

Walking in the Spirit

Volume 1 of 6

by

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Chapter I

God's Creation

God's own hand formed man. His finger directed every blood vessel. He created every cell of the brain by using an intricate procedure. The Word of God created man in complete maturity to be just like God. He produced a man, just as we are today, perfect yet without life.

God spoke the word of life into His creation. He breathed into the man's nostrils the breath of life. The Hebrew word for breath is "Ruwach" which also means spirit. God's Spirit entered man and made him a living soul.

The whole person includes the spirit, soul, and body. The soul, the mind, was already existing but was not operating until the spirit entered it. Once the source of life, the spirit, entered this man, his computer began to operate. He became a living spirit and soul that abided in a body created by God.

When we study the creation of man, we discover that this body alone does not possess life-carrying faculties. Yet we give it so much attention. The moment your spirit leaves your body, it will fall to the ground, lifeless just as Adam's body before God breathed into his nostrils. Your body will not do anything without your spirit or your soul. Have you ever seen someone in a coma? That person has no control. The mind has shut down temporarily and the body has no impulse going through it.

James 2:26 reveals, "For as the body without the spirit is dead . . ." Without the spirit, your body will

fall to the ground and decompose. Scientists have now manufactured blood. They have created the same chemicals in a test tube as that of real blood; yet one will produce and sustain life, the other one will not. The spirit produces life.

We have read about the test tube babies. The doctors have taken life from two living organisms, mechanically placed them together, and reinstated them back into a living organism. A baby is later born from this procedure. These doctors think they have produced the baby. They did not produce anything. They just moved it around a few times. Life comes from the spirit. If the spirit leaves your body, you will die. Your body cannot live.

The Earth Suit

Your soul consists of your emotion, intellect and will. Only your spirit or body can feed information into your mind. The body feeds the soul by using the five senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound—hot, cold; liquid, solid; loud, soft. All this information fills your mind regularly. The sensory realm saturates your computer completely. Your spirit wants to speak but red, white, yellow, orange, loud, soft bombards your mind. Your spirit longs to receive spiritual force through the Word of God so he can take control.

You are spiritual; you are not just flesh. Your body will not go to heaven since it is not eternal. It is only temporary. It is your earth suit. As long as you live in this earth suit with its five senses, you can operate in the natural realm. The moment you

step outside your earth suit, you operate in the spirit realm. We have to wear our earth suits for us to be human beings and live on earth under the natural laws.

Do not make an allegiance to your earth suit because flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 15:50). You will not take this body with you when you die. You will have a new, incorruptible, immortal body similar to the one you have now, but it will be changed into a new source that is more spiritual than it is physical. You now live in a body that is more physical than it is spiritual.

As we live on earth, we lean toward the body and soul. You must feed your spirit and give it opportunity to manifest itself, to surge into leadership. It is much easier to cater to the flesh. Once you put your flesh aside, and you put on your redeemed, resurrected body, your spirit will be in charge. Your soul will agree, the body will follow, and you will not have anything to say about it. The spirit will control the flesh.

Regenerated Spirit

When you are born again, your spirit is renewed and regenerated back to life. Your spirit, although eternal, was lying paralyzed under the curse of sin and death until you gave your life to Jesus Christ. After salvation, the paralyzed, quadriplegic, comatose person came back to life and now possesses his full faculties. The sinful spirit is not non-existent, but is made inoperative and ineffective.

The Bible shows in Romans 6:6 that the pendulum swings when you are born again. Your body of sin is no longer dominant because your spirit is alive and in charge again. When you are saved, the spirit is created perfect in the sight of God. You become whole, perfect, sinless, and entire. Old things have passed away and all things became new.

After you were saved, did you look in the mirror and see a new person? Unfortunately, you were the same. Did your mind change? You did not get amnesia after you were born again. The thing that became new was your spirit. God dwelled in and brought your spirit back to life. Jesus Himself came to live within your spirit. He made you one with Him, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh (Ephesians 5:30). The two of you were amalgamated and made one and you are perfect in Him, righteous in Him. Any sin you ever committed, God forgot.

