

Walking in the Spirit

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by

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Chapter I

Grasping Spiritual Truths

II Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Word of God is profitable to us for instruction into righteousness. Our goal is to be righteous as He is righteous (I Jn. 3:7). In our study of walking in the spirit, so far, we have learned that *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (Jn. 4:24). You worship in spirit and truth. You cannot worship God out of your mind; it is impossible. You cannot worship God physically. Though your mind and your body can be used by your spirit as instruments to bring praise and honor to God, they cannot worship God. They are only instruments used in the ministry of worship to Father. **Worship comes directly from the spirit of man.**

The spirit of man has been re-created by the Word of God. It has been brought back to life, made in the image of God, and created for the purpose of allowing us to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This newborn spirit is created after the image of Him that created us (Col. 3:10). This re-created spirit is operating in the realm of the knowledge of our Creator. Your spirit is capable of flowing in the knowledge of God. Your spirit man is capable of apprehending all spiritual truths. The Scripture says that everything that could be revealed, has been revealed to us. There is a difference between having something revealed and being able to comprehend what has been revealed to you. For instance, I can enlarge a fingerprint and show it to you, but you would not understand it. You see, there is revelation. All that can be known has been revealed to us. We

have to come to the place where we not only apprehend, but start comprehending in the realm of the Spirit of God as well. We need to understand how to flow in the spirit.

How to Know the Voice of the Spirit

We know that we are a spirit. Now we need to know how to operate in the spirit. How do we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? How do we know when it is God's Spirit, and when it is our head talking - our own thoughts and imaginations? How do we know the difference? How do we know if it is the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our spirit or if it is a thought that someone has put into our mind sometime during the day? How will we know whether it is the voice of the Holy Spirit or whether it is Satan speaking to us? Did you know that Satan can talk to your mind? How do we know the difference? We can begin to understand the voice of the Holy Spirit.

When your spirit man is full of the Spirit of God and is under the direction of the Holy Spirit, when you are saturated with the Word of God and are doing the Word of God, then you can have confidence in the voice of your spirit man. However, if your spirit man is not being fed continually with the Word of God, if it is not saturated with God's Word, and you are not walking in obedience to the Word, then you cannot have confidence in it. I am not talking about prayer. Spending twenty hours a day in prayer is not going to safeguard you. I am not talking about dreams or even visions. There is only one thing that is going to protect us in the walk of the spirit, and that is to have our spirit man saturated with the Word of God, and to be doers of that Word.

What Your Spirit Produces

What are some of the things that your spirit can do? First of all, your spirit can use the sword of the spirit (the Word of God) to fight the spiritual war that we as Christians are in. (Ep. 6:17). This is not the sword of the Holy Spirit; this is the sword of the reborn spirit. Your spirit is capable of producing fruit - love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and temperance (Ga. 5:22-23). This is what your spirit produces under the direction of the Holy Spirit and by the life of the Word of God. James said that your body without your spirit is dead (James 2:26). Your reborn spirit empowers you to live above the lust of the flesh. Your spirit can pray. Paul said, "*I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also*" (I Co. 14:15). The spirit man is what keeps you alive. The spirit man hears the voice of God. These are some of the ministries of the reborn spirit that is within you. We need to continually keep that spirit man saturated with the Word of God so that he will be strong enough to function in these areas.

On the other hand, if we do not saturate our spirit with the Word of God, what are some of the problem areas that will take place in our lives? First of all, we are capable of moving in the flesh. When your spirit is not fully charged with the Word of God, your flesh can operate. Galatians tells us that the flesh is capable of murder, adultery, envy, and strife if we are not walking in the spirit (Ga. 5:19-21). If you do not keep your spirit man full of the Word of God, then you cannot rely on that spirit because it can be deceived. In fact, you can be led astray and become involved in sin, which can eventually lead to backsliding.

Feed on the Word of God

Hebrews 3:12 reads, “*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*” The word *heart* is referring to our spirit. Notice that he said, “*Take heed, brethren.*” He is talking to believers. As believers, we find that unless our spirit man is saturated by the Word of God, our spirit can enter into unbelief, which is considered an evil heart in the sight of God.

James 4:17 says, “*...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*” I John 5:17 tells us that all unrighteousness is sin. We find that once this spirit man is put aside and the flesh is exalted, once we begin to walk in the flesh instead of in the spirit, this spirit can become evil. It can begin to move in unbelief, and it will then start moving contrary to the Word of God. And any time we are moving contrary to God’s Word, we are moving in sin. This is what the Holy Spirit is trying to make real to us. He said that it is possible for your spirit to move in the realm of evil, in the realm of unbelief, in the realm of rejecting the Word of God. This is why we have to feed ourselves the Word of God continually.

Jesus (the Word of God) is called the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35). Remember that the spirit is the source of all life. Therefore, the Word of God is the bread or the food of the Holy Spirit and the food of the reborn spirit. What happens physically if you do not eat? We know that if you do not eat, you will die.

Now, your spirit cannot digest worldly things (football, baseball, Johnny Carson, etc.). That is all for your mind; that is for the secular realm. There is nothing wrong with watching football, but it is not edifying your spirit. And if you get more

football than you get Word, then you lose. There is a problem here. We think that we can come to church and automatically grow in our spirit, but that is not so. **We cannot grow just by coming to church; we have to receive the Word of God.** Furthermore, our spirit is not built up by praying either, unless that prayer is birthed by the Word of God and communion with Father. Prayer is a ministry of the edified spirit. It is a ministry, a tool. It is one of the aspects of the spirit that we call communion.

