

LESSON 14

THE 3-FOLD NATURE OF MAN PART 2

Required Bible Reading:

Colossians chapter 3

John 13:35

Romans chapters 5 & 8

Galatians chapter 5

Hebrews 4:12

Ephesians 4:23-24

2 Corinthians 4:16

Read all scriptures in this lesson and lesson 13

In this lesson we will look in depth at the spirit of man. We learned in the previous lesson, that it is the spirit of man that is instantly changed in the new birth. It is with our spirit that we communicate with God.

It is in man's spirit, that the life and nature of God is imparted. This life is eternal life. It is the nature of God that comes into our spirit, to recreate us and make us new creatures; to change our nature. Then, we have the nature of God abiding in us, which is love. *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"* **John 13:35**. *"...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* **Romans 5:5**. Our lives are to be governed by this new nature. We are to live and act from this life and nature in our spirit, not by what our flesh wants to do. **Galatians 5:16** says, *"Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."* This verse tells us that we must allow our spirits to govern our actions, not our soul and not our flesh. God created man so that his spirit would be king, his soul servant and his body slave. However, for too long, most of us have governed our lives in reverse, doing whatever the flesh and mind wanted to do.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." **Romans 8:14**. How does God lead us by the Spirit of God? you might ask. Does He lead me by my flesh or my mind? No, *"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly."* **Proverbs 20:27**. The Holy Spirit resides in your spirit, to lead and guide you through the Word of God and is the witness of your own spirit, or the voice of your conscience, you could say.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." **1 Corinthians 2:14**. The Word of God was given by the Spirit of God and can only be understood with the heart or spirit of man. Once a man is born again and becomes a child of God, he can understand the Bible and learn the things of the Spirit.

If a man's spirit is to be the king in his life, it must be fed on the Word of God. The Bible is to man's spirit, what food is to the natural body. We must constantly feed on the Word of God. **2 Corinthians 4:16** tells us that the inward man is renewed day by day. Dr. Howard Carter once said, "The problems with man's spirit is, we feed our body three hot meals a day and our spirit three cold snacks a week." *"...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeded out of the mouth of God."* **Matthew 4:4**. The spirit of man must be fed a balanced diet of the Word of God. Our minds must also be renewed with the Word of God, but we'll discuss that later. The spirit of man must also

be trained, if it is to be a safe guide and if our flesh and our mind are going to be governed by it. Listed below are four steps to training the human spirit.

1. Meditate in God's Word – Joshua 1:8

We are not only to feed on the Word of God, we must meditate on it. We must think on the Word of God, to get it down in our spirit. Meditating in the Word of God is done by speaking the Word to ourselves. Notice that God told Joshua, that the Word should not depart from his mouth. This is what we do also in renewing our minds, as we will discuss in another lesson. Once our minds are renewed by the Word, then God's Spirit, through man's spirit, can rule the body. The word **meditate** means to mutter to yourself. Another meaning of the word meditate carries the idea to chew or to gnaw, very much like a cow chews it's cud in order to complete the digestion process. We must digest the Word of God and get it into our spirit in much the same way.

2. Practice the Word – James 1:22

It is not enough just to read, meditate and feed on the Word of God. We must be doers of the Word. The Holy Spirit can help us only as we respond to him in faith and obey the Word. The first step in this area is keeping our tongue, this in turns aides us in meditating in the Word of God. Our own hearts know if we are doers of the Word or not. If we are not, we cannot be led by the Spirit of God.

3. Give the Word first place – Proverbs 4:20-22

The Word of God must be first place in our lives. It must be the measuring stick for everything. If we do not act on God's Word as first place, then He doesn't have anything to work with, **Jeremiah 1:12**. We must put the Word of God first, not circumstances. Our response to any situation should be, what does the Word say about it?

4. Obey your spirit instantly – Proverbs 20:27

The human spirit has a voice. We call that voice, conscience. Notice, that meditation in the Word, practicing the Word, and giving the Word first place, all come before obeying your spirit. You see, if your spirit has had the privilege of the first three, then it becomes an authoritative guide. Your own spirit knows the very moment that you have done wrong. Therefore you must obey it. If you don't it will become calloused and hardened to the Holy Spirit and you won't be able to follow it. As a matter of fact you won't even notice it speaking to you. But if you develop the habit of obeying instantly, it will remain tender to the things of God.

If you will follow these points your spirit will grow strong in God and become a good guide for the rest of your make-up. You will also know the will of the Father, even in the minor details of life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- 1. Meditate in God's Word**
- 2. Practice the Word**
- 3. Give the Word first place**
- 4. Obey your spirit instantly**

Print Name Here: _____ **Date:** _____

TEST 14

THE 3-FOLD NATURE OF MAN PART 2

1. What is the nature of God? _____

2. Where is the life and nature of God imparted? _____

3. The spirit of man is the _____ of the Lord.

4. God created man for his _____ to be king, his _____ to be servant and his _____ to be slave.

5. The spirit of man must be _____ if it is to be a safe guide.

6. We understand the Word of God with our (A) mind (B) spirit (C) flesh

7. What three things come before obeying the voice of your spirit? _____

8. What will happen to your spirit if you do obey it?

9. Walk in your mind and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. _____T _____F

10. What food is to the body, the Word is to our spirit. _____T _____F