

Bible Study - Restored Truth #4 - The Spirit in Man
May 26, 2013

It is important to understand when God and the Word created mankind, they intended for mankind to have a relationship with them. This relationship is made possible in how God created man.

Gen.1:26 Then God said...[Elohim] let us make man in our image according to our likeness...[Man was created to look like God. Man is a physical representation of God. God has a head, with hair, arms, hands, chest, legs and feet - all the same body parts human beings have. Human beings are physical representations of God's appearance.] (vs 27) So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

Men and women are both created in the image of God. Men and women have all the same bodily features, basically speaking. Obviously, there are significant differences in the physical make-up of men and women but all have a head, two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth, two hands, ten fingers, two legs, two feet and ten toes. Despite these likenesses, there are also very significant differences between God and man.

These significant differences begin with what is in John 4:24, which says, *God is spirit*. God is composed of spirit, while human beings are made of flesh.

2 Cor.3:17 Now the Lord is spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. Or freedom. There is great freedom in truly understanding God's Word. Freedom which frees the mind from beliefs and explanations about who and what man is, and man's purpose of existence, which aren't true. There are many explanations generated through human reasoning about the origin and purpose of man because human beings don't understand what God's Word says about the purpose of man.

Studying these Restored Truths free the mind of lies, myths and misunderstandings about God's Word, the Holy Bible. There is great freedom in understanding the Bible. This is knowledge Satan does not want human beings to have. He has feverishly worked since the Garden of Eden to conceal this knowledge by corrupting God's Truth. God's people have the responsibility of protecting these truths and not allowing them to be further corrupted, as will be explained later in this study. Nevertheless, God is spirit, but notice something else about God.

Revelation 4 contains details of a vision John saw concerning God the Father. *Rev. 4:9 Whenever the living creatures gave glory and honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne who lives forever and ever...[God is spirit and God has eternal life] (vs 10) The twenty four elders fell down before him that sits on the throne and worship him that lives forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne saying (vs 11) You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for you created all things and by your will they exist and were created.* It was God's intent to create this vast universe earth spins around in. God intended everything on Earth to be created. God intended the creation of mankind.

Heb. 7:1 speaks about Jesus Christ, also known as Melchizedek. *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God [God the Father] who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. (vs 2) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all first being translated King of Righteousness and then also King of Salem meaning King of Peace...*[This same title applies to Jesus Christ who will establish peace on the earth when He returns to establish God's kingdom] *without father, without mother, without genealogy having neither beginning of days or end of life but made like the son of God remains a priest continually.* Jesus Christ has always had eternal life except for the brief period of time He came to this earth as a human being, including the three days He spent in the grave. He came to Earth and lived as a physical human being subject to death.

It is important to examine the differences between God and man. While God created man in His image, God did not fully create man in His image. God is spirit, man is flesh. God has eternal life, man has a temporary life. Of man it says in Gen. 2:7 *The Lord...[the Word or Jesus Christ] formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.* Man was created from the earth, God has always existed.

1 Cor. 15:47 *The first man was of the earth made of dust...*[Referring to Adam] (vs 48) *And as was the man of dust so also are those who are made of dust.* Paul is clear every human being that has followed after Adam also came from the earth. Once a person's days on this earth are over, the human body returns to dust, where it came from.

Gen. 3:19 *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...*[God speaking to Adam after his decision to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] *until you return to the ground for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, from dust you were created, and to dust you shall return.* When a human being dies the body decays and turns back into dust or dirt. The differences between God and man are highlighted in the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecc. 3:19 *For what happens to the sons of man also happens to animals...*[Speaking of something that happens to both mankind and animals] *one thing befalls them. As one dies so dies the other. Surely they have all one breath. Man has no advantage over animals for all is vanity . (vs 20) All go to one place. All are from the dust and all return to dust.* Whether it's a human body or an animal body, when it dies and is fully decayed, it turns back to dust. These scriptures clearly distinguish differences between God and man. God is spirit and has eternal life. Man is physical and has mortal life. God creates using the principle of duality and nowhere is this better illustrated than in the creation of mankind.