Washed by the Word

II Corinthians 7:1 says, *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* We find that He is speaking here again to believers. He said that the believers need to cleanse themselves from all of the filthiness that is in their spirit. Did you know that your spirit can get dirty? There is only one thing that will cleanse the spirit. We are to be washed with the Word of God (Ep. 5:26).

This spirit within us has been created after the knowledge of God. This spirit was created to be perfect and to rule in the authority of God. This spirit is capable of being conformed to the image of God. It is capable of walking perfect and never sinning another day in our lives. But this spirit is also capable of being evil and dirty, if you do not feed it the Word of God or wash it with the Word of God. You see, everything that we do revolves around the Word. It is life to those that find it, and it is health (medicine) to all of their flesh (Pr. 4:22).

Chapter II

Avoid Self-Deception

Did you know that you can be deceived in your spirit? Did you know that believers can be deceived in their hearts, and not just in their minds? Many times we get upset with people who are deceived, and we say, “Why did they want to do that to me?” They did not want to do that; they were deceived. Satan wanted to do that to you. That person was only the instrument being used by your enemy. A brother or sister in Christ is never your enemy regardless of how they treat you. They may say mean things about you, they may do things that hurt you, but they are not your enemy; Satan is. They are your brothers and sisters, and we need to confront them, pray for them, and see them delivered. What has happened is that they have been deceived. But when your spirit is saturated with the Word of God, and you are a doer of the Word, you will not be deceived.

The moment that something comes in, the moment you start to say an unkind word, your spirit says, “No! There will be no corrupt communication coming out of my mouth. I speak only to edifying” (Ep. 4:29). That is what rises up on the inside of you when your spirit man is saturated with the Word of God. For us to speak unkind words and do things contrary to the Word of God only shows one thing - we need to build up the spirit man. This is the ministry that the Holy Spirit is trying to perform in your spirit man.

The Holy Spirit is the comforter that was sent to lead us into all truth (John 15:26, 16:13). Remember that the Word of God is truth (Jn. 17:17). The Holy Spirit’s ministry is to take

the Word of God and open it up to us, allowing us to saturate our spirit man with the Word, so that we can walk after the image of Jesus. That is what is taking place inside each of us who are believers. James 1:22 tells us, “*But be ye doers of the word; and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*” If you are hearing the Word, but not doing it, the real you, your spirit man, will be deceived.

Know Where You Are Spiritually

In Romans, especially in chapters six through eight, Paul is making reference to his spirit man. He speaks of his flesh, or the mind, in the second person. He is pointing out the fact that the real you is the spirit man. The Scripture says here that if we are not doing the Word of God, that is, if we are not continually holding the Word of God up before us, being conformed to the image of God and being washed by the water of the Word of God, then we are going to be deceived. The greatest deception is thinking that you are something that you are not. There is nothing wrong with knowing who you are, but you had better be who you think you are.

You need to find out where you are in your spirit. How do you know where you are spiritually? How do you know how strong your spirit is? **There is only one way to really know, and that is to compare yourself with Jesus, asking yourself the question, “Am I being a hearer of the Word or a doer?”** Does God’s Word dictate every action of my life? Is every single action, every step that I take directed by the Word of God? You can compare yourself with the Word to find out how strong your spirit man is.

When trials begin to come your way, it is not the time to find out where you are spiritually. When the flood comes, it is

not the time to find out if you can swim. It is best to start out in a wading pool, not when the flood comes. We had better know, then, where we are. Can you know your own heart? Can you know where you are spiritually? Sure you can - by the Word of God. But if we are not acting on what the Word of God has done in our spirit man, the Scripture tells us that we can be deceived. James 1:26 tells us, "*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*" We can talk the Word of God all we want, we can attend every church service and even sit on the front row, but unless we act on the Word and see the fruit of the Word being evidenced in our lives, we are deceiving ourselves.

The Power to Do the Word

How can we purify ourselves by the Word of God? In Romans 16:17, Paul says, "*....mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts [or spirits] of the simple.*" A mistake that many people make is to judge people by the words that they say. We cannot do that. These people are going out with good words and fair speeches and are deceiving people - deceiving the simple. Who are the simple? The simple are people who do not know the Word of God. You can have the I.Q. of a genius, but if you are not full of the Word of God, you are simple.

That spirit man inside of you is crying out to do the will of God. How many of you want to do the will of God in everything that you do? The spirit man wants to do the will of

God. Can you imagine how frustrating it is to want to do what is right, but not have the source of power to produce the energy to get it done? Do you know why so many Christians are frustrated in their spirit? The spirit is wanting to do the will of God, but they are not feeding him the Word of God to give him the power to do it. The problem is not that you are not wanting to do the Word of God; the problem is that you are not giving yourselves the source of power to actually do the Word. This is where the problem is, and it can only be accomplished by the Word of God.

Do Not Reject the Truth

The following verses illustrate that the spirit is capable of doubting (Mk. 11:23), being slow to believe (Lu. 24:5), being far from God (Ep. 2:13), being troubled (Jn. 14:1), and being full of sorrow (Jn.16:6). Do you know what a troubled spirit will bring you? A troubled spirit will bring you sickness. It will dry up the bones, but *“a merry heart doeth good like a medicine”* (Pr. 17:22). You see, the spirit man is where this takes place.

In addition, Mark 3:5 and Hebrews 4:7 talk about the spirit being hardened. Did you know that the most tender-hearted person, the most tender-spirited person, can become like a rock if they continue to reject the love of God, if they continue to reject what is right, if they continue to fortify their soul and their flesh? That spirit can become like a rock, and there is only one thing that can break it. The Bible says that the Word can break these rocks into pieces (Je. 23:29).

