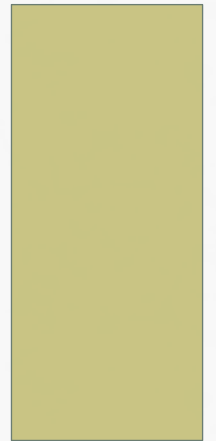


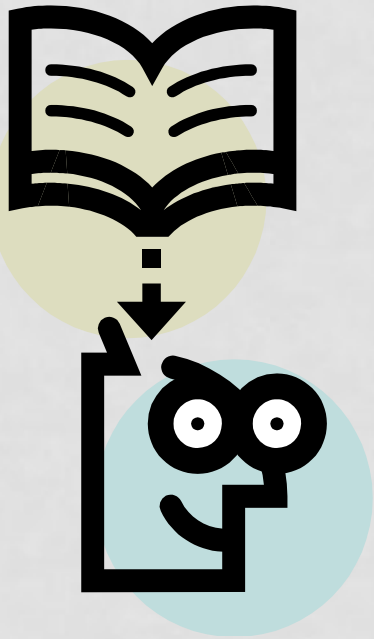
# CONSCIENCE OR SPIRIT?

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# ARE YOU AWARE

We spend so much time developing  
our mind and body



How many people are aware of their spirit nature and  
take time to develop it?

Did You Prepare Your Spirit for the Service this  
Morning?

# THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE?

- **This is how many people view the Human Conscience**
- **Actually the battle is not so much without as it is within**
- **However, it is still predicated on one thing – Choice**
- **Usually who you choose to listen to is who you most likely to follow**



# THE HUMAN SPIRIT?

- **Most People think of the spirit as something metaphysical, astral, image of man that is disconnected from the world**
- **They try to attain “spirit consciousness through their own means**
- **Never really that they were created a “spirit being”**
- **Our dilemma is that we strive to achieve “spirituality” through “soul-ish” means**



# WHO IS MAN?

- **We see the creation of man in the book of Genesis**
- **Genesis 2:7: Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**
  - **Formed** – *fashioned or created in the mind of God*
  - **Dust of the earth** – *represents man's connection with the earth*
  - **Breathed** – *breathed in and out*
  - **Breath of God** – *forming the spirit of man*
  - **Living soul** – *a total being; having emotions and passions; sustainable being*

# WHO IS MAN

- Most teaching describe man as a spirit, who has a soul both residing in a physical body
  - Hebrews 4:12:
- Some just refer to man as soul and body - What's the difference?
- It is the spiritual aspect of man that connects him with His Creator – God
- No matter how much man's soul evolves, his original purpose or essence lies with his Creator

***Your body tells you how you feel. Your mind tells you what you think. But your spirit, once it has been illuminated by the Spirit of God, tells you what God desires.***

**The Spirit of Man**

**is the**

**Candle**

**of the**

**Lord**



**Proverbs 20:27**



# MAN'S CONSCIENCE

***Proverbs 20:27: The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.***

- God has given to every man a *mind*, which *he* so *enlightens by his own Spirit*, that the man knows how to distinguish good from evil; and *conscience*, which springs from this, searches the inmost recesses of the soul.
- The soul and the spirit are connected, but separable (Hebrews 4:12). The soul is the essence of humanity's being; it is who we are. The spirit is the aspect of humanity that connects with God



# SOUL AND SPIRIT

- **Spirit of Man: The Candle of the Lord (Proverbs 20:27)**
  - The spirit is the element in humanity which gives us the ability to have an intimate relationship with God. Whenever the word “spirit” is used, it refers to the immaterial part of humanity that “connects” with God, who Himself is spirit (John 4:24)
  - The human body and soul apart from the Spirit is considered lifeless (James 2:26)
  - Unbelievers are considered “spiritually dead” (Col 2:13)
  - God has given man the gift of a spirit which He enlightens by His Spirit so that man may know that good and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2)