Chapter II

Train Your Mind

Now that God has recreated the inner person, what do you do with your brain and body? Train them in obedience to the Word of God. God will not bring your body into submission. You do. Scripture does not say that God will renew your mind; rather, your regenerated spirit can bring your mind and body into subjection. Father knows that you now have the capacity to make your mind and your body fully obey the Word of God. The potential of you living perfectly exists inside the spirit. You need to see yourself as the new person that God has made you.

Colossians 3:1 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those thing which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." If you are walking with God, your time and energy will focus on the eternal and spiritual. Look at your actions and judge your own relationship with the Lord by what you are seeking. What would you be like today if you sought God as you do that raise or new house?

Verses 2-5 say, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members . . ." You are responsible for putting your flesh to death. Colossians tells us to put out of our minds anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy and

filthy communication. Put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.

Give preeminence to your spirit by seeking the things of God. The spirit has the capacity of knowing Him as He is. The knowledge of your Creator exists within your spirit and He has revealed everything to you in your spirit. Now we must acknowledge who we are.

If You Sin

What happens if your flesh does something wrong and sins? For example, you get angry and beat up your husband. He is sprawled out on the floor, has a black eye and you dance around the house like Rocky. Then God convicts you. You respond, "Man, that's sin." You wonder how it happened. Satan immediately accuses you saying, "You call yourself a Christian? Look at your poor husband. You just beat him up! How can you call yourself a Christian with him lying in that kind of shape?" If you are not careful you will fall into condemnation.

Your first tendency is to say, "Yeah, I must not be saved if I acted like that." Is that true? No. Your flesh beat the guy. Your brain said, "The devil made me do it. I never laid a hand on him." Your soul said, "We don't have to take this mess. Isn't that right, hand?" Then you swung at him. Is that who you really are? No. You are the spiritual man, perfect, created in the image of God.

Can we now beat people up and not call it sin?

No. As a believer, we must walk in balance recognizing the separation between the spirit from the flesh. You did not beat that man. It was the old man in you. You did not mortify your members. It was the old man who emerged, although he was destroyed and made inoperative, because your spirit was not in leadership. The old man is still operating in this earthly realm and will manifest himself if the spirit does not control him. The apostle Paul said that we must bring this body under subjection to the Word of God (I Corinthians 9:27).

Your Spirit and Sin

What happens to the spirit when you sin? Does it immediately die and you are lost? The light at an intersection flashes red just as you approach it. You are in a hurry but you slam on the brakes anyway, lose your temper and curse. Within seconds, the rapture occurs. Do you miss it? No!

Your spirit is repulsed by sin. How do you know when you have accumulated enough unconfessed sin such that the recreated spirit willfully steps out of the way, your conscience is seared, and God turns you over to a reprobate mind? You have fallen away when you no longer have remorse for your wrong actions. Sin will not repulse you anymore.

You will know when you have fallen away from the Lord and you are out of fellowship with God. When you have no desire to fellowship with God, His Word, or His people, then you are going to hell. The light, the spirit, that is within you has gone out and your soul and body again dictates your life. The power of darkness will now motivate you.

Chapter III

The Hidden Man

1 Peter 3:4 points out, "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." The spirit is the hidden man of the heart. In most Scriptures, the heart and spirit are synonymous. When the Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart your mouth speaks, it is talking about your spirit, the inner-most man. The spirit man is the hidden man, hidden under the flesh and dominated by the soul. In most people, even believers, the spirit man is hidden. Most do not walk to the fullest spiritual capacity available to them.

Your spirit will shine out of your body when it is fully charged. People will see it on you physically. Remember Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration? God's glory supercharged Him such that He glowed brightly and was transfigured. He became transparent and the light emanated from Him. When Moses came down from the mountain where he received the Ten Commandments, his face shone so brightly that the children of Israel could not even look on him. They wanted to tone down that light! Imagine getting on the train and all the other passengers turn to the wall and say, "Shut that thing off!"

Your spirit will emanate from you when you recognize that you are a spiritual being. People will see your spirit because you do not limit yourself to simply a physical being. Believe that your spirit is ema-

nating from you and touching lives. The real you, the hidden man of the heart, will manifest before them and incidents will happen to you like what happened to other brothers and sisters.