Hebrews 3:10 reads, *“ Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not know My ways [My Word].”* In other words, God

said that the reason they were always in trouble was that they did not know what He had told them. Since they were not obeying His Word, everything they did was wrong. Now, does that line up with other parts of the Word of God? James 1:8 says, “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*” Those who do not keep the Word of God will always err. Nothing you ever try to do will go right without the Word of God, unless you are doing something in the fleshly realm. That should tell you something. If you are building houses which are standing, and yet your spirit is not full of the Word of God, then you have built that house in the flesh (the combination of the soul and the body). We are not just talking about the physical man. The term *flesh*, as it is used in the epistles, refers primarily to the mind and the body. Did you know that in the flesh you can come up with religion, much like what God wants His people to be. They are counterfeits that are almost perfect. But there is only one thing that can discern between the spirit and the mind. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that it is the Word of God.

Have you ever heard people say that they have the spirit of discernment? They usually have a spirit of suspicion, because there is no spirit of discernment. There is a gift of the discerning of spirits, but there is no gift of discernment. Anything that is revealed to you that you did not previously know, is either a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom. If it is dealing with the spiritual realm, then it is the discerning of spirits. That gift is primarily used when something supernatural is happening. The Spirit of God speaks to your spirit, and you discern in what spirit that supernatural act is being done - whether it is the spirit of antichrist or Satan, the spirit of the flesh, or the spirit of God. This is how that gift begins to work inside of the heart of a believer.

Chapter III

The Gifts of the Spirit

Did you know that every spirit-filled believer is capable of having all nine gifts of the spirit operating in his life? If you are spirit-filled, then the potential of exercising all nine gifts of the spirit is within you. You do not own any of them; they just reside in you. Their potential is flowing within the spirit man. That newborn spirit man is one with Jesus Christ. Those who are joined with Christ have been made one spirit with Him (I Co. 6:17). That reborn spirit is capable of doing everything that Jesus does. You can prophesy, you can speak in tongues, you can interpret, you can be used in a word of knowledge.

People who flow in the gifts of the spirit are not super-spiritual people. They are people who just do what the Spirit is telling them to do. It is nothing to get proud about; anybody can do it. We should all do it . Covet these gifts (I Co. 12:31), and allow them to flow in your life. Your spirit is capable of doing it. Do you want to know why some people flow in these gifts, and you do not? It is because they do it, while you do not. How many of you have had the spirit of God speak to you, giving you a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, a prophecy, or a message in tongues, and yet you did not speak it? Okay, do it next time, and then you will be spiritual. That is how it works. **Just be obedient and do what the Spirit of God is speaking to you, and the body will receive ministry.**

Judge the Prophecy

Father God is trying to bring us into the flow of the spirit, but that spirit can get into error if we are not saturated with the Word of God. That is what happened in the twentieth century outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That is how some people got involved in the “Jesus only” teaching. That is how others began prophesying over people, telling them, for example, who they were supposed to marry. You must weigh these things. Personal prophecy is not scriptural if it is the first time that you have heard the message. However, if God has already spoken a word to you, then He may use a personal prophecy to confirm the word He has spoken.

As these things take place, people begin to think that they are being led by their spirit, when in fact, they are moving in the flesh. It looks so spiritual, especially when they add “Thee” or “Thou” to it, or “Thus saith the Lord.” That is not spiritual. The Word of God is the spiritual guide book. If it does not line up with the Word of God, then disregard it. You can get into trouble if you are not saturated with the Word of God. You can take something that looks religious and be deceived, if you do not know the Word of God. You see, prophecy is not infallible. Someone may prophesy saying, “Thus saith the Lord,” and automatically everyone believes what was said. But the Scripture says to let the prophet speak by two or three, and let the others judge (I Co. 14:29). The Word of God teaches that the prophets are to speak and to stand on their own prophecies. You do not need to name-drop “Thus saith the Lord.” You prophesy, and if you are a prophet and have heard from the Spirit of God, then the word will come to pass, and everyone will know that it was right. The prophets speak, and the others judge.

Prophecy needs to be judged because it is not infallible. You will see many times in the Scriptures where prophets would prophesy what the kings wanted to hear. When a true prophet said what the Lord had spoken, many times everyone would get angry. The people wanted to hear “Thus saith the Lord.” Furthermore, prophecy has to agree with the Word of God, and it has to agree with your spirit if it is dealing with you as an individual. If it does not bear witness with the Word of God and with your spirit, then do not accept it. “Thus saith the Lord” does not make it right. But when the Lord does speak, it is right. We need to realize that the spirit man can be deceived.

Be Full of the Word

How many of you have been used in the ministry of the gifts of the spirit and have found that a word of knowledge flows so much easier when you are full of the Word? There is an overflowing of the Word of God that comes forth. There is no place for error, because what comes out is what was put in - the Word.

When you are not full of the Word, you may speak a word, but be in the flesh because you were used to moving in the spirit, but now you are no longer full of the Word. You know that the Lord is trying to do something here, and you try to help Him out. Have you ever seen that? The spirit can err if it is not full of the Word of God. **Do not be afraid to move in the spirit, but fill yourself with the Word first.** That is the solution. The solution is not backing off and saying, “Oh, what if I make a mistake?” The solution is filling up with the Word of God and saying, “I am not going to make any mistakes.”

Chapter IV

Renew Your Spirit

Now, let us talk about how to clean up the spirit man so that he does not err. Philippians 4:6-7 reads, “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” We find right here that there is a way to guard your spirit. There is a way to use prayer and praise, thanksgiving to God, that will keep your heart and your mind. It will keep your spirit from moving into error.