Paul demonstrates how the principle of duality applies to the creation of man. 1 Cor.15:46 *However the spiritual is not first ... [the spiritual part of man's creation did not come first] but the natural...*[the physical part comes first] *and afterward the spiritual.* Right here is the principle of duality applied to the creation of man. (vs 42) *The body ... [human body] was sown in corruption. It is raised in incorruption...*[the human body is made physical. When resurrected it will be spiritual] (vs 43) *It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power...*[the human body first comes into existence as physical and then raised from death as spiritual body] (vs 44)

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body. (vs 47) The first man was of the earth made of dust: the second man is the Lord from heaven. (48) As was the man of dust so also are those who are made of dust, and as is the heavenly man so also are those who are heavenly. (vs 49) As we have been borne the image of the man of dust...[what the human creation is right now] we shall...[reference to the future] also bear the image of the heavenly man. Physical human beings resurrected from the dead in the 1st resurrection will have a spiritual body like that of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God: nor does corruption inherit incorruption. (vs 53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.* These verses continue to point out the principle of duality. Keep in mind Paul is speaking to Corinthian members of God's Church.

The "we" Paul is speaking to refers only to faithful members of God's Church. And specifically, in verse 52, to those Church members physically alive when Jesus Christ returns in the air at 7th trumpet. *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* Whether a member of God's Church is dead or alive, each will receive a spiritual body and live forever. This is when the Church of God, the first group of human beings to be resurrected or changed will be become born members of the God family.

God did not initially create within mankind the capacity to live forever. However, He did create within mankind the potential to live forever. This difference needs to be thoroughly understood. The potential for mankind to live forever can only be achieved through a specific criteria established by God. Meeting this criteria allows God to change mortal bodies to immortal bodies. This was explained in a previous study about the Holy Spirit. First, human beings must repent of their sins. Second, the repentant sinner must be baptized, fully immersed in water. The third and final step of meeting God's criteria is having hands laid on the repentant sinner for receiving the Holy Spirit. From this point forward the Church member must spiritually grow and overcome to the end of their physical life. There is a process God requires of every human being before changing their mortal body to an immortal body. Right now, only those faithful members of God's Church have the first opportunity to experience this process.

There is another difference between God and man few people in this world today understand. What is it?

Re-examine the creation of man again by reading Gen. 2:7. *The Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.* The King James Version, uses the word soul for being. In the Hebrew language, this word is translated, nephesh. Nephesh simply means a breathing creature, an animal, and in the abstract it can refer to vitality. In this case, the context is about a breathing creature, called man. In Gen. 2:19, nephesh is used to describe all the land animals God brought to Adam to be named.

Gen.1:20 *Then God said let the waters of abound with an abundance of living creatures...[sea animals].* The word 'creatures' is the same Hebrew word nephesh, used to describe man in Gen. 2:7. (vs 21) *So God created great sea creatures... [Great nepheshes] And every living thing that moves.* (vs 24) *Then God said let the earth bring forth the living creature...[nephesh] according to its kind, cattle and creeping thing, and beasts of the earth.* God considers both human beings and animals, nepheshes. They are breathing creatures. In other words: a living soul (KJV), does not refer to an immortal spirit, but a living breathing physical human being. This is an accurate explanation of the word nephesh.

The word nephesh is applied in describing the family of Jacob. Gen. 46:15 *These are the sons of Leah whom she bore to Jacob with his daughter Dinah: all the persons...[all the nepheshes] his sons and his daughters were thirty three...[a total of 33 nepheshes].* (vs 18) *Zilpah bore to Jacob 16 persons...[16 nepheshes].* (vs 22) *These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob 14 persons...[14 nepheshes]* (vs 26) *All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives were 66 persons...[66 nepheshes].* (vs 27) *And the sons of Joseph who were born in Egypt were two persons... [2 nepheshes] All the persons...[all the nepheshes] of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.* The Bible clearly describes everyone in the family of Jacob as 'nepheshes'.