True Spiritual Power

Smith Wigglesworth, a powerful evangelist in the early 1900s, was riding on a train and had been meditating on the Word of God. A Catholic priest boarded the train and was walking down the cars heading toward the back. When he walked past Wigglesworth, he recognized the spirit on him, fell on his knees and said, "I don't know who you are, but you convict me of sin. Pray for me." Can you see an old plumber praying for a priest and sharing with him the love, power and authority of the hidden man of the heart?

Smith Wigglesworth was once asked, "Why is this power in your life? Why do these signs and wonders follow you and not other people in this great manner? What do you do that is so out of the ordinary?" He replied that he did not do anything out of the ordinary. He prayed in the spirit for hours in the morning, read the Word constantly throughout the day, and took communion every morning. His spiritual walk was normal to him. Wigglesworth walked in relationship with the living God. He had fellowship with the Father every morning. This man was so full of the power of God that the hidden man of the heart was not hiding anymore. He was shining forth in glory.

You will not raise the dead by the flesh. You will

not lay hands on the sick and see them recover by your own strength. The Spirit and the power of God that emanates from your spirit through your hands produce the healing. Your hands are only tools; your body, a vehicle.

Friends, if you spend too much time fixing the yard, puttering around the house, watching TV and reading *Good Housekeeping*, your soul and flesh will hide your spirit. You might still be saved and go to heaven. You will leave your *Good Housekeeping* behind and make the rapture, but you will never produce anything worthwhile for the kingdom of God. You must renew that spiritual man.

The Knowledge of God

2 Corinthians 5:16 says, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." Paul is talking about the physical relationship the apostles had with the Lord. They sat and had dinner with Jesus and enjoyed social fellowship with Him. Jesus also had to rise in the mornings, put on His sandals and comb out His hair. Paul says that though we knew Him after the flesh, we do not know Him that way anymore. The apostles' knowledge of the Lord Jesus was limited when He walked with them physically on the earth.

When God recreated your spirit, although you had never laid your physical eyes on Jesus or touched Him with your hands, you knew Him. You know Him better than any of Jesus' disciples could

have ever known Him because your spirit is open to the eternal realm and all the knowledge of God. The senses are limited in what they can feed to the soul because they operate only in the natural realm. If you are going to know God, you must know Him in your spirit. If you are going to know the Word of God, know it in your spirit and not just in your mind. The Word has to become life to you.

The Perishing Body

Your body will die. My body does not perform as well as it did a few years back. When I was younger, I used to play tennis for five hours, baseball for three, then racquetball for two more in one day. After that, I would roam around town and stay up until two o'clock in the morning without a thought. Recently, I played tennis for three hours. After I went home and got into the shower, my body cried out, "I'm corruptible!" My body is capable of perishing.

If you have given your body all your attention, you have been spending your time and energy in vain because your body will be buried. It will decay and that is the end of it. The body that God will raise will not be the identical body that goes in the ground. It will look like you, but it will be raised as an immortal, incorruptible body.

2 Corinthians 4:16 says, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." You will never be a day older in your spirit ten billion years from now than you are right now. You will live in perpet-

ual, eternal life with purpose, power and knowledge of God, ever existing in the fullness of God's presence, His knowledge, and His power.

Chapter IV

Spiritual Hunger

Have you experienced the conflict between your spirit and the flesh? You go home after a long day at work, and sit back in the easy chair. The inward man says, "I'm delighting in the law," while the outward man says, "I'm delighting in a pizza." Romans 7:22-23 says, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind..."

The inner man wants to fellowship with God and hungers for the Word. Your spirit can fellowship with God 24 hours a day. You should pray in tongues while you sleep. You probably do but you are not aware of it. Have you ever heard your spouse praying in tongues in the middle of the night? My wife has. Your spirit never sleeps; it runs all night.

A brother blessed me with a new tape recorder that plays tapes twice as fast as they are recorded. Now, I can listen to a one-hour tape in 30 minutes. The tape player does not distort the sound; it just plays faster. You can listen faster than you can talk. With this tape recorder, my mind does not wander.