The Scripture says, “*In every thing give thanks....*” (I Th. 5:18). If you get into a situation where the pressure comes on you so hard that you cannot give thanks, then you know that you are in the flesh. When you are in the spirit, you can give thanks **in**, not for, but **in** everything. You can give thanks because your spirit knows that you cannot be defeated. The spirit man knows that he is more than a conqueror (Ro. 8:37). The spirit man knows that he is raised up and seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ep. 2:6). The spirit man knows that whatever he touches shall prosper (Ps. 1:3). As long as you are full of the Word of God, the Word of God will come forth with praise and thanksgiving. You cannot praise God without the Word of God. You cannot give thanks without the Word of God. If you are full of the Word of God, then you are giving praise with the Word of God, and there is so much Word coming out of your spirit that nothing else can get in.

“Be careful [anxious in the mind] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God [the wholeness of God], which passeth all understanding, shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Peace will guard your heart. **As long as the Word is flowing out of your mouth and out of your spirit, as long as that Word is continuing to come forth in praise and thanksgiving, then you are guarding your spirit from error.** This is why we are to walk in this realm of continual thanksgiving.

In II Corinthians 4:16, the Apostle Paul says, *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”* Right here we find out that this spirit man (the inward man) is capable of being renewed. The spirit man is capable of being edified. How many of you have ever been down emotionally, and someone encouraged you? They cheered you up a little bit and strengthened you. Well, the spirit man can have the same thing done. This spirit man can be renewed day by day. The outward man can be in the process of dying physically, while the spirit man is being continually renewed, continually built up, continually conformed to the image of Jesus.

Sanctified by the Word

Did you know that there is enmity between the flesh and the spirit, that there is no fellowship between them? Did you know that the carnal mind is enmity with God and that you cannot please God with it (Ro. 8:7-8)? You cannot come up with anything in the earthly realm that pleases God; it has to be spiritual. Not everything that comes out of your mind is evil, but you cannot please God with it.

For example, God is not too concerned about football. He does not sit at home on Sunday afternoon and watch the football game. He did not say you could not do it, but He does not do it. We have to realize what life in the spirit is all about. It is different from our natural life.

Paul writes concerning what we have in Jesus: *“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. That he would grant to you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might [power] by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts [spirits] by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend [understand] with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height [of his love]; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”* (Ep. 3:12, 16-19). How are you going to be filled with the fulness of God? You will be filled by being strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man, by being full of the love of God, and by being full of the Word of God. You can be filled with the fulness of God! You can be just like Him! You can walk on this earth in such a way that people cannot tell the difference between you and Jesus when He walked here. It is possible because of the new birth. You see, we are not cleaned up; we are made new! Colossians 3:10 says we *“...have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him [and us].”* II Peter 1:4 says that we are made partakers of the divine nature. You see, this is what that spirit man is capable of producing, if you will fill him with the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:26 tells us that Jesus will sanctify and cleanse us with the washing of water by the Word. The word *sanctify* means “to be set apart for the service of God.” It is not just a setting apart, but it is a setting apart for service to God. This

will take care of some questions concerning the call to ministry. One of the big questions that people have is wondering if they are called of God. Yes, we all are called - every one of us. This Scripture is referring to the Church. Jesus took the Church and set it apart for service to Himself, and He cleanses His Church with the washing of the water by the Word.

Did you know that as you continue to give yourself to the Word of God, whatever it is that you are doing right now may fall by the wayside. If you are a businessman, the same thing may happen to you as happened to Smith Wigglesworth.

Smith Wigglesworth never became a preacher as we know "preachers." He was always a plumber that never had time to do plumbing. Being full of the Word of God, he would come to town where 20,000 people would show up. So, he seized the opportunity to preach, without even having to set up meetings. He just got so full of the Word of God that Jesus came forth from him, and no matter where he went, people wanted to know about the Lord. He could not work as a plumber; he had to tell people about Jesus. See, we are all called.

Washed by the Water of the Word

If we read II Timothy 2:21 very closely, we will find that those who are set apart as vessels unto honour are those who will cleanse or purge themselves from the cares of this world. You cleanse and purge yourselves by the Word of God. The more Word you have, the more you are set apart and the more God begins to flow through you. It is a natural thing. You do not make it happen; it just comes out. People's needs are being met, and the next thing you know, you are involved in full-time ministry.

That is what happened to me. I was not sleeping one night when a colored screen flashed up on the wall and said, "I am calling you into the ministry." I did not hear an audible voice saying, "I have sanctified you." I got saved, and I started spending several hours a day in the Word, and I just could not stop. The football career, college, and the armed services all went by the wayside. I was ready to go to Vietnam. I just kept preaching and studying the Word, and the armed services just fell by the wayside. I was supernaturally taken out of the armed services. I served one month of active duty and was discharged. Everything started falling off as I just kept moving in the Word. This is how it happens in the spirit of a man who is washed by the water of the Word. This is what the Lord wants to do in our lives.

John 15:3 says that we are clean through the Word spoken to us. One way to be strengthened in our spirit man is by guarding our spirit through prayer and thanksgiving. We saw that our spirit can continually be strengthened and renewed day by day. We are strengthened by might through the Spirit of God (Ep. 3:16-19). We see in John 16:13 that it is the spirit that leads us into all truth. Then the Word begins to cleanse us. The Word is what renews us daily (Ep. 4:23). Finally, I Peter 2:2 tells us that we grow by the milk (and eventually meat) of the Word of God. This is the way that we begin to prepare the spirit man.

Knowing God Through His Word

Do you know how to hear the voice of God, how to be obedient to the voice of the Spirit of God speaking to your spirit, or how to know whether it is God speaking as opposed to your mind coming up with different ideas? How do you

know when the Spirit of God is leading you in a certain direction or whether the pressures are pushing you in that direction? These are the things that we want to learn more about as we understand the parts of the spirit of the reborn man.