Did God create man with an immortal spirit? This is the predominant teaching in the traditional world of Christianity. A thorough and honest examination of a number of scriptures will prove man was not created with an immortal spirit.

Gen.2:16 specifically shows Adam was created with the potential of experiencing death. *And the Eternal God commanded man saying of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; (vs 17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

In Gen. 3:19, after Adam chose to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God tells Adam: *In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken: for dust you are and to dust you shall return.*

Gen. 5:5 proves the truth of God's words to Adam. *So all the days that Adam lived were 930 years and he died.* If God had created man with an immortal soul, Adam would have continued to live, but He didn't and Adam died. Why did Adam die?

God is very specific about why human beings die. Eze. 18:4 *Behold, all souls...[all nepheshes] are mine; The nephesh of the father as well as the nephesh of the son is mine;...[the physical lives of the father and son] The nephesh who sins shall die.* This point is re-stated in (vs 20) *The nephesh who sins shall die.* God emphasizes this point twice to make sure everyone understands what happens to human beings who sin.

What is sin? Sin is the breaking of God's law. (1 John 3:4) When human beings sin, they break God's law. God's law is defined by the Ten Commandments, which define the right interaction human beings should have between themselves and God and other people.

When God created mankind He did not create within mankind an immortal spirit as stated in Ecclesiastes.

Eccl. 3:19 For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals. One thing befalls them: as one dies so dies the other. Surely they all have one breath. They all breathe the same breath of life. Man has no advantage over animals for all is vanity. (vs 20) All go to one place. All are from the dust and all return to dust.

Eccl. 9:5 For the living know that they will die but the dead know nothing and they have no more reward for the memory of them is forgotten.

In the beginning of this study it was established God is spirit, eternal, and lives forever. Man is physical, with a mortal, temporary life. Those are two major differences between God and man, but there is another important difference. What is it?

Paul defines this difference as the "spirit in man." In 1 Cor. 2 Paul discusses the spirit of man or the spirit in man. 1 Cor. 2:9 *But as it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. (vs 11) For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him...*

Human beings come to know the things human beings through the spirit of man.

(vs 14) but the natural man does not receive the things of the Son of God for they are foolish to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned. Man was created in the likeness and the image of God, a physical representation of God, but man was not created with the capacity to understand the knowledge of God. This was something man had to be given. This is what the tree of life represents, the acquisition of God's knowledge leading to eternal life.

What is this spirit of man? The word spirit is actually the same Greek word which is used with Holy Spirit. The word 'holy' designates what kind of spirit it is. The spirit of man is not holy. The word spirit in the Greek refers to a current of air, or breath, or blast, or breeze. By analogy, or in a figurative sense, it can refer to a spirit, human spirit, or the rational soul. Care must be taken with this definition because most people believe the soul is an immortal spirit, which the Bible proves is not the case.

Elihu, one of the individuals who spoke with Job about his suffering, recognized there was a spirit in man. This is not the Spirit of God. In Job 32:8 Elihu said to Job: *There is a spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.*

In the Hebrew language the word spirit is the word “ruach”, which basically means the same thing as the word spirit in the Greek. It refers to wind by resemblance of breath. It can also refer to a sensible, or even violent, exhalation, referring to the taking in - the inhaling and exhaling of air. It can also resemble a spirit but only of a rational being.

In order to understand what the spirit of man is, a look back at the differences in God's creation must be taken. Gen. 2:7 confirms what was earlier quoted in Eccl. 3. *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground. (vs 19) Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air.*

Clearly, man and animals were created from the same ground. And after reading Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 man and animals return back to the same ground after death., it is clear to understand the likeness in the two.