# CONSCIENCE

- A believer's conscience is quickened when his spirit is regenerated
- Our Conscience must be purified and aligned with our spirit as it is enlightened by the Holy Spirit
- As a believer advance spiritually the witness of conscience and the witness of the Holy Spirit seem to close ranks. The conscience, being under the influence of the Holy Spirit daily grows more sensitive until it is perfectly attuned and aligned to the voice of the Spirit. **(Romans 9:1)**

# CONSCIENCE

- The sensitivity of the conscience can be increased as well as decreased dependent upon the obedience to the voice of the Spirit. Our earthly conscience reasons. Our conscious aligned with the Spirit obeys.
- Conscience is limited by knowledge. It can only guide by the knowledge it possesses.
- God fellowships with us according to the level of the knowledge of our conscience.

# LET YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE?

- The Unrenewed Mind or Soulsh man does not accept or welcome the teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God (1 Cor 2:14).
- Spiritual things seem like foolishness to him because the soulsh man is governed by his intellect.
- Therefore, the voice of your soul, before it has been renewed to the Word of God, is an unreliable indicator of God's Will for your life.

# TYPES OF CONSCIENCE

- **A legalist's conscience**

- responds to the subjective standards set by others and not found in God's Word, yet these standards guide their lives.

- **A "weak" conscience**

- The weaker brother's conscience is unlearned and without enough understanding to realize what is really right or wrong (1 Co 8:7-12)
- People with weak consciences are usually young in the faith. They are not knowledgeable about the Truths of God's Word and do much of what they do not out of rebellion but out of ignorance.
- They frequently operate by "common sense" and wonder why their decisions sometimes have negative consequences. An example might be a young woman as a new believer who is dating an unbeliever, but has never heard to not be unequally yoked because she was not raised in a Christian family.

# TYPES OF CONSCIENCE

- **A "seared" conscience**
  - Worse yet, there are those who operate with a "seared" conscience.
  - 1 Timothy 4:2: describes them as having consciences that have said "NO" to God so many times that their consciences respond like a thick scar that no longer has any feelings. This might be the young person who has repeatedly committed fornication to the point that it is no longer a secret, who openly brags that it doesn't bother them any longer.
- **A "Sprinkled" Conscience** – purified and aligned
  - We are made free from such a conscience through the atonement of Jesus

# DON'T GET IT BACKWARDS

***Romans 8:7 says, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."***

- To try and be led by the Spirit through your carnal mind is a vain and fruitless enterprise that will only make you more confused and uncertain about God's will for your life.
- Spiritual things must initially be received and understood by the spirit, and then they can be safely communicated or passed on to your mind.

# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FALL?

- **If man became spiritually dead How did God communicate with Him?**
- **As man began to choose sin over God, erecting their own gods, he became spiritually disconnected from the Father**
- **It was not until after Seth, that men began to seek God again (Genesis 4:26) separating themselves**
- **Man's conscience was on evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Sin corrupted the very nature of man**
- **God began to speak to man's conscience through angels, prophets, or by divine inspiration**



# POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **Many regenerated believers seem “unconscious” of possessing a spirit. Though they do have one, they simply are not conscious of it (Watchman Nee)**
- **You don’t have to be “spiritual” for you are of “Spirit-Nature”**
- **There are spiritual disciplines (prayer, worship, study) that feed and enhance our spirit nature**
- **Most of what we do today is “Dumb Down” our spirit so that we can enjoy our soulish desires**

# JESUS RESTORED LIFE “GOD’S SPIRIT TO MAN

- **John 20:22: And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**
  - Christ did figuratively on what would be done spiritually on the day of Pentecost
- **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit empowered the believers to do the work of God and to be effective in the earth (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4) and also provide spiritual gifts to benefit the whole body**
- **The Spirit of God also manifests godly fruit in the believer (Galatians 5:22,23)**
  - While there are so many ways to manifest the flesh, God’s Spirit produces on fruit which allows us to exemplify the very character of God (“Fruit of the Spirit” - Singular
  - Look at how the disciples were changed at Pentecost