The spirit is divided into three parts: intuition, conscience, and communion. In referring to the spirit man, the reborn man, we need first to realize that man does not have a spirit; man is a spirit. He has a soul, and he lives inside of a body.

The way that we know God best is through His Word. That is the only way that we can really have an understanding of what God is doing in our lives. We can sense Him through our spirit, but we can only **know** Him through His Word. Therefore, when God begins to speak to us and give us direction in the spirit man, **we are limited in what we can hear from God by how much Word we have inside of us.** Many people are confused, thinking that by assimilating knowledge into their minds, God is going to speak to them, and they are going to be able to make intelligent decisions. That is not so. They are only trying to use spiritual laws through carnal means, and it does not work.

When you were born again, old things passed away and all things became new (II Co. 5:17). That means that every part of that spiritual man that was bound by sin, fear, hatred for God, and every part that was in enmity with God, was completely changed. Now that your spirit man has been re-created, it thrives on the Word of God. It hungers and thirsts after righteousness (Mt. 5:6). It desires to be in the presence of God continually. These are the desires of your spirit man.

How many of you have ever had a good television program that you really wanted to watch, and you had to face the decision of staying home and watching the program or having

fellowship with the believers? How many of you stayed home and watched television? How many of you regretted it, even while you were watching it, though it was not going to keep you out of heaven? The reason that you regretted it and heard a voice inside of you, is that the spirit man was not created to live off of television; it was created to live by the Word of God. It was created to be strengthened, edified, and conformed into the image of Jesus by the Word of God. It is to be conformed by the Word of God, not by someone's presentation of the Word of God. There is nothing wrong with watching *The Ten Commandments* on television, for example, but all it deals with is the carnal mind. It transfers thought, knowledge, and sensual understanding, but it does not carry any life with it unless it is the Word of God.

Chapter V

You Can Be Perfect

When you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you became a new creature, created after the image of God and made perfectly clean. When you confessed your sin, He was faithful and just to forgive you of your sin and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (I Jn. 1:9). John says that if you have no unconfessed sin in your heart, you are perfect before God. Whether or not you are going to remain that way will depend greatly on how much Word you have in your spirit man. Your spirit man desires to live by the illumination or direction of the Word of God, by the direction of the Spirit of God. But he can only receive his strength through the Word of God. It is life to those that find it; it is health to all of their flesh (Pr. 4:22). We have learned that the Word (Jesus) is called the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35, 48). You see, this is the food that the spirit man eats.

Remember, your spirit can be deceived, your spirit can be far from God, and your spirit can be hardened. However, the moment that you confess your sin, your spirit is cleansed, and you are now perfect again in the sight of God. You can saturate yourself with the Word of God and from that moment on never sin another day in your life. This is possible only if you prepare yourself with the Word of God. You see, you can be confident in this spirit man if it is pure, if it is purged, if it is clean, and if it is feeding off of the Word of God.

Do You Put God First?

We have to look proportionately at our own lifestyles and compare how much time we spend on our bodies as opposed to how much time we spend on our minds and on our spirits. For example, how many of you sleep at least six hours a day? How many of you eat three meals a day? You have just spent a minimum of seven and a half hours. You see, all of these little things that we do not even consider, such as shining our shoes, waxing our cars, and pressing our clothes take time to do. All of these things are part of our natural existence that we call the common everyday necessities of life, when actually all of these things are so trivial.

The necessity of life is that we feed our spirit man the Word of God. But if feeding our spirit man the Word of God is going to take away from our sleep, our eating, or from having a nice car like our neighbor's, then we put the Word away and do what is natural - or rather, what is carnal. We need to begin to look at ourselves realistically to see how much time we are giving the spirit man.

Redeem the Time

You can pray all the time. The Scripture says to pray without ceasing (I Th. 5:17). It also says to redeem the time (Ep. 5:16). You can be stewards of your time by praying in the spirit while you are washing the dishes or by praying in the spirit on the way to work rather than listening to the radio. Snow is forecasted, and instead of listening to tapes, praying, or reading the Word, we have the news broadcast on. They do not have to tell you where the snow is; it will get there. Just pray in the spirit; move in the power of His might and in the

power of that spirit man. We get caught up in the things of the world and do not even know it. Often, they are not bad things, but we need to realize that this spirit man is the source of our life.

We have already seen that without the spirit man, this body is going to die. We have been deceived in not realizing the importance of our spirit man.

Can Your Conscience Be Your Guide?

I John 3:16 says, "*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought [owe it] to lay down our lives for the brethren.*" The Scripture says, "...*freely ye have received, freely give*" (Mt. 10:8). We are to love as we have been loved. We see right here that we are to lay our lives down for the brethren (I Jn. 3:16, Jn. 15:13).

I John 3:17-19 says, "*But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*" The word *hereby* is making reference to loving in deed. John says that your loving by deed is the way that you will know that the love of God is functioning in your life.

John continues, "*For if our heart [our spirit] condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God*" (vs. 20-21). Have you ever heard the saying, "Let your conscience be your guide"? That is good if your conscience is full of the Word of God. But if your conscience has not been washed with the water of the Word of God, if your conscience

has not been purged with the blood of Jesus as Hebrews tells us it is supposed to be, if your conscience has not been strengthened with the Word of God, then you have a heart or conscience that is able to be deceived. You have a conscience that is far from God - one that is able to move in iniquity. But the man that is full of the Word of God, the man that does not have unconfessed sin in his life, the man that is flowing in the Spirit of God, has a voice that will rise up on the inside of him. The conscience will let him know immediately if he is doing something contrary to the Word of God.