Though man and animals are created from the same ground, breathe the same air, and return to the same ground after death, there does remain a big difference between man and animals or a gap between the two. Understanding this gap will clarify what the spirit of man is.

Animals operate on instinct and an extremely low level of intelligence. Animals can't vocally communicate as human beings do. Animals have no creative power. They can't create anything, except through instinct. There's no high level of logical thinking in animals. They can't reason, despite the efforts of people to try and convince otherwise.

However, man does have the ability to think. Man can communicate and create. Man can think logically, sometimes. Without all these abilities, human beings would be another two-legged animal created in the image and likeness of God. Human beings would be like dumb animals merely interested in being fed. God did not create animals in his image. He created them after their own kind. What makes human beings different from animals is the intellectual capacity to think, reason, communicate, plan and create.

What is the source of this intellectual capacity? The source is not something that can be seen or measured. If it could, science would be able to explain it. God's Word describes the intellectual capacity of man as the spirit in man. The spirit in man does not have a life of its own. The life of a human being is found in its breath and blood. When a human being stops breathing, the person dies. When enough blood is removed from the body, the body dies.

The spirit of man is part of the human being, but it does not see. It makes sense of what is seen. It does not hear. It makes sense of what is heard. It does not taste. It makes sense of what is tasted. It does not feel. It makes sense of what is felt. It does not smell. It makes sense of the aroma or odor. The spirit in man is not an eternal spirit. It

operates within the mind of a human being throughout the course of a person's life. The spirit in man is like a personal data file, recording every detail of a human being's character and the experiences of a person's life. When the life of a human being comes to an end, its life-sustaining functions stop. But the spirit in man remains, providing a record of the person from conception to death.

We see the spirit in man returns back to God upon death. Eccl. 3:21 *Who knows the spirit of the sons of men which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal which goes down to the earth?* Remember this is said after verse 20 which says all are created from the dust of the earth and all will return to the same dust. When a human being dies, all consciousness is lost. But the spirit in man, this record of the individual defining who the person is, what the person looks like, memory of the experiences the person has encountered, returns to God. It has no consciousness. It is a record or to use computer terminology: a personal data-file. This file is held by God until He resurrects the person back to life.

Here are a few more verses to explain how the spirit in man returns to God. First, look at what happened to the spirit of man in Christ when he died. Matt. 27:50 *Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.*

Keep in mind the dead know nothing. When the spirit of man returns back to God, it is not conscious. Stephen was stoned to death and at the end of his life he said - Acts 7:59 *Lord Jesus receive my spirit.* (vs 60) *Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, Lord, do not charge them with this sin. When he said this he fell asleep (died).* The spirit in man explains the gap between man and animals. It is a major difference between God's human and animal creation.

The spirit in man also reveals another difference between man and God. When God created mankind in His image and His likeness, there were certain things man did not receive from God. There were certain ways in which man was not yet like God. Man was not created a spirit being. Man was not created with eternal life. There was also something else man was not created with.

Paul said in regards to the spirit in man, 1 Cor. 2:11 *For what man knows the things of man except the spirit of man which is in him?...* [The things of man simply refers to the physical things of life, the physical world man lives in, and what makes up his world, and how his world operates. These are the things of man.] *Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God...*[To understand what makes up the things of God, requires having the spirit of God] (vs 12) *Now we have received not the spirit of the world...*[Paul is talking to God's Church, those who have repented of sin, been baptized, and received God's Holy Spirit. When a person becomes a member of God's Church, they do not receive the knowledge or spirit of this world] *but the spirit which is from God that we might know the things that had been freely given to us by God...*[Things refers to the knowledge of God. The word 'know' means to know intuitively without effort, or to understand. The mind must be open to God's Truth. This can only happen with God's Holy Spirit] (vs 13) *These things we also speak not in words which man's wisdom teaches...* [Knowledge solely

produced by man.] *but which the Holy Spirit teaches comparing spiritual things with spiritual...*[Using God's Spirit to understand the spiritual knowledge of God.] *These things we also speak not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches.*

This is exactly what Christ identified as one of the functions of the Holy Spirit. John 14:26 *But the helper...*[Or the comforter] *the Holy Spirit which the father will send in my name...*[Christ's words are consistent with what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 2 about where the Holy Spirit comes from] *It will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you.* All things again refers to God's knowledge, what is written in the Bible. The Holy Spirit opens the mind to understand the truth. It allows those God has called to grasp the significance of what God's Word means.