When you go to bed at night, go to sleep with the Word of God playing from a tape recorder. Then, as you are sleeping you will probably spend the rest of the night praying in tongues and rejoicing in the Lord. You will wake in the morning super-charged, ready to go. Your inward man is delighting in the Word of God.

The outward man is the one that wants the pizza, wants to go home, sleep and put off the Bible reading for the next day. Once you cater to the flesh, it is easier to follow it the next time. Learn to listen to the inner voice because that is the voice that knows the truth. Your mind will always rationalize why you should yield to your flesh. While your spirit says not to get that gadget now, your mind tells you every reason why you should.

Father has revealed to us, whether we have been saved for 35 years or one week, what it means to be a spiritual being that lives victoriously through our spirit with our soul and body in perfect discipline. You can allow your inner spirit to dominate your actions.

True Worship

You cannot worship God with your mind; rather, you must “worship him in spirit and in truth” because God is a Spirit (John 4:24). You cannot worship Him with your flesh. The Scripture instructs us to lift up holy hands and clap our hands but that alone is not worship. Worship is an outflow of the spirit moving in you. Your body and soul will follow your spirit. The unregenerate body is not capable of worshipping the Lord. It can only respond under the direction of man.

According to John 4:24, God is a Spirit, and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. God’s Word is truth and through it, we worship Him. As the Word of God saturates our spirit, we then praise and honor God.

Man is a spirit. He has a soul and lives in a body. I Thessalonians 5:23 shows that man is a trinity as Paul under the unction of the Holy Spirit says, "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." God is a trinity and He created man in His image. You will always have a body and a soul, but you are a spirit. Your body will change, though you will always have it. You will always function with understanding and you are an eternal spirit created in the image of God.

The real you, the life flowing through your body and the one that emanates in your personality, is a spiritual being made in God's image and created to live eternally. Father created you to live without sin, in victory. You were intended to have fellowship with God.

Born of Spirit and Water

You can be saved 35, 50 or 75 years and still not know the meaning of "You must be born again." The Scripture says that you have to be born of the Spirit and water. Most commentators agree that the water of John 3:5 is one of two things: either water baptism or the natural birth with the breaking of the water and the child coming forth from a mother's womb.

We all agree with the Spirit aspect but differ concerning the water. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:36). Does the water in a baptismal tank

carry life with it? No. You were not born again when they dunked you in a tank. Does this context speak of physical birth? No. You were not born again with the breaking of the water when you came from your mother's womb.

The water that washes you is the Word of God. Ephesians 5:26 reads, "That He (Jesus) might sanctify and cleanse it (the Church) with the washing of water by the word." Titus 3:5 says that it is not by works but by washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Your second birth occurred when you heard the Word of God and faith rose in your heart. The Spirit of God Himself took the Word and regenerated your spirit and you became a reborn person. 1 Peter 1:23 shows this: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God..." In this context, Jesus is speaking about the new birth.

Nicodemus asked how can he go back into his mother's womb and be born again. Jesus was saying, "You don't understand what I'm telling you. I'm speaking to you on a spiritual plane. I'm not talking to you of natural things. You are a spiritual being."

1 John 5:5-7 says, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

The Sustaining Word

You are born again by water, the washing of the water by the Word of God and by the Spirit. No man can come except the Spirit of God draw him. The Scripture asks how can they be saved except they hear? (Romans 10:14). Hear what? The Word. The Word and Spirit of God produce spiritual life in an individual.

Was your spirit dead before the incorruptible seed was planted in you? No, your spirit has always been with you. The spirit of man is corrupt. Even a reborn person's spirit can be corrupted and deceived. The reborn spirit is susceptible to failure. When you are born again, your spirit is made absolutely perfect, but you must sustain it with the Word of God.

The spirit within us was dormant and separated from God before our rebirth. Then, we were born again of incorruptible seed. Our acceptance of His Word into our spirit brought us back to fellowship with God. We can stay in fellowship with God only through His Word.