Did you know that your spirit is full of the Holy Spirit? Did you know that the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible and knows every word of it? Did you know that the Holy Spirit cannot accompany sin; He cannot be an accomplice of sin. So, when you sin, He says that He will not have any part of it, and now, you are out of fellowship. He says that if you are not going to listen, He is not going to speak. You can have your conscience seared if you are not listening to and receiving the voice of the spirit through the Word of God (I Ti. 4:2).

Strive for the Mastery

A perfect illustration of this deals with borrowing money. Many times we do not think anything about borrowing money to buy a vacuum cleaner, a television, or to pay for a house or a car, unless our spirit has begun to be saturated with the Word of God. Then as our spirit man begins to get revelation of what God wants to do in our lives, we see that there is a better way to operate than in the natural. So the man who has conditioned himself with the Word of God may get a "check" in his spirit that borrowing money may not be the best way to go.

This is the way that it is supposed to be if you are saturating

yourself with the Word of God and training your spirit in this way. However, to borrow money is not sin. It cannot be sin because the Bible tells us to lend to the man who wants to borrow from us (Pr. 19:17, Ps. 112:5). God is not going to be a part of sin, so if He says for you to lend it, then you are part of the borrowing. The only sin in borrowing is the sin of “unrighteousness,” or not moving in the rights of redemption that belong to us as believers. It is just living below the standard that God has provided for us.

God has provided the way of borrowing as a means of meeting the needs of people. However, the best way is to be the head and not the tail (De. 28:13). The best way is to lend and not to borrow (Pr. 22:7). But do you own your house free and clear? Did you buy it by faith? Do you plan on getting it paid off way in advance? We have seen the best, and we are working toward that, but we are not under condemnation when we make our monthly house payment.

When full of the Word of God, your spirit knows what is best. It will tell you what is best. Have you taken any kind of medicine in the last thirty days? That is not the best, but you do not have to live in condemnation over it. Your spirit will tell you that there is a better way. Did you know when you were taking that medication that there was a better way? That is the voice; that is the conscience of the spirit speaking up within you.

When the conscience speaks, letting you know that there is a better way, it refers you to the Word of God. It does not assure you that there is enough faith within your spirit man to move the mountain. This is where people get in trouble. Their conscience (mind) speaks, and they know that there is a better way, but they have not been built up enough in faith to be successful. However, they try to do it just because they have

heard about it. Sometimes, even if it is from their own spirit, they are not able to be successful; they die from sickness or lose their business, for example. So, remember that hearing the voice of God or receiving the revelation of God's Word does not assure you that you are going to have instantaneous results.

The Scripture tells us to walk as He walked (I Jn. 2:6). We are to be perfect even as He is perfect (Mt. 5:48). We are not to sin. We are to have all of the fruit of the spirit emanating from our spirit man, but do not confuse the voice of conscience as being the Word of God saying that you can do this.

Chapter VI

God Is Greater than Your Spirit

I John 3:19-22 says, “*And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart....*” If your spirit condemns you, if it convicts you, if it begins to give you some type of direction, then God is greater than your heart. In other words, we only know in part (I Co. 13:9). Our spirit is able to be deceived, but God is not. If you will keep your heart pure, even though you are not totally saturated with the Word of God, and if you will confess any sin in your life, then the Spirit of God Who knows all things will be able to communicate with your spirit, giving you direction as you are open to receive it. If you will stop trying to understand with your mind and begin to receive the Word of God into your heart, then God is greater than your heart. And even though your heart is not fully developed, God can speak to you and give you revelation. I Corinthians 13:9 tells us that we know in part in many areas, but God knows the beginning to the end. Inside of your spirit man is all of the knowledge and information that you will ever need to be successful on this earth. We need to begin to draw on it.

Now, remember, the carnal mind is an enemy of God (Ro. 8:7). Your brain is just an assimilator of facts; it is as someone has said “the university of the senses.” As “the university of the senses,” your brain only knows what your senses transmit to it. And yet, we have confidence in our minds. But have you ever felt God? Have you ever touched Him, I mean really touched

Him where you could feel Him? Have you ever visibly seen Him? I am not talking about visions; I am talking about actually seeing Him. Have you ever smelled Him? Have you ever heard Him with the physical ear, not the spiritual ear? You cannot hear God with your natural ear. People say that they heard God audibly. They did not; God does not speak that language. They may have heard a noise like the people with Paul did on the road to Damascus. Paul heard God speak in his spirit, and the others said that it thundered. The natural ear does not hear God.

God is a spirit, and those that worship or commune with Him must worship Him in spirit (Jn. 4:24). God does not deal with the senses. And yet, we have so much confidence in our minds, but our minds have no knowledge of God. We assimilate factual information about God, but our minds do not know Him. Everything that knows God is in the spirit realm. However, we put all of our time into the soulish or physical realm. God is greater than your spirit. He is able to communicate with you even when your spirit is breaking down.

Have Confidence Toward God

John continues, "*Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God*" (I Jn. 3:21). How many of you have ever gotten ready to pray for someone, and your heart said, "No"? That is the voice of God speaking through your spirit man. If you pray for someone, and your spirit is not condemning you, then you can have confidence before God. You are moving in the spirit. God is ministering; things are going fine, and you have confidence that you are flowing in the will of God. Suddenly you back off; something is not right.

Your brain cannot understand it. That person is just like the rest of them that you have prayed for. Everything looks and sounds right, but something is wrong in your conscience.

Translated from the Greek, the word *conscience* means “knowing within yourself.” You know within the spirit man; it is not just an understanding, but a knowing - an intuitive knowledge, or a knowing without explanation. You just know that you are or are not supposed to do a certain thing. This is really what the conscience is. If your conscience is not condemning you, then you have confidence toward God.