1 Cor. 2:14 *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.* Why is the knowledge of God foolish to human beings? It's because human beings are not born with the spirit of God. This is the gap between man and God. It's another one of the differences between God as a spirit being and man as a human being. Human beings are not born with the spirit of God in them. It's something that has to be acquired through a process. It has to be given to human beings by God.

The natural mind of human beings cannot understand God's knowledge because human beings are only born with the spirit of man. The human mind acquires the knowledge which man's wisdom teaches. Man's wisdom is the whole body of human knowledge which has been developed, and is taught and passed on from generation to generation. Man's knowledge comes from human reasoning. This body of knowledge was on display amongst the philosophers on Mars Hill when Paul addressed the intellectuals of his day. This knowledge is strictly man's knowledge, what man has generated, what man has fabricated in his own mind about the purpose of life and the world we live in. This is the natural working of the human operating without God's spirit. This is how man's knowledge is generated. Receiving and using of God's Holy Spirit, in conjunction with the spirit of man allows the human mind function as God intends it to.

Rom. 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh...*[It is purely a physical focus: multiple homes, large bank accounts, expensive food tastes, fast cars. This is all people have to set their minds on and pursue, without God's Spirit] *But those who live according to the spirit the things of the spirit...*[This is a mind focused on what God has to say] (vs 6) *To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* (vs 7) *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be...*[Human beings born into this world are born with carnal minds. A better translation is fleshly minds. Those minds become hostile to God because they cannot be subject to the law of God. Remember, Paul said the natural mind cannot be subject to spiritual things because spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Human beings are born without spiritual discernment. It is something which has to be given] *The carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be.* (vs 8) *So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. No*

person can live God's way of life, until called by God the Father, repent of past sins, be baptized and have hands laid on them by a minister of God to receive Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:9 *but you are not in the flesh...*[Paul is speaking to the brethren, Church of God in Rome] *but you are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...*[Paul says IF the Spirit of God dwells in you. There have been many members of the Church of God it appears who did not have the indwelling of God's Spirit based upon their actions. Their minds were set upon things of the flesh instead of things of the Spirit] *now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his.*

This is the definition of a true Christian: one who has the spirit of Christ dwelling in them. How can this be known? It can be known based upon how a person lives. Is there obedience to the Ten Commandments? Are God's holy days being observed? Is there spiritual growth in biblical knowledge and development of God's character? Is there overcoming of sin? Is there a willingness to admit wrong and error? Is there an uncompromising determination to stand up for God's Truth in the face of adversity? These actions identify a person who has God's Spirit.

Here is where the spirit of God and the spirit of man meet. Rom. 8:16 *The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit...*[What is "our spirit?" "Our spirit" is the spirit of man. What is "the Spirit of God?" This is the Holy Spirit which comes from God] *The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.* People become the begotten children when the Holy Spirit and the spirit of man join together. This is where the gap between man and God is bridged. Only when the spirit of man is joined by the Spirit of God can man truly have a relationship with his Creator.

King David understood the difference between the spirit of man and God's Spirit. Ps. 143:3 *For the enemy has persecuted my soul... [nephesh] He has crushed my life to the ground. He has made me dwell in darkness...*[in dark places] *like those who have long been dead. (vs 5) Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me...*[the spirit of man] *my heart within me is distressed. (vs 6) I spread out my hands to you. My soul...*[my physical life] *longs for you like a thirsty land. (vs 7) Answer me speedily, O Eternal; my spirit fails: do not hide your face from me lest I be like those who go down into the pit...*[Or grave] *(vs 10) Teach me to do your will for you are my God: your spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.* Without God's Spirit entrance into the land of uprightness is impossible. Said another way, a person cannot enter God's kingdom without having God's Spirit. King David clearly understood the difference between two spirits.

