

The Threefold Nature of Man
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The inability of most Christians to understand this simple concept – what the Bible teaches about how man was created by God – has led to their spiritual growth being stunted. This is very dangerous in these times in which we now live because the power of Satan is becoming stronger upon the earth. The Lord told me in 1981, “Son, the power of the devil will become so strong in the last days that only those Christians who are strong in the Word, prayer and faith will survive.” Now that’s a scary thought!

I didn’t ask the Lord why this was the case nor how Satan’s power would become stronger but I’ve learned why – it’s because he gains more strength and power as the world becomes more wicked. The Lord showed us in 2005 while ministering at ETH in Jasper, AR, that the democrats would win both houses in the 2006 elections and that after this next Presidential election “America is really going to go downhill.” How does this happen? The Scriptures are plain and you all know this one quite well, “Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Prov. 14:34)

Many people, even non-Christians, believe the Bible to be a book of wisdom and contains some good rules for honest living but they fail to understand the spiritual laws that undergird the Scriptures by which the LORD God rules His Kingdom.

In April, 1985, I was preparing to go to the radio station in San Marcos, Texas, to do our radio broadcast, *Kingdom Living*. At that time you had to do them live at the station. I always spent the morning in prayer and as I was doing this I had a particularly heavy burden for America that day due to what our ministry was seeing on the college campus there at Southwest Texas University. The Lord gave me a vision of America and it was on a steep slope downward. I asked the Lord, “How has this happened?” He answered me immediately, “A nation is like a person, the more it opens itself up to the devil the more he comes in and occupies. The two greatest spirits [meaning most numerous; not greatest in power] in operation in the earth today are religious spirits and deceiving spirits.” See Ephesians 4:27.

Remember, this was exactly 3 years before the Lord supernaturally opened up our ministry in Africa and I did not know that much about the devil’s kingdom nor spiritual warfare. Since that day over 23 years ago we’ve really seen the operation of these religious and deceiving spirits come to the forefront in the lives of Christians and it costs them dearly, sometimes with losing their lives.

These two spirits tend to work together against Christians and I'm going to show you why they are successful and what you can do to stop them. This is why you need to clearly understand the way you were created and your threefold nature.

The Bible clearly shows that man was "created in the image of God." God is a threefold Being; man is a threefold being – spirit, soul and body. You are a spirit, you possess a soul and you live in a body. Right now that body is a physical body but the real you, your spirit, lives in that body and it can travel out of that body now and it will leave at death to either Heaven or Hell according to your spiritual condition.

I think it will be easier for you to understand this concept clearly if we look at the three Greek words used in the New Testament to describe man. They are *sarkikos*, *psuchikos* and *pneumatikos*. The word, *sarkikos*, refers to that part of man that is carnal or fleshly. The word, *psuchikos*, denotes the invisible parts of man – the soul – the emotions, will, etc., and the word, *pneumatikos*, refers to the spirit of man – the part of man that contacts God and the spirit world; the true essence of man that lives on with the soul for all eternity.

Now, I want to call your attention to a few key scriptures that have caused confusion to most Christians simply because most "study" Bibles draw an erroneous conclusion. This will also help you to understand how evil spirits oppress and possess people – even Christians – and we will primarily discuss the work of religious and deceiving spirits. Look at **I Cor. 2:1-16**. The Apostle Paul does some wonderful teaching in this chapter on some basic principles of what we call having "The Eye of the Eagle" – developing your spirit man so that you can understand spiritual things. You should read this chapter over and meditate on it many times but I want to first call your attention to v. 13. Paul is talking about "the language of the Holy Spirit." Do you speak French? Well, if you don't then I would be unable to converse with you in the French language wouldn't I? And if you don't understand the Language of the Holy Spirit then He cannot converse with you either even though He wants to very much; He's waiting on you to learn His language. That's why it's important to understand Dark Speech and other parts of His language so we know what He is trying to tell us.

