

7 “The Spirit”

There is a tremendous power available to all who elect to pursue perfection. What are the chances of us reaching the point of perfection by our own power? If that is what we intend to do we might as well give up immediately! Fortunately, God didn't leave us helpless and powerless in this conversion process. He provided a means by which we could achieve perfection! The conversion of the human mind from carnal to Spiritual is a wonderful miracle from God (Rom. 8:7 and Gal.5:19-23). There is absolutely no way this miracle can be accomplished by our own power (Zech. 4:6). We must have the power of God's Spirit actively working with us and eventually placed in us for salvation. The Spirit of God gives tremendous power to any who would only tap into its source (Luke 17:6). It can be a force that defies all the laws of physics and human reason. The direct access to this tremendous power is being offered to those who answer the calling of God into His marvelous Kingdom. How does God expect us to use this Spirit in our personal calling to salvation? The answer to this important question will be vital to our quest! The working of the Spirit of God can be a source of confusion in trying to understand how God interacts with mankind. We need to remember that God is not the author of this confusion in our lives (I Cor. 14:33). Satan has done a masterful job of deceiving the whole world on every possible issue of our salvation (Rev. 12:9). The need to reach the level of perfection in order to be “saved” was the subject of the last chapter. This chapter will help clear away the veil of confusion on the subject of the “Spirit” so we can clearly understand its true function in our lives. There are five basic concepts and workings of the Spirit that we should understand; the spirit of beasts, the spirit of man, the Spirit with

man, the Spirit in man and the work of the Comforter. We need to become familiar with these concepts in order to understand how God works with mankind to bring us to salvation. The underlining throughout this chapter of certain words is designed to help us distinguish the different Spirits. The first two spirits discussed are not Holy, whereas, the second two Spirits are Holy.

Spirit of Beasts

Most people are totally unaware that there is a spirit that involves the beasts and other life forms of the earth. We are told in scripture that when an animal dies there is a spirit that leaves (Eccl. 3:19). This principle also applies to all other life forms. We are told that God is aware every time a single sparrow dies (Mat 10:29-30). I think we can safely assume that He also is aware of the death of mocking birds, robins and all other life forms. God created the life forms we have today and brought them into existence at the “Garden of Eden.” He exclaimed that everything He made during this creation period was good (Gen 1:25). He had established a perfect balance of nature on the earth that included the animal and plant worlds. When God put together the “learning environment” for our development He established an extremely sophisticated system to monitor all life forms. (see chapter one). He commanded Adam to take care of His creation and to tend it (Gen. 2:15). Mankind, in general, has neglected this duty and abused God’s creation of balance and beauty for approximately the past 6,000 years. Some animal and plant life, that were deemed necessary for maintaining this delicate balance, have even become extinct in our age. After the return of Jesus at the seventh trump (I Cor. 15:52), the earth will enter into

a thousand years of rest pictured by the “Day of Atonement” to establish the balance God intended from the beginning. God will no doubt bring back those species of animal and plant life that no longer exists today to once again achieve the proper balance. God is aware of the horrendous abuse we have inflicted upon this earth through greed and neglect of the earth. God has the power and ability to make the whole earth a “Garden of Eden” in advance of the masses resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years (Mark 10:27). This spirit of beasts is associated with the life forms on this earth that are not human. It is God’s way of keeping track of non-human life forms on this earth. The remainder of this chapter will deal with humans and how the Spirit functions to bring them to salvation.

Spirit of Man

The final life form created at the Garden of Eden was man (Gen. 2:7) God gave man dominion over the earth and the rest of His creation on this sixth day (Gen.1:26-28). Mankind would be totally different than any of the other life forms on earth. The creation of man would be in the very image of God with the potential of becoming His sons (Gen. 1:26)! When the first man was created he was not initially ready to function as a human. He needed the “breath of life” from God to make him complete (Gen. 2:7). This breath of life became known as the spirit of man. There were two basic purposes for this spirit. In one respect this spirit worked very much like the spirit of beasts. It would serve as a very sophisticated monitoring device and a recorder of everything about us. We are told that every idle thought is recorded and that on judgment day a “book of remembrance” will be opened (Mat. 12:36 and Rev. 3:5) All of our thoughts, actions and physical aspects are recorded. It gives God even detailed information such as the number of hairs on our heads (Mat. 10:30). God will also utilize this extremely detailed information to bring the

masses back to life at the end of the 1,000 year period. Everyone who has ever lived, including those individuals that were aborted, will have a detailed accounting in a resurrection. At the resurrection of the masses, when the flesh and sinews come upon the individuals who have perished on this earth, they will still need this additional element of the spirit of man to make them complete. They will need the same “breath of Life” restored to them that went to God at their death (Ezek 37:1-10). God will restore this breath to them in this future resurrection. This “breath of life” is where the distinction is drawn between man and beasts. It gives mankind the ability to think and reason that animals are lacking. It is this second characteristic of the spirit of man that makes us human instead of beasts.