The Word of God brings your spirit into fellowship with God. You maintain your fellowship when you feed your spirit the Word of God. Since we are born of the Spirit and we are born of life, the greatest necessity we have in all our existence is to feed ourselves the Word of God.

Chapter V

You Are Not Your Own

Those that are joined to the Lord are one spirit: “Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.” (1 Corinthians 6:15-17).

The Scripture says that a man is to leave his family, the woman her family, the two come together and they become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). When you, the bride of Christ, married the Lord Jesus you became one spirit with Him. Your relationship with the Lord Jesus is not a physical or mental one; it is spiritual. When you become born again, you become spirit of His Spirit. You are one with Jesus.

Your body does not belong to Satan. Your body does not belong to sickness nor to poverty. Your body does not belong to pain. Your body belongs to God: “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Sickness, disease, or pain do not have a legal right to attach themselves to you. Your body does not belong to you. It belongs to God.

You were bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus. Your body is not your own to determine what you will do with it. You have no right to commit fornication or adultery. You cannot abuse

yourself in any way. Your spirit, who is one with Jesus Christ, possesses and keeps your body. Your spirit can influence and censor everything you do. Your actions originate from your spirit.

Suppose as a young believer you have just discovered during a church service that you are now a new creature and old things have passed away. After you leave, you drive away down a bumpy old road rejoicing in the Lord concerning your salvation. Then, you light up a cigarette just as you have done for the past 20 years. A little voice says to you, "I thought you just got saved." Have you ever heard that voice? "Christians don't smoke. Christians don't act ugly like you just did, you ugly thing." What is that voice? It is a device of Satan. We cannot be ignorant of his devices.

Thousands of Christians have thrown out their relationship with the Lord Jesus because they believed the lie that they were not saved. All along they were born again, new creatures in Jesus Christ. Their spirit was pure, and they were in right standing with God. They were standing in His presence holy, without blame, and had no knowledge of what had taken place in their hearts. They discerned their salvation only in the sensual realm. Your body will lie to you. Your mind will lie to you and the devil will not tell you the truth either. Satan is a liar from the beginning; he is the father of lies and there is no truth in him (John 8:44).

A New Creature

What is the difference between being born again, becoming a new creature, and the passing away of old things and all things becoming new? The new creation and new birth took place in your spirit. The old things that passed away were your unrighteousness and your inability to reach the throne of God. You had no desire for the Word of God, for the Spirit of God nor for the fellowship with the saints of God. The Word did not say chewing tobacco passed away. It is talking about the new birth. Chewing tobacco will pass away as you feed your spirit the Word of God.

We have focused so much on the flesh that we spend all our time and energy battling to keep the flesh in subjection to the Spirit. We have invented a Scripture that says, "Don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh and you will walk in the Spirit." The Bible says it this way, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16). Do not try to change the flesh. Change the spirit and it will change the flesh. The flesh cannot change the flesh. The soul cannot change the flesh. Only your spirit can bring the flesh into subjection to God's Word. Your spirit has been made one with His Spirit and you build your spirit with spiritual food as you partake of the Word of God. The Spirit will bring the soul and body into submission.

Old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are in relationship with God. We are born again creatures. Our spirit is alive and it is receptive to spiritual

things. We are a new creation! When I was saved, all hatred, anger and the murdering spirit were removed from my spiritual man. I became a new creature. Nobody told me that the old man had passed away. It was not in my spiritual man anymore.

Shortly after I was saved, I was attending my Granddad's funeral in my hometown. It was back in the '60's when the town, 50% black and 50% white, experienced racial tension. When I came out of the funeral home some fellows across the street were laughing and one said, "Well, there's another honky down." My cousin, Tim, who is about 5' 7" and 150 pounds, walked across the street to this fellow who was about 6' 2" and 210 pounds. He pointed his finger right in the man's face and said, "If you say another word, I am going to kill you." He would have; he was known to carry weapons.

It was three fellows against one so I walked across the street and joined Tim. Janet, my fiancée at that time, thought I was angry; but I knew that my flesh had been brought into subjection to my spirit. I was a brand new Christian. You would have to have known me the way I was before. I turned to them and simply said, "If you know what's good, you'll leave." One turned to the other, "We'd better leave." He had been reared in the city and remembered what I was like when I was angry.

