must be restored. I believe that as the process of spiritual maturity accelerates, that the maturity of the spirit and soul will result in the breaking of limitation/restriction (including immortality) in the body, and also that teleportation like Philip experienced in Acts chapter eight will be possible. Teleportation is the transfer of matter from one point to another without traversing the physical space between them.

**Acts 8:39,40** When they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away**; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. But **Philip found himself at Azotus**, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea

Consider:

**John 6:21** "So they were **WILLING** to receive Him into the boat, and **IMMEDIATELY** the boat was at the land to which they were going."

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A SEARCHING / SEEKING SPIRIT AND A LONGING SOUL

**Isaiah 26:9** At night my **SOUL** longs for You, Indeed, my **SPIRIT** within **me** **SEEKS YOU** diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

In the verse above, there is beautiful harmony between the desire of the spirit and soul. The spirit makes diligent search of God and the soul expresses a longing for Him. Literally read in the original Hebrew, this reads as follows: *"with my soul ... I long; with my spirit ... I seek"*. The searching nature of the spirit to know God in a deeper manner manifests itself in an earnest longing for Him in the soul. The mind of the soul is influenced and conditioned by the mind of the spirit.

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A SPIRIT THAT PRAYS

**Praying in Tongues Builds You Up:** One way to develop your spirit man is to pray in tongues in the Holy Ghost.

**1 Cor. 14:14** For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays**, but my mind is unfruitful.

**1 Cor. 14:18** I thank God, I **speak in tongues more than you all**

**Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, **building yourselves** up on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit**

**Building = epikodomeo = to build upon; to rear up.**

**Rom. 12:12c** ... devoted to prayer ...

**Eph. 6:18** With all prayer and petition **pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, **be on the alert** with all perseverance and petition for all the saints

**Zech. 12:1** The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel. Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him

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## THE STRENGTH OF THE SPIRIT SHOULD AFFECT AND DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF THE SOUL

The state of the spirit always affects the state of the soul:

**Job 7:11** Therefore I will **not restrain my mouth**; I will speak in the **anguish of my spirit**, I will **complain in the bitterness of my soul**

When the spirit is in anguish, the soul is in bitterness. This is manifested in the character and content of one's speech. Inevitably, this shows itself as unrestrained COMPLAINT and MURMUR.

**Consider: 1 Sam 1:15** But Hannah replied, No, my lord, I am a woman **oppressed in spirit**; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have **poured out my soul** before the Lord.

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## REMAIN FERVENT IN SPIRIT

**Acts 18:25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being **fervent in spirit**, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John

**fervent = zeo** = to boil with heat; to boil with zeal

Many have lost their fervency in spirit. Keep your spirit fervent by being constantly exposed to the hearing of God's Word, praying in tongues in the Spirit regularly, and keeping free from all expressions of carnality.

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## PURPOSE IN YOUR SPIRIT

Paul made decisions in his spirit, being led by the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 19:21 NASB:** Now after these things were finished, **Paul purposed in the Spirit** to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

**Acts 19:21 b KJV:** ... Paul **purposed in the spirit**, ...

**Acts 20:22 NKJV:** And see, now I go **bound in the spirit** to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there.

**Acts 20:22**     **AMP:**    And now, you see, I am going to Jerusalem, **bound by the [Holy] Spirit and obligated and compelled by he [convictions of my own] spirit** not knowing what will befall me there. (AMP)

Paul, being governed by the Holy Spirit, resolved in his own spirit to go to Jerusalem. This decision was not made in the mind of his soul, but in the mind of his spirit, being directed by the Holy Spirit. He did not count the costs of going, nor considered the associated negative consequences of going from a humanistic perspective, but was blindly obedient to a Holy Spirit directive.

Consider his statements after his resolution to go:

**Acts 20:22-24**    And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that **bonds and afflictions await me**. But **I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself**, so that **I may finish my course and the ministry**, which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

He was not concerned about self-preservation. He was driven by a passion to FINISH his course and ministry – his assignment. When this becomes ours also, the leading of the Holy Spirit within our spirit will heighten and our decisions will be a function of our spirit, not our soul.