Paul dealt with the conscience. He said that some people’s consciences would not allow them to eat meat offered to idols. He said that these people had weak consciences. They did not understand the full freedom that they had in the Lord. But Paul said that for them to eat meat would be sin because their heart (conscience) was being influenced by religious thinking. Did you know that your mind can affect your heart? It can influence your heart. Thank God, your heart can influence your mind also. The conscience, or the knowing within oneself, is the most vital aspect of living and walking in the spirit.

Chapter VII

Pure by Obeying the Truth

Galatians 5:16 says, “...*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” If you will listen consciously to that voice and be aware that the Spirit of God is living inside of you, He will lead you into all truth (John 16:13). We need to realize that the mind is limited in dealing with spiritual things. **In everything that pertains to the spiritual walk, listen to your heart and not your mind, and you will walk in truth.** You will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Ga. 5:16), and you will have confidence before God (I Jn. 3:21). **We have tried to obey the Word through our minds instead of through our hearts.** Your spirit will lead you into truth. This spirit man will lead you perfectly into the revelation of God’s Word.

I Peter 1: 22 says, “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth [Word] through the Spirit.....*” You see, you cannot obey the Word of God any other way than through your spirit. Your mind will not obey the Word of God. It hates the Word of God. You may think that your mind does not, but the carnal mind hates the Word of God. If you left it up to your mind whether or not to read the Word every night, you would not read it. The mind has to be purified or cleansed; it has to be brought under the direction of the spirit man.

Now, the Scripture goes on to say that we are to obey the truth through the spirit. **It is the spirit man that enables us to do the Word of God.** The mind will not do the Word of God. The body does not want to obey the Word of God. It will only do the Word of God if, as spirit-filled people under the

direction of the Word of God, we have purified our hearts and minds and can live sinless before God. We can live sinless; we never have to sin another day of our lives if we will begin to purge ourselves with the Word of God.

James 4:17 tell us, “....to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” What part of man knows to do good? The spirit man is the only part of man that knows to do good. If we know to do good and do not do it, then we sin. We must come to the place where the spirit man is put back into control over the emotions, over the intellect, and over the will or volition. We must come to the place where we realize that this spirit man will perfectly heal our bodies from the inside. That spirit inside of you is perfect.

Restored to Wholeness

Scientists have invented a type of photography which allows them to see missing parts of an entire organism. For example, even though with the physical eye they could only see a portion of a leaf, they could see the entire leaf with this photography. Also, researchers have experimented with this photography using amputees. Although the leg is amputated, the picture shows the entire leg.

They do not know how close they are to realizing the truth. Now, what does that tell us? If your finger gets cut off, is all hope gone? No, the real finger is still there; the skin was only the cover. If we will believe, the Source of all life will put on the “cover” and produce new life. Is there Scripture that supports this? The Bible says that Jesus healed the halt and the lame. Those were people whose fingers and arms had fallen off, and whose legs had been removed by leprosy and various other diseases. As Jesus prayed, He knew that the limb was still

there. He created it to work this way. He prayed, and the limb would come back.

We had children playing on the playground here at the church. Two children were on one end of the seesaw, and two more were on the other end. As they were going back and forth, the seesaw came down on one child's finger, flattening it from the first knuckle. It was not much thicker than some papers put together. As we prayed for restoration, God healed that child's finger. The outside (the physical) had to conform to the spirit. This little child believed God. Both she and the people praying knew that God would heal that finger, and the spirit blew the finger out to the proportion that it was supposed to be. This is what happens in the realm of the spirit.

We have to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Initially, I stayed in the other room while others were praying for the child's finger. I did not go in right away and pray for the child because I wanted to hear from the Lord. I knew that the child was hurt seriously, and I was just waiting on the Lord. I refused to listen to my mind. The mind is sensually oriented, so it will tell you to call the doctor. That finger was flatter than the bone; the bone had to have been crushed. I sensed that the finger was going to have to be amputated. But the conscience, the voice that speaks up inside of you, says that is not how it is going to be. Therefore, we have confidence with God. We have to come to the place of understanding the importance of hearing that spirit man. That finger knew that it had to do what it was told. This is the way we are to function in the realm of walking in the spirit.

What about the conscience, that knowing within oneself? When I went in to pray for that child, I knew that her finger would be healed. The reason I knew was that I waited long enough to hear what God was saying to me. Sometimes we

pray for people too quickly. We lay hands on anyone who comes and has a need, and then wonder why they are not healed. We are praying for many people who do not need to be prayed for. We are praying for people who have unforgiveness in their heart, and they cannot be healed. They are not going to be healed. We just pray for anyone who says they need prayer.

We need to begin to hear what our heart is telling us. For example, I started to pray for a woman one time at a home prayer group meeting, and the Lord stopped me. He revealed to me that she had hatred and unforgiveness in her heart. I questioned her about what the Lord had revealed to me, and she finally chose to let go of it. When she did, I prayed for her, and the Lord healed her. The conscience is knowing inside and being willing to speak the voice of God, regardless of what people may think. It is not an easy thing to walk up to someone you do not know and say, "Hey, how about this particular situation?" In providing ministry, the conscience must be purified; it must be purged.

We see how the conscience is purified in Hebrews 9:6-9 which reads: *"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle [the Holy Place], accomplishing the service of God. But into the second [the Holy of Holies] went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors [sins] of the people: The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure [type] for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience."*

These sacrifices were able to atone for the people's sins. The word *atone* means "to cover." The sacrifices were covering

over the sins of men; they were keeping the people from being destroyed by sin. They were making provision until the redemptive work of Jesus was done. But none of those people were born again.