The “breath of life” that was given to Adam was the establishment of the power of intellect to mankind. It was this addition of the spirit of man that made Adam unique from the animals. The human-like beings that walked the earth millions of years ago lacked this important quality (see chapter 1). When scientists compare the brains of man with the brains of animals, they are unable to detect this spirit that God put in mankind. It is this spirit within all of us that departs from this earth and goes to God upon our death. Some researchers have even claimed that they can detect a source of some kind of power surge upon the death of humans. A transfer of information in the form of the spirit of man does take place! Upon death, the body merely decays, but the detailed record of that individual remains intact. At the resurrection of that individual they will be restored to life in a new physical body. This new body will be physically perfect just like the original bodies of Adam and Eve.

What would happen to us in the way we function if that spirit of man was suddenly removed? God left an example in the Bible to show us what would happen to a human if that spirit of man was ever removed. One of the most powerful rulers of the Old Testament was King Nebuchadnezzar. He falsely assumed he had the power and ability to do anything his heart desired. God decided to work with him in a very unique way. He decided to take the spirit of man from Nebuchadnezzar to teach him a very valuable lesson. There was an angel described as the “watcher” and a “Holy One” that came to show Nebuchadnezzar the way to repentance. The “Holy One” would have been Melchisedec and the “watcher” in verse 23 of Daniel four was probably none other than Satan the devil (read the biblical story of “Job” for a similar example). King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon experienced the dramatic result of having this spirit of man taken from him (Dan. 4:19-37). God miraculously removed the spirit of man that gave him the gift of intellect and as a result Nebuchadnezzar became as an animal. For seven years he functioned as the cave men did millions of years ago. Not only did he lose the power of intellect, but his appearance also began to change (Dan. 4:33). God eventually gave this spirit of man back to him and the gift of intellect and reasoning was restored. It was a very moving and life altering experience for King Nebuchadnezzar. He exclaimed in verse 37, “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of Heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.” This heart felt repentance may have placed him on a path of becoming one of the Kings in the world to come.

Spirit with Man

The purpose of the previous spirit of man was to provide a detailed record of our life and to help us function with intellect as humans. There was another Spirit that was also available to mankind to bring us to salvation. This Spirit is not automatically available to everyone. It would be used as a special invitation to lead people to God's Kingdom. This Spirit was "Holy" and used to call individuals in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. God used this Spirit to work mightily with the prophets and others responding to the call of that invitation in the Old Testament. This powerful Spirit would lead someone down the path of perfection in the Old Testament but would not take anyone to the next step of becoming a "Begotten Son of God." David was led throughout his entire life by that powerful Holy Spirit. He fervently prayed that God would not take that Spirit from Him during his trials on this earth (Ps. 51:11). This Spirit of God was a very precious and soothing gift to him. This same Spirit was active in calling many in the Old Testament to be one of the future Kings of the group of 144,000. Those individuals of the Old Testament Covenant also had to walk through the doors God opened in their journey toward perfection. The 144,000 individuals that are already sealed as Kings reached that level of perfection in their lives through obedience (Gen. 22:10-12, Rev. 22:10-12)! When they are resurrected at the end of the 1,000 year period, they will automatically become "Begotten Sons of God." They will become "Priests after the order of Melchisedec" when they reach the end of their physical lives on this earth. The only thing that separates this group of 144,000 Kings in the Old Testament and the group of 144,000 Priests in the New Testament is the purpose and timing of their calling. Both groups will

have reached the level of perfection that is required. The Kings will represent a physical leadership team that has reached perfection under the Old Testament Covenant terms of kingship. The Priests will represent a Spiritual leadership team that has reached perfection under the New Testament Covenant terms of Priesthood. The Kings who will rule over the masses in the resurrection will not have human nature as rulers of today. Their minds have already been converted from flesh to Spirit. The corruption in the leaders of government will be a thing of the past. This destruction of corrupt governments is symbolized by the “beast power” being destroyed upon the return of Jesus (Rev. 19:20).

Spirit in Man

The previous Spirit with Man leads a person to salvation. The Spirit in man results in salvation! This Spirit is given only to those who reach the point of God’s approval for entrance into His Kingdom as Sons under the New Covenant. The Spirit in man is available only to those in the New Testament who reach perfection through the trials and testing of their character (see chapter 6). This is the point Jesus reached when the Father said, “This is my only Begotten Son (John 1:14).” It is extremely rare in this life for someone to reach this point. Only 144,000, from the billions that have lived, will be sealed from the time of Jesus until the blowing of the seventh trump (Rev. 7:4). There were also 144,000 of the Old Testament who were ready and willing to go all the way to becoming a “begotten son of God.” They were able to get to the point of being a “Begotten Son of God” but will have to wait until the second resurrection to continue the process. It is rare for an individual to reach this point because very few individuals will be willing to go all the way to a true conversion of their minds (see chapter 6).