As I went back to the car, I realized what it meant to have the flesh brought under subjection to the spirit. I was angry, but I did not sin. My flesh did not dominate the spirit. The spirit man dominated

the flesh. If I was not born again, I would have hit him with the nearest object: a car, a tree. I never would have thought about it. I confronted this man without trying to hold myself back by thinking, "Okay, I'm going over there and I'm not going to . . ." Nothing happened. Anger and hatred did not dominate me anymore. That man was dead

The New Spirit

When we become new creatures, the spirit is made new, not just cleansed. Your spirit wants to be evident in your mind and in your body. The very image of Jesus is in your spirit. You have been made one with Him. When you live and saturate your spirit with the Word of God, you will live like Jesus.

If a person knocks on your door the day after you became born again, and says, "I've come to collect that \$1,000 you owe me," you cannot say, "Naw, he died last night." He will collect from you. He may not extract the \$1,000 out of your spirit, but he can get it out of your hide. We are dealing with spiritual things, the new man that is inside you.

Colossians 3:10 says it this way, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." The new man has the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is in the image of the One, the Word of God, that created him.

Some say, "I'm just an old sinner," yet Ephesians 4:24 refutes that belief: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." The Scripture says in 2 Peter 1:4

that we are partakers of His divine nature, born of that incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God. You are formed in His image, and born into true righteousness and holiness. We are talking about Superman living inside you. Jesus is in you!

Christ in You

Do you know what your spirit is? Your spirit is Christ in you, the hope of glory. You and He are one in spirit just as you cannot divide Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They are one and you are one with Jesus. Jesus prayed, "Father, it is my prayer that they would be one with us as we have been one." Your spirit is after the image of Jesus. All that Jesus is, you are, if you keep that which you have received from the beginning. You can potentially remain perfect in your inner man since it was created after the image of Jesus.

Can that image be marred? Can you digress after your new birth? Yes, you can because you were born again by the Word of God. Think about what happens if you do not feed a baby. When a baby is born, he emerges as a perfect human being. He has fingers, toes, eyes, ears and he can make noises. He comes with all the equipment. Babies are not dumb when they are born. They are just not educated. That baby does not have to think, "Now, breathe . . . exhale." It just works. He is perfect but not mature.

If you neglect the perfect baby and fail to feed him, he will die. He will not work anymore. The same thing happens with a born again man and woman. Your spirit is created in perfection. You are

born again into the kingdom of God, perfect after the image of the One that created you. Now, you have the potential of remaining in that image if you continue feeding yourself with the spiritual Bread of Life.

Chapter VI

Can You Become Unborn?

Can you die spiritually, actually backslide and go to hell once you have been saved? 1 John 2:24 says, "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father." The word "if" implies that you may not always continue in the Son.

The eternal life promised to us remains with us if we continue in that which we received from the beginning. What was it that we received from the beginning that made us spiritual beings? The Word of God. If you continue in the provisions of the Word of God, if the seed of God remains within you, if Jesus remains in you, and you remain within Him, then you will continue in eternal life.

Hebrews 3:12-14 reads, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

If you are not in the Son, you are not in the life. If you abide in the Son, you must abide in His Word, because God and His Word are one. If you are in the Word, you are in the Son. If you are not in the Son, you are not in the Word. If you are not in the Word, you are not alive. The way to die is by not eating the

Word. It is impossible for you to feed your spirit, not your mind, with the Word of God and backslide.

1 John 3:9 says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." As long as you continue in the Word and that Word produces life within you, you cannot sin. You will not be lost. It is impossible for you to be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Only one thing can separate you from God— you. You can separate yourself. Satan cannot separate you. You cannot blame your pastor. I cannot cause you to go to hell. Only one person and one person alone will ever cause you to enter into hell and it is you. Only one person and one person alone can keep you from living a sinless life. It is not the person you work with, not your wife, and not even your mother-in-law. Only you can keep yourself from living a perfect life.