Paul highlights how God's Spirit and the carnal spirit are opposed to each other in Gal. 5:16. *I say then walk in the Spirit...*[Under direction of God's Spirit] *and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh...*[Not pursue the carnal things of this world] *for the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you do not do the things that you wish...*[A conflict exists between the carnal spirit of man and the Spirit of God.. The carnal spirit wants to do the things of the world or the flesh. The Spirit of God is focused on doing the

things of God. God's people must use the Spirit of God to overcome the carnal spirit which likes to follow its natural inclinations] *For the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish...*[What are the things does a human being with God's Spirit wish to do? To follow and live God's way of life] (vs 18) *but if you are led by the Spirit...*[Notice! If one must be led by the Spirit – God's Spirit is not like a rope around being put around the neck to drag someone into God's Kingdom. It does not force people to live God's way of life. Using God's Spirit requires being led the Spirit. This requirement means knowing what God's word says and living by it. When confronted with situations, a choice must be made to do things God's way as opposed to the way one may naturally want to do them. This is what it means to be led the Spirit] *If you are being led by the Spirit you are not under the law...* the penalty of the law. This penalty for breaking God's law is death.

Gal. 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness (vs 20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies (vs 21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand just as I have also told you in the past that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

The works of the flesh describe how people of this world behave. These behaviors are what the carnal mind desires to do and does them. They are extant in this world we live in. The works of the flesh are behaviors God's people engaged in before God called them out of this world. To help overcome these behaviors, He gives His Spirit upon repentance and baptism.

Gal. 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness (vs 23) gentleness, self-control: against such there is no law...*[God doesn't make a law against these behaviors. They define God and His character. These qualities come from having God's Holy Spirit and allow a person put distance between themselves and the works of the flesh, which every person has engaged] (vs 24) *Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires...*[Speaking of God's people who have repented of the works of the flesh, but still have to fight against them] (vs 25) *If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit...*

Paul starts out verse 16 speaking to individual Church member, but he ends up in verse 25 talking to God's Church as a whole. Each member of God's Church has an individual responsibility to live by the Spirit. When those individuals are brought together, God's Church has unity, harmony and peace.

After Christ returns, God's Spirit will be made available to all human beings. Joel 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward...*[After what? After the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord] *that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...*[This means that now, all flesh, minus God's Church, do not have God's Holy Spirit] *I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh: your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see*

visions. (vs 29) and also all my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit in those days. "Those days" refer to what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong described as the Wonderful World Tomorrow.

Again, this is after the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. Eze.36:24 *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries and bring you into your own land. (vs 25) Then I will sprinkle...[pour] clean water on you...[baptism] and you shall be clean I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (vs 26) I will give you a new heart and a new spirit within you. I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (vs 27) I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and you shall keep my judgments and do them...[Notice God says 'I will put my Spirit in you'] (vs 28) Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers. You shall be my people and I will be your God.*

Ezekiel reiterates exactly what Joel is talking about, in connection with the modern descendants of ancient Israel, who go into Great Tribulation and are redeemed out of it. Eze. 11:17 *Therefore say thus says the Lord God; I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel... [What is the "land of Israel?" It is the land mass between the Euphrates River in Iraq and the Nile River in Egypt. The original land God wanted to give the ancient Israelites] (vs 18) And they will go there and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. (vs 19) Then I will give them one heart and I will put a new spirit within them and take out the stony heart of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh (vs 20) That they may walk in my statutes and keep my judgments and do them and they shall be my people and I will be their God...[Without God's Holy Spirit dwelling in a person, obedience to God's law is impossible. Here Ezekiel makes the exact point Paul make in Romans 8:7, when he said the carnal mind is enmity against law and is not subject to the law of God] Why? Because one must have God's Spirit dwelling within them to keep God's Law. And to those who will not accept God's Spirit -] (vs 21) *But as for those whose hearts follow the desire of their detestable things in their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads says the Lord God.**