# WHY FRUIT?

- **Most of the time we focus on the power of the Spirit more than the fruit**
- **Characteristics of Fruit**
  - **Fruit has Identity** - You shall know them by their fruit
  - **Fruit nourishes** – 2 Cor 3:6: “The Spirit gives life”
  - **Fruit is attractive** – When properly displayed, it appeals to all others around
  - **Fruit reproduces after itself** – It disperses seeds of righteousness and truth in its ground and in others
  - **Fruit is more healthy than “processed foods”** – Processed foods represent the world’s fleshly delights
  - **Fruit has to mature to be good for consumption** – Jesus cursed a fig tree because it bore no fruit (Matthew 21:19). Many Christians today have leaves (appear as fruitful), but no figs (fruit)

# WALK IT OUT

*Galatians 5:16,17: This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

- **As believers, we should habitually walk or live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. We do this by keeping our spirit connected with the Holy Spirit**
  - **Walk** – live habitually
  - **In the Spirit** -responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit
  - **Flesh** – the human nature without God's divine influence

# WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

- **What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?**
  - Recognize that the Holy Spirit *lives in you*
  - Allow yourself to be *open and sensitive* to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
  - *Pattern your life* after the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life and what you see in others
- **How does the Holy Spirit influence our life?**
  - Through the Word of God
  - He influences us through others who walk in the Spirit.
  - He influences us through the inward man, an inner direction that we become more sensitive to, and respond to better, as we mature in Jesus.

# CONNECTION

- **Man's greatest problem that occurred at the Fall is that he became "dis-connected" from the source**
  - Through rebellion, he no longer desired his Creator's influence (The Prodigal Son)
  - Through expulsion, he lost that divine hand that was upon his life
  - His spirit nature became "dormant" due to lack of use and lack of influence

# SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

**1 Corinthians 2:9-12: "But as it is written: "eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart (mind) of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."**

**But God has revealed [them] to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.**

**11 For what man knows the things of a man (how can man know or think and understand and perceive and have consciousness of "self") except (through) the spirit of the man which is "IN" him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**

**12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the (spiritual) things that have been freely given to us by God.**

# AFFIRMING WITNESS

**Romans 8:6: Rom 8:16 The Spirit (Holy) itself bears witness with our spirit, (in man) that we are the children of God:**

- The Holy Spirit affirms in our spirit that we have relationship with the Father





# AVOID COMPETING SPIRITS

- ***Spirit of the Anti-Christ (1 John 2:18)*** – ***A deceptive spirit that seeks to destroy Christians.*** The antichrist spirit will focus on human needs and center Christ message on worldly needs and benefits
- ***Spirit of Jezebel – (Revelation 2:20)*** – A manipulative spirit linked to sensual pleasures and immorality
- ***Spirit of Balaam (Revelation 2:14)*** - Its prime directive is to cause men and women to depart from the faith through deception—to follow the way of Balaam—loving the wages of unrighteousness and subtly selling out their commitment.
- ***Spirit of Error (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1-6)*** – Experienced so much in a lot of our teachings today
- ***Prodigal Spirit (Luke 15:11-32)*** – Rebelling against the Father's Influence

# THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT

- We are Perfected through obedience and submission – We don't do the work, it is the Holy Spirit that perfects us

**The World say “Empty your minds to have inner peace and contentment. God says “Fill your mind with My Word and My Spirit, which gives life to My Word will renew our mind so t hat you may know peace, experience, joy, be healed from hurts, and know my purpose.**

# REALIZE

- **You have Peace – You just don't know it yet**
- **You have Joy, but it has never been defined for you**
- **You have purpose, but it is awaiting to be revealed and aligned**
- **You are healed – Just allow the balm of the Spirit to heal those hurts and comfort your soul**

# DESIRE THE WALK OF THE SPIRIT

Father, in Jesus Name, I thank you that I am perfectly and wondrously made. You gave me life through your Spirit giving me a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. I choose to walk in total health- spirit, soul, and body and I submit to the leading and inspiration of the Spirit, renewing my mind on Your enlightened Word, being transformed daily into the Image of your dear Son, Jesus

I desire my conscience to be sprinkled from evil thoughts and dead works so that I may habitually walk and live in the Spirit.

In Jesus Name, Amen