How did God speak to Elijah? How did God speak to Samson and the other prophets? The Scripture says that the Spirit of the Lord came on them. He would give them a prophecy or a word of knowledge. He gave Samson supernatural strength. But the Spirit of God did not dwell in them. These men were not born again. They could not purge or cleanse the conscience or the spirit man. **There is only one thing that is capable of purifying the spirit man, and that is the blood of Jesus; it is the Word of God.**

We see here that the conscience of the Old Covenant men was not purged or clean. They could not know the will of God in order to walk in it perfectly as we can. They received visitations and were able to prophesy that there would come a day when the Word of God would be in the hearts of men and not in their minds (Eze. 11:19, 36:26). There would be a day when the statutes of God would be written on hearts of flesh, the spirits of men like you and me. They saw those things, but they could not walk in them. What does that tell us? It tells us that we can live a better life than Enoch or Elijah. It tells us that we can live a more powerful life than Joshua. It tells us that we have the ability to hear the voice of God, and if we will obey it and walk in truth, no man will be able to stand before us all the days of our lives (De. 7:24). But we must come to the place of being confident in that voice.

Commit to Being a Doer

Remember this one thing: The carnal mind is enmity with God. You will face a time when your head says one thing and your heart says another. Your heart will say, for example, "*Give and it shall be given unto you ...*" (Lu. 6:58); your head will say, "We cannot afford to give this month." Now, we want to hear the voice of God. Often we want to have our consciences purged and purified. We want to walk in the spirit, until He says something that does not agree with our mind. Then we have to decide what voice we are going to listen to. Jesus made it possible for us to purify our hearts so that we could hear the voice of God. **When that conscience, or the knowing inside of us, speaks, we need to come to the place of making a commitment to do what the inner man is telling us to do.** We need to realize that the inner man is not limited in knowledge as the carnal mind is. Your carnal mind cannot understand how two plus two makes 8,000. We have been told that it makes four. Two plus two makes four, but when you take two plus two out of the natural and put it into the spiritual, it will make whatever you need. In the natural it will only make four, but we are not living bound by the laws of nature.

Our conscience has been purged; it has been purified (He. 9:14). We can now hear the voice of God. The key is for that intuitive unction of the spirit of God to be acted upon. You know in your heart. Your conscience says, "Yes, this is right." Communion, fellowship with God, and experiencing His love all say, "Yes, this is the presence of God. I know that I am one with Him."

Intuition says to move, but you say, "No." Then you have to start all over again. You confess your sin, knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive you of all your sins (I Jn. 1:9).

Then you go to the Word of God and find out what you are supposed to do. The Word says to give, and it will be given unto you. To those who try to hold onto it, it is to their own poverty; but to those who scatter, it is to their increase (Pr. 11:24). Then you go through and feed yourself the Word of God again.

Get Out of the Boat

You begin to saturate your spirit man once again. The spirit of God rises up and says, "Let's do the Word." The communion says, "I am one with God." The intuition says, "Move now," but you say, "No." Pretty soon we have to get out of the boat. You see, Peter's heart spoke before his head had time to think. His heart said, "Lord, if it is You, bid me to come." Jesus said, "Come" (Mt. 14:28-29). Peter realized that he was committed now. Do you know how Peter got out of the boat? He jumped. This was not a rowboat or other small boat; this was a fishing boat! There were at least twelve men in it that we know of. They were in a storm. They did not have time to lower the steps and help Peter down. This big boat was being tossed as waves were breaking over the bow, and Peter jumped out. Why? Because of his conscience. He had fellowship with the Word of God.

Peter was not yet born again, but he had been in fellowship with the Word of God, and had watched the Word of God enough that his spirit had become keen. Seeing the things that Jesus was doing, he did not fully comprehend them in his heart, but he did with his head. His heart would join in later as the Spirit of God would come upon him.

You see, before the day of Pentecost, Peter, James, and John were no different from Elijah, Elisha, and the rest of the

Old Covenant men. Jesus lived as an Old Covenant man. In His earthly ministry, Jesus lived under the same set of laws that Moses and Elijah had lived under. Then as you read Romans and Hebrews, you will find that He became the first born again man of many brethren of the same kind. Jesus Himself was not a born again man until after He had died and was raised in victory. He was the God-man.

The Spirit of God would come upon these men just as the unction came upon Peter telling him to get out of the boat. He jumped out and was walking on the water. Then his brain told him to look at the waves. The Bible does not say this, but this is what may have happened: As Peter was walking toward Jesus, a big swell rose up causing Peter to lose sight of Jesus - He went out of Peter's senses. The moment Peter lost sight of Jesus, he lost faith and began to sink. That is the natural man. Peter intuitively cried out to the Lord to be saved. Jesus took him by the hand, and they walked back to the boat. Peter did not sink; he **began** to sink. Jesus did not carry him back to the boat; they walked back to the boat. We see what this conscience can do if we will realize that it has been purged.

We saw that under the Old Covenant, man could be perfect. The word *perfect* means "to come to maturation, to come to completeness." The Word said that their conscience was not made complete under this Old Covenant process. But Hebrews 9:11-14 says, "*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle [His body], not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of*

Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge [clean and purify] your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

We see that redemption now brought our spirit man to full life. We can have communion, we can have fellowship with God, we can have confidence in this conscience, so that when something inside says that this is truth, we know it is truth and it is time to act on it. Regardless of what your mind says or what the circumstances are, God's Word has spoken. We need to have confidence in our conscience which has been purged by the blood of Jesus. This is what Father has called us to in this walk in the spirit.