God does not tolerate sin. Paul is very clear in Galatians 5 that those who practice the works of the flesh, will not be in God's kingdom. That's not the only place in the Bible Paul makes this point. These verses clearly demonstrate the vast majority of earth's population will experience the Spirit of God joining with the spirit of man after Jesus Christ returns and establishes God's kingdom on the earth.

Very few people understand the spirit of man. It is seen in action every day, but no one recognizes what it is and why God put it into every human being ever born. This is incredible knowledge God restored into His Church through Mr. Armstrong. Yet Satan has cleverly deceived the world that within human beings is an immortal spirit.

The general teaching in the world of traditional Christianity is that man is an immortal spirit dwelling in a human body. Notice this teaching in the catechism of the Catholic Church, section 327:

“The profession of faith of the fourth Lateran Council (in the year 1215, the same year the Magna Carta was signed) affirms that God, from the beginning of time, made at once out of nothing both orders of creatures, the spiritual and corporeal (the physical) that is the angelic and the earthly.”

The Catholic Church teaches at a specific point in time, God created angels and inhabitants of earth at the same time. Section 327 also states:

“...and the human creature who as it were shares in both orders being composed of spirit and body.”

Notice how Catholic teaching specifically states the human creature shares in both orders in spirit composed as spirit and body.

In Section 382 it says:

“Man, though made of body and soul, is a unity. (‘soul’ here is referring to an immortal soul.) The doctrine of the faith affirms that the spiritual and immortal soul is created immediately by God.”

Being created immediately by God, points to a human being’s birth. Recall in Bible Study #2 - Man, where we read how God created these things within a human being and that it didn't come from their parents.

In Section 1703 referring to human beings:

“Endowed with a spiritual and immortal soul, the human person is the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake. From his conception he is destined for eternal beatitude.”

The potential of human beings is to become members of God’s family, of which, eternal life is a benefit.

In Section 1704:

“The human person participates in the life and power of the divine spirit. By his reason he is capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator. (Does that match with things we have studied today in the Bible?) By free will he is capable of directing himself toward his true good. He finds his perfection in seeking and loving what is true and good.”

In Section 1705 it says:

“By virtue of his soul and his spiritual powers of intellect and will, man is endowed with freedom an outstanding manifestation of the divine image.”

The Catholic and Protestant Churches of this world teach, man is a created being in the image and likeness of God. That image and likeness refers to an immortal spirit within man.

It is important to understand that false doctrine continuously infiltrates God's Church. God's people must recognize, without any doubt, what true doctrine is. God's people must understand the false teaching is. And God's people must realize how false teaching is able, through the influence and subtlety of Satan the devil, allowed to get a foothold in God's Church.

Jude, writing toward the end of the first century, warned about the dangers of false doctrine coming into God's Church. Jude 1:3 *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints...*[Jude is referring to these Restored Truths, except when Jude was writing they weren't restored] (vs 4) *For certain men have crept in unnoticed who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men who turned the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

False doctrine runs contrary to biblical truth and enters into God's Church secretly. The phrase 'crept in unnoticed' (unawares, KJV) means to settle in alongside or to lodge stealthily.

Understanding how Satan the Devil works requires a tremendous amount of spiritual awareness and vigilance. Physical human beings are no match for the wiles of Satan the Devil. Human beings let down; get tired; get spiritually and mentally lazy. This is why God's people need His Spirit to guard against Satan and stay spiritually alert.

God's people historically have not done a good job following Paul's instruction in 1 Thes. 5:21 *Test all things. Hold fast what is good.* Examine everything!