Am I Saved?

When you understand the fullness of what God's Word has accomplished in you, the fullness of Christ's manifestation in you, and you see that it is practically impossible for you to be lost, then you must stop worrying about losing your salvation and start living like Jesus. Too many people struggle to stay saved. Once you are born again, it is not easy to fall away. It is possible. You can do so rapidly, but it is not easy. You have to reject Jesus to lose your salvation. A born again spirit can do that, but it is tough.

The extremes of Armenian and Calvinist teachings are two examples. The Armenians teach that if you even think about doing something wrong, you are lost. God is wearing out His eraser putting your name on and off the Book of Life. A pastor, a friend of mine, believes if you become angry when a stop light turns red, you will be lost if the rapture occurs simultaneously.

The Calvinist camp says that a person can sign the roll book and say, "I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is my personal Savior." He truly believes in his heart that he is a reborn spirit. He can still go out and kill, steal, murder, use the Lord's name in vain and he cannot be lost. Once he is born again, he cannot be lost. The truth is in the middle of these two extremes.

The life is in the spirit. God is our Father and He is the Father of spirits (Hebrews 12:9); we are spiritual beings. Begin to see yourself as born incorruptible in the image of Jesus and not as a carnal man subject to every little whim of the flesh. You are more than a conqueror, able to live according to the Word of God. When you see yourself as a spiritual being and realize that your spirit is now alive in the image of Jesus, you will live the victorious, sinless life.

Chapter VII

The Mature Spirit

You will know your spirit is mature by its attributes. These are not acts of the mind, but of the spirit inside you. Romans 5:5 says, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." The word "heart" refers to the spirit of man, not the human heart. Your blood pump cannot know the love of God any better than your kidney can. You might as well say, "I love God with all my liver." The heart is considered the life-carrier or the center of man's existence. For this reason the heart is used as a reference to the inner man.

You know the love of God only in your spirit. Your mind cannot comprehend the love of God. Have you ever sat down and tried to think about the love of God? The mind does not understand the love of God, but you can receive it in your spirit. The love of God is shed abroad in your spirit. The Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God (Romans 8:16). The love relationship takes place right in your heart. When you are joined to Christ, you are one spirit. All of the knowledge that you receive of God will be in your heart. It will not be in your head. Your spirit is supposed to receive the love of God and make your mind and your body respond to it. Only the spirit can comprehend God's love and through osmosis bring your mind and body along.

Your spirit will also allow you to obey the truth

of the Word of God. Have you tried to obey the Word with your flesh? It did not work because the Word of God is spiritual. Have you ever seen people listen to a sermon and afterwards say, "I didn't understand a thing that guy said!?" They were trying to apprehend the message in their minds. You cannot understand the Word with your mind. The Bible says these things are spiritually discerned and they are hidden from the natural mind (I Corinthians 2:14).

You can study this Bible for 100 years and never understand what it says. You may be able to quote it from front to back and not know what it says, because these things are only spiritually discerned. You can only understand the truths of God in your spirit. Have you ever seen someone quote the same Scriptures, preach the same sermons, stand in the same situation and quote the Word yet nothing happens? He is just quoting words out of his mind and not from his spirit.

This Word gives life, carries power and moves mountains when it comes out of your heart, and not out of your head. As the Word emanates from your spirit, it drives disease and poverty away. You can tell whether it is in your heart by whether you get biblical results.

The spirit living inside you sustains you. As long as you feed and strengthen the spirit, life will be in your body. You will have health and strength in your body because life does not come from what you do externally. Your body will not live forever. The spirit will not inhabit your body forever. When the

trumpet sounds, you leave with a glorified body. The Bible says that the Lord will satisfy us with long life (Ps. 91:16). Listen to that new man created after the image of the knowledge of God. He will lead you into truth.

Friends, we must have confidence in the Word of God, and not in the flesh. Start seeing yourself as a spiritual being, and walk in the Spirit and not live after the flesh. Feed your spirit the Word of God and listen to that inner man and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The closer you get to God spiritually, the less time you want to spend in your body. I am ready to go. I have my ticket and have packed my bags. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!