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### **A CONTROLLED SPIRIT : SELF-CONTROLLED AND WELL DISCIPLINED**

**Prov. 25:28**     *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

A city with broken walls is vulnerable to attack by an enemy. It is insecure. The Word of God is the controlling mechanism within our spirits. The Word is that by which we can exercise control over our spirits. A Wordless spirit is susceptible to indiscipline and a lack of control. The spirit of man is the controlling factor in the being of the man. It is to lead the soul into obedience. But if this spirit is defiled and is not marinated in the speaking of God's Word, it is left disempowered and weak to fulfill its God-ordained function. Thus, when there is a lack of control in the spirit, there will also be indiscipline in the soul and body.

## A BROKEN SPIRIT

### A Broken Spirit #1 = Repentance and Sorrow for Sin

**Psalm 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

**Broken = sabar** = to break, to burst, to break into pieces, to bring to birth

**Contrite = dakah** = to crush, to break into pieces, to crouch

Here brokenness of spirit refers to the condition of repentance and sorrow for sin. God will not reject a person in this condition.

### A Broken Spirit #2 = Sadness of Heart

**Prov. 15:13** A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

**Broken = naka** = broken, beaten, crushed

Brokenness of spirit is manifested by an absence of joy.

**Prov. 17:22** A joyful heart is good medicine, But a **broken spirit dries up the bones.**

### A Broken Spirit #3 = The inability to endure and correct external bodily conditions.

**Prov. 18:14** The **spirit of a man can endure his sickness**, But *as for* a broken spirit who can bear it?

A strong spirit can endure any condition in the body – and even ultimately restore it. Brokenness of spirit - i.e. in context here meaning one is not whole or healed – is unbearable.

## POOR IN SPIRIT

### Poor in Spirit = Humility

**Matt 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Poverty of spirit here is a reference to a spirit that is humble and not spiritually arrogant.

## A REFRESHED SPIRIT

### A Refreshed Spirit

#### 1 Cor. 16:17-18

17 I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.

18 For they have **refreshed my spirit and yours**. Therefore acknowledge such men

2 Cor. 7:13 For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because **his spirit has been refreshed by you all**

## NO 'REST' IN SPIRIT

2 Cor. 2:12b,13 ".... a door was opened for me in the Lord, I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother."

What gives you no REST in your spirit? For Paul, it was the inability to find a BROTHER, in the face of a massive opportunity to advance his ministry. Paul was not ecstatic about an OPEN DOOR, but had no rest in his SPIRIT, because he could not find Titus, HIS BROTHER. Pursuit of divinely orchestrated ministry opportunities must not become an obsession at the expense of breaking or not maintaining divinely ordained relationships. We must not neglect FINDING a lost BROTHER because we are too preoccupied to fulfilling ministry obligations – even those God has opened. The basis for successful ministry endeavor is relationships.

ALSO, it would seem Paul was not content to enter the open door alone, but with Titus, highlighting the principle that our movements into great opportunities for the acceleration of God's global purpose would now be a corporate one, and not an individualistic 'one-man' show, as was characteristic of the time of Judges.

## TROUBLED IN SPIRIT

Jesus was troubled in spirit when He prophesied about His betrayal.

John 13:21 When Jesus had said this, He became **troubled in spirit**, and testified and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me

## MOVED and Troubled in Spirit

At Lazarus's tomb, Jesus groaned in His spirit – this essentially means he was agitated or angry within his spirit.

**John 11:33-39**

- 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply **moved** in spirit and was troubled,  
 34 and said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see.  
 35 Jesus wept.  
 36 So the Jews were saying, See how He loved him!  
 37 But some of them said, Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?  
 38 So Jesus, **again being deeply moved within**, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.  
 39 Jesus said, Remove the stone ....

The word '**moved**' here (**groaned** in KJV) means to '**charge with earnest admonition; to charge sternly**'. He was angry with the evil spirit of death – an enemy of all sons of God and the last enemy to be subdued. His authoritative command "Lazarus come forth" – breaking the power of death over him, was issued forth from a spirit filled with the power of LIFE and which administered a judgement on death already, before He spoke. Jesus in this instance already secured the victory over death before He spoke. His uttered command was the expression of the already victorious position of His spirit over death. Our speech, commandments and confessions must not be empty but must emerge forth from a spirit imbued with the truth of the Word or the will of the Lord. Thus our speech is not just empty confessions, but bold and powerful declarations.