Many Christians are waiting on God to speak with them in answer to prayer but they think He's going to speak in their heads. The Bible tells us in a key Scripture in Proverbs 20:27, "The spirit of man is the candle [or lamp] of the Lord ..." That means God is going to lead and guide you through your spirit, the pneuma part of you. But if your pneuma is not developed, if it's still a baby with no spiritual growth, then He will not be able to communicate with you because you don't know the language because your spirit is undeveloped.

Now back to **I Cor. 2** and I want you to take note of **v. 14**. This verse is misunderstood by every study Bible I've ever seen. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Every study Bible I've ever seen makes the mistake of assuming that "the natural man" Paul is talking about is the sinner – the non-Christian. Although a

sinner fits this category that's not Paul's point because *all* men fit this category; he's saying the exact same thing I'm saying. The word translated *natural* man is *psuchikos*. Clearly, Paul is not talking about sinners here because all men have a soul. Just because you accept Christ for your sins doesn't mean you lose your soul. In fact, at the exact moment of the new birth there is no change to your soul! It's the same. That's why James speaks about "saving the soul" to Christians. So is your flesh, the *sarkikos*. No, what changes is the *pneumatikos*! The Spirit of God inhabits your spirit and begins to put you back in touch with God. But it's up to you to develop and mature your spirit through reading and meditating in the Word and prayer. Especially you should spend a lot of time praying in the spirit (praying in other tongues). The Lord told me in 1980, "Spend much time praying in the spirit and as you pray in the spirit you'll walk in the spirit and spiritual things will become more real to you."

Now that I've cleared that up I want to briefly discuss the work of demons and possession/oppresion because many Christians have been destroyed or their ministry destroyed because they did not understand this. Most Christians have been erroneously taught a Christian cannot have a demon. This is nonsense. Almost all preachers, because they've been erroneously taught, repeat what they heard, "A Christian cannot have a demon because demons cannot cross the Bloodline." But I've never found one who knew what they were talking about if you discuss it.

Demons do not operate in your spirit – they can only *oppress* your spirit and they can "kill" your spirit just like they do unbelievers if they are very advanced and you don't stay out of sin. Sin is an open doorway through which the demons operate by The Law of Sin and Death. I used to tell the people at our church in Montana, "You know if you leave the front door to your house open all the time one day you're going to meet a Grizzly Bear or Mountain Lion in your living room or kitchen!" It's the same spiritually with sin. That's why it's important for you to repent quickly of all sins committed.

But demons will continue to operate in and on your *sarkikos* and *psuchikos* if you let them just like they do the unbeliever. You have to make them leave; you have to do it. God's not going to do it for you. Many people think just because a person gets born again that they lose all their demons; they don't; especially the religious and deceiving spirits. These spirits will continue to operate until you recognize their presence and get rid of them. The deceiving spirits will especially operate along with the religious spirit to deceive Christians into doing something they think is for God but it's not. If they continue in this deception they normally lose their possessions, business, ministry and sometimes even their lives and souls. We've encountered scores of such sad situations in many years of ministry where even when you warn them via revelation knowledge from the Lord they ignore it and pay the price.

While I was training for the Houston Marathon in 1981 I was talking to the Lord about prayer while jogging 12 miles one night. I was asking Him about the answer to something I'd been praying about. The Lord didn't answer me directly but indirectly but I got the point. He said, "Do you remember when I prayed all night at the Garden of

Gethsemane?” (Of course He prayed all night many times). I said, “Yes.” He replied, “What do you think I was praying about?”

Recognize the danger of these two evil spirits represent. If you're not following a plan of developing your spirit then make a commitment to do so today. Spend a minimum of 1-2 hours a day meditating in the Word; it is the “food” for your spirit man. Remember, the Word says, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word ... of the Lord.” In addition, spend at least one hour a day praying in the spirit. You should spend much longer. In fact, spend all night praying when you have a very important, life changing decision to make After only a month you will see a difference; I guarantee it. You will begin to develop the “Eye of the Eagle.”