The 144,000 Kings of the Old Testament were not allowed to be “Begotten Sons of God” because Jesus had not yet become the “first born Son” in the Kingdom. Since He was the first one, this step was not available to those of the Old Covenant. To be a “Begotten Son of God” you must have lived after Jesus to be a part of that New Covenant promise. Jesus, according to the Father, was the first one (I John 4:9). The resurrection of the masses, which also includes those before Jesus, will allow the 144,000 kings and all others to live a physical existence with access to the Spirit in man. They will then be under the New Covenant terms as we are now. The requirement of God’s law of reaching perfection and a true conversion exists for those of both the Old and New Covenant agreements. The Spiritual aspect of the law was in place for those who answered God’s invitation in the Old Testament. That’s why Jesus said he came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it (Mat. 5:17). He was going to show the way of salvation by actually being born as a member of the Family of God. He was the first to reach perfection and then go on to the next step of becoming a “Begotten Son of God.” He was to be the first born among the billions to come in the future (Rom. 8:29). Jesus had the Spirit working closely with Him from birth. Jesus had the Spirit in Him from the time the Father proclaimed Him a “Begotten Son” until His death. We have the Spirit working with us today on our road to becoming a “Begotten Son of God.” The Spirit in the New Testament works with people, similar to the Old Testament, to bring people to the point of the Spirit in them. The difference is that we of the New Testament Covenant can go on to the next level as Jesus did in becoming a “Begotten Son of God!”

Why would God give us two versions of the “Holy Spirit” in our calling? What would be the advantage of the Spirit working with us before the Spirit works in us? The Spirit working with you is like a safety net. A safety net is designed to protect someone while in training. It has never been God’s will that any should fail the process of salvation (II Peter 3:9). God wants all of us to eventually reach the point of being a “Begotten Son of God!” The “safety net” of God’s Spirit working with us protects us from being destroyed until we reach the point of God’s Spirit in you. If we stall out or abort the process of conversion in this life through weaknesses, there will be a resurrection process to achieve perfection at the end of the 1,000 year period (see chapter four). Once we have reached the point of having the Spirit in us and becoming a “Begotten Son of God,” there is no turning back! It says, “...once we have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they fall away, it would be impossible to renew them again...(Heb. 6:4-6). This point of “no return” will not be reached until the Father is well pleased with our progress. The Father is the judge of the strength and character that has been developed and will remove the safety net at the appropriate time.

The Comforter

The final element on the path to salvation was promised by Jesus shortly before His death. The promise of the Comforter puts the finishing touches on our transformation! The Spirit of God working with you can produce amazing results. For example, Peter was able to walk on water before Jesus’ death by His mere presence (Mat. 14:29). Later in his

life, by the use of a promised comforter, the shadow of Peter falling on people produced healings (Acts 5:15). The Spirit in you will establish your destiny as a “Son of God.” Jesus promised that a comforter would be sent following His crucifixion to give us hope (Mat. 14:16). The Father knew it was important for our salvation to have an example to follow. Jesus was the example the Father provided. What a comfort that example has been! This comforter promised by Jesus was the Spirit working with them, as well as, His role as an intercessor and the first born from the dead (Heb. 7:25). It is a great comfort to know that our elder brother made it all the way and is at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:32-33). It is a comfort to know that someone who was flesh and blood, as we are, was able to fulfill the Father’s purpose for mankind. This particular element of a comforter was not available to anyone, including the disciples, until after the “Day of Pentecost.” Jesus truly blazed the trail and knows personally the difficulty of battling Satan on a daily basis. We have two advantages to obtaining our salvation that were not available to Jesus while He was on the earth. The first advantage is that He provided a road map for us to follow (I Peter 2:21). The second advantage is that He is our intercessor with the Father at this very moment! Our elder brother provided these advantages because He loves us and is rooting for our success!

The Spirit with you leads us through Satan’s maze of deceit. It is the method by which you are called. It will unlock your mind to the truth of God. The Spirit working with you will respond in direct proportion to your level of commitment. It will never force you to do anything against your will. Although the Spirit with you can be a very powerful force in you life, it can become dormant through continual neglect (II Tim. 1:6). We are

admonished to not frustrate the Spirit (Gal. 2:21). It is a power of unbelievable proportions, if we will only use it. If we continue the path of being led by the Spirit working with us, it will result in the Spirit being in us. Many are called and asked to respond to the leading of this Spirit. These called individuals are scattered all over the world. Some go to organized congregations, while others do not attend with any organized group. If you feel God is leading you down a path of pursuing and acting on truth, then you can safely say you have God's Spirit working with you. If you have reached perfection, then you can honestly say you are a "Begotten Son of God!" It is very possible that you can honestly say you are a "Begotten Son of God" in this life. Paul said he was certain! He said there is laid up for me a crown of Righteousness (II Tim. 4:8). This statement was made by Paul before his death. What a wonderful thing it would be to echo those words some day! That crown of righteousness Paul talked about is available to you. Choose to take the Kingdom of God by storm (Mat. 11:12). You should be conducting your life like you really want to be in the Kingdom of God by following in Jesus' footsteps daily and taking full advantage of the power God offers through His Spirit! God expects you to aggressively pursue the purpose of our existence. He wants you in His Family!