May we groan within our spirits when we observe those issues within our lives that are out of alignment with the will of our Father. And may we, from the conviction of a Word-filled spirit, begin to authoritatively call for the realignment and redemption of these things.

In Romans 8 there are three groans, viz. from creation, from us as sons of God and from the Holy Spirit. In this present season, God is causing a groan to arise within the spirits of the sons of God all over the earth. This cry is one of full sonship and the redemption of the body – to be clothed with immortality. Creation groans for this manifestation of the mature sons of God. The Spirit groans within us for this reality as well.

**Creation Groans:** **Rom. 8:19-21** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**Rom. 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

**We Groan:** **Rom 8:23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first

fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

**The Spirit Groans:**      **Rom.8:26**      In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God

References to groan, groans and groanings here mean “to moan or sigh”. Let the groan within our spirit man increase in intensity until we see the realisation of the finalisation of all God’s purposes within His sons on the earth.

### **An Aside: ARE YOU GROANING OR GRUMBLING?**

In Phil 2:14-16 – is first the command not to grumble, and thereafter to shine as lights in a crooked and perverse world. This light is the LIFE of the Word within our spirits. Grumbling and complaining negate this process. Carnal COMPLAINT and murmur in an unrenewed area of your SOUL is the satanic counterfeit for a Holy Spirit-induced GROAN in the domain of your SPIRIT. So long as soulish grumbling is entertained, the Godly groan in the spirit for alignment with God's will is powerless or silenced. If you are not carrying a Holy Spirit GROAN in your spirit, it is probably because your soul is too full of GRUMBLE. Replace your humanistic grumble in your soul for a Holy Spirit cry or groan in your spirit. This only happens if your spirit is saturated or marinated in the WORD, and then a way to express this is to pray to God IN TONGUES. GROAN, together with creation and the Spirit Himself, for our complete manifestation as sons of God - immortality - the redemption of our bodies – see Rom.8.

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### **WITH OUR SPIRITS WE PRAY : YOUR SPIRIT IS ONE OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATION**

**Zech. 12:10a**      “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the **Spirit of grace and of supplication ...**”

Most versions of the bible render ‘Spirit’ as ‘spirit’ (small case ‘s’ and not capital ‘S’), i.e. the primary reference is to our human spirits, not the Holy Spirit. This distinction is also irrelevant when one considers that ‘he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him’. We have indicated that the spirit of man is the place of the reception of grace. God says He would pour out on us the spirit of grace. His Spirit is one of grace, which influences our spirit with grace via the Word of God. Thus our spirit becomes imbued with a particular character or disposition, i.e. grace and supplication, which is earnest or fervent prayer. Fervent prayer is one of the out-workings of the presence of grace in our spirit.

Pray in the Spirit from your spirit at all times:

**Eph. 6:18** With all prayer and petition **pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints

A spirit that can pray God's perfect will in the Spirit: SEE Rom. 8:26 above;

**1 Cor. 14:14,15** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also

### **YOU ARE A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT**

#### **1 Cor. 15:45-49**

- 45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became A living soul." The last Adam became **a life-giving spirit**.
- 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.
- 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.
- 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.
- 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we will also bear the image of the heavenly**.

The principle of divine life resides in your spirit. Adam, the first man became a living soul. Jesus, the last Adam OR second man, was a life-giving spirit. We, His sons, also bear the image of the heavenly dimension as He did. So, we too are life-giving spirits.

Adam lived from the platform of his soul. His soul became the platform from which he determined all of his actions and behaviour. His spirit lost its place of leadership of the soul. The soul became the primary principle guiding him. But in Christ, a mature and fully formed Word-saturated spirit is being restored to its proper place and function in leading the soul, which then would unquestioningly follow the dictates of God's leading in the spirit. When this is restored, the spirit in us becomes the place from which we issue forth the very life and power of God INTO OUR WORLD OR SPHERE OF IMPACT. LIFE and not DEATH must spill out from your spirit into your world.