Realizing how Satan operates, examining and testing all things, guards against being influenced by false teachers. 2 Pet. 2:1 *But there were also false prophets among the people, [people = ancient Israel] even as there will be false teachers among you...[you = Church of God] who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...[False teachers can't afford to be upfront about their teaching. They secretly bring in false doctrine to infect God's people] even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction (vs 2) and many will follow their destructive ways because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed...[Notice, many will follow their destructive ways] By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.*

Many of God's people would not be led astray, if they were constantly proving all things and holding fast to that which is good. One can never be led astray when they know what God's word says. One can never be led astray when they know how to explain what God's word says. One can never be led astray when they know God's word must be upheld and does it.

The following statement is to the whole Church of God in this Laodicean era:

Members of the Church of God, you are responsible for fulfilling the calling God the Father has extended to you to become a member of His ruling family. You cannot take this responsibility lightly. You cannot automatically assume your ministry will always be faithful in teaching God's word. Never at any time can you take for granted what you are being taught. In confidence, you must know whether or not you are being taught the truth of God's word. This confidence can only come through a daily commitment to study and live by God's word.

Are you fulfilling that responsibility? If not, then repent and again pursue the incredible calling God has extended to you.

Back in the Worldwide Church of God, if people had been paying attention, the following would not have been written and distributed in the Church of God. Because people were not doing that false teachings about the spirit in man crept into God's Church.

The following is the Worldwide Church of God's position, after the death of Mr. Armstrong, concerning the spirit in man. This comes from a letter written by David G Hunsberger in the personal correspondence department dated July 28, 1994. Mr. Hunsberger wrote the following:

"We cannot exist or live apart from God. This is what we mean when we say that the Spirit of God is what sustains us and gives us life. It is not necessary to have an additional spirit of man. We can speak of Stephen's spirit or of someone else's spirit, but we are only describing in whom the Spirit is working, not actually separate spirits that could be placed in different locations."

Mr. Hunsberger's letter reflects a teaching that is 180 degrees opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Note of clarification: Just as the spirit of man returns to God upon death, so the Holy Spirit in a person returns back to God. Together these two spirits form a record of that human being's life and conversion, whom God will resurrect to eternal life at the 7th trumpet.

From an article entitled *The Image of God* by Clayton Steep in the Plain Truth May/June 1994 edition Mr. Steep writes:

“Adam and Eve were without sin, but they had freedom to choose to disobey God. Sad to say that is what they chose to do. This event is known as the ‘fall of humanity’. In spite of sin all humans still have God's image. It is now God's purpose to restore in us His image.”

Mr. Steep equates being created in God's image with God's perfect righteous. This coincides character the world of traditional Christianity which teaches human beings were created with God's spiritual character.

One final quote comes from an article entitled *The Lion and the Lamb* by Greg Albrecht from the Plain Truth, October 1994 edition.

“Adam and Eve were created and placed in paradise, a state of perfection. But they didn't remain in a state of perfection. Sin entered the picture. They were seduced, falling or crashing into a state of sin. By their own choice they exchanged a state of righteousness and holiness for one of sin and evil.”

In his sermon the *“Mission of the Philadelphia Church Era,”* December 17, 1983, Herbert W Armstrong said the following about the spirit in man:

“Next, the human spirit in man - No other church knows about that. That has been revealed to the church. That is knowledge that has been restored to the Church of God, and this church has that knowledge.”

The three Worldwide Church of God excerpts demonstrate clear departure from what Mr. Armstrong taught and how quickly God's Truth can disappear, if not held fast to.

The vast majority of God's Church fails to appreciate the Restored Truths God used Mr. Armstrong to re-establish back into His Church. Do you appreciate these Truths?

Regardless of what other people are doing, but make sure you appreciate them. Hold fast and maintain these Restored Truths by living them and not allowing compromise to come in and take them away!