

SPIRITUAL MAN

In the beginning

- Gen 1:2 ...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters
- Jhn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Creation

- Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, Let us make man in our image in our likeness ...
So God created man in his own image, In the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- In the beginning with the creation of man, more than one personality was present;
The Godhead; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Man was created in the image and likeness of God:
Image - A person looking very similar to another
Likeness- Resemblance, which includes those, attributes which is observed by the actions/attitude of a person.
- John. 4:24 God is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.

God is Spirit ⇔ Create man in His image = Man in spirit

Both man and woman were a special creation of God. On the basis of image, they could respond to, and have fellowship with God, and reflect his love, glory and holiness.

They possessed a moral likeness to God, for they were sin-less and holy, possessing wisdom, a heart of love and the will to do the right (Eph 4:24)

They were created personal beings with spirit, mind, emotions, self-consciousness and power of choice.

Man and woman's physical make up is in the image that God preferred. God gave them the image in which he was to appear visibly to them (18:1-2).

It was the form that God's Son would one day assume (Lk 1:35; Php 2:7; Heb 10:5)

Although in the image of God mankind was not devine! All human life was initially derived from Adam and Eve.

Fall of Man

God put man in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Man was free to eat from the garden, but he was not to eat from the tree of 'the knowledge of good and evil' for when he ate of it he would surely di.e.(Gen 2:15-17)

The serpent tempted Eve and she and Adam ate of the forbidden fruit. God banished them from the gardens.

When Adam and Eve sinned, their moral likeness to God was corrupted (Gen 6:5). The relationship they had with God broke down and they died a spiritual death i.e. Being separated from God.

By redemption through Jesus the Son of God, believers must be renewed to their original moral likeness to God, and so a relationship with God established.

The Obedient Faithful Christian has the Assurance of a Positive Spiritual Relationship with God.

This relationship with God is that of a child with his/her father. There is between them love, respect, obedience, communications, caring etc.

It is a inner life; it means being filled by the Spirit.

Producing 'fruit of the Spirit' as one walks in fellowship with God (Gal 5:22-23)

Rebirth / Regeneration

Man cannot have a relationship with his God without the Holy Spirit, i.e. without receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Ever since Adam and Eve children are born after nine months in a water-filled sac, when the membrane breaks the child is born. In a very similar way, though non-physical way, a Christian is born.

As Jesus explained:

- John 3:3-5 In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again'
'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born.'
Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'

Why must man be reborn?

Man when he sins, die a spiritual death, i.e. he is separated from his God. When one is baptized according to Rom 6, one is reborn i.e. spiritually reborn; a new relationship is established. Rom 6:1-23 - Read

- V: 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.
- V: 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we to may live a new life.
- V: 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death; we certainly are also united with him in his resurrection.
- V: 6 For we know that our self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

Here an spiritual resurrection takes place (v: 4). Water is once again involved; a spiritual rebirth from out of the waters of baptism and the Holy Spirit