THE POWER OF THE LIFE of God in your spirit is released through your TONGUE. Speak and declare life! May the **GRACE OF LIFE** be with your spirit (1 Pet 3:7; Gal. 6:18; Philemon 1:25; 2 Tim. 4:22).

**AS A SUMMARY, HERE BELOW ARE SEVERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMPLETE OR MATURE SPIRIT, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED IN OUR STUDY ABOVE, AND OTHERS, WHICH ARE CITED FOR YOUR OWN FURTHER STUDY.**

Positionally, the spirit at the initial salvation experience is entirely regenerated. Its practical full maturity and formation is progressive in that it must be continuously be exposed to the proceeding Word of the Lord. **Your spirit should be characterized by the following:**

- Word saturated and Word-marinated [Acts 18:5; Heb. 4:12]
- Joined to the Lord, as one Spirit with Him [1Cor. 6:17]
- Bears witness with God's Spirit as to sonship [Rom. 8:16]
- Searching and Seeking after God's will and ways [Isaiah 26:9; 1 Cor. 2: 10-16]
- Full of Grace [Philemon 1:25; Gal.6:18; 2 Tim. 4:22]
- Full of LIGHT [Prov. 20:20, 27]
- Enlightened [Psalm 119:130; Eph. 1:18]
- Peaceful : filled with the God of Peace [1 Thess. 5:23]
- Sanctified : Clean, Pure, Holy, Purified [1 Thess. 5:23]
- Complete : Whole, Perfectly Sound [1 Thess. 5:23]
- Complete : Retaining all that was allotted to it and  
lacking nothing for wholeness [1 Thess. 5:23]
- Blameless, Faultless without Defilement of any kind of carnality [1 Thess. 5:23]
- Renewed, Repaired, Rebuilt [Psalm 51:10]
- Steadfast, Fixed and Established [Psalm 51:10]
- Self-Controlled and Well-Disciplined [Prov. 25:28]
- Fervent, Zealous with enthusiasm [Acts 18:25]
- Compelled by the Spirit [Acts 18:5]
- Refreshed [1 Cor. 6:17-18; 2 Cor. 7:13]
- Makes decisions in its mind [Acts 19:21; 20:22]
- So Pressed with the Word, it Impresses the Word on the Soul [Deut. 11:18]
- Filled with Understanding of God's Will and Ways [Job 32:8,9]
- Without fear, nor timidity. [2 Tim. 1:7]
- Filled with love [2 Tim. 1:7]
- Filled with power [2 Tim. 1:7]
- Soundness of Mind (well balanced, sober, focused) [2 Tim. 1:7]
- Aware of things and knowledge above the natural sphere [Mark 2:8]
- Ability to be present in a place far removed from where  
the body is physically present [2 Kings 5:26; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Col 2:5; Rev. 21:10]



- Repent-ful when in error [Psalm 51:17]
- Constantly WEIGHED by God as a check and balance against and correcting my own estimate of the rightness of things. [Prov. 16:2]
- Able to Endure any external negative condition (sickness) [Prov. 18:14]
- Humble, dependent on God [Matt.5:3]
- Provoked when God's purpose are not performed regionally [Acts 17:16]
- Groans and Troubled at the thought of things out of alignment with God's will and word. [John 13:21; 11:33-39]
- Apprizes relationships above the pursuit of ministry advancement [2 Cor. 2:12b, 13]
- Blesses [1 Cor. 14:16]
- Characterized by grace and supplication (prayer) [Zech. 12:10]
- Prayerful at all times [Eph. 6:18]
- Capacity to pray God's perfect will in the Spirit [Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 14:14,15]
- The origin from which worship emanates [John 4:24]
- Sings [1 Cor. 14:15]
- Rejoices in God [Luke 1:47; Prov. 15:30]
- Determines one's speech/words [Job 26:4; 2 Sam 23:2; Matt 10:20; John 6:63]
- Made Perfect [Heb. 12:23]
- A spirit that GIVES LIFE [1 Cor. 15:45]

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[touchthenations.co.za](http://touchthenations.co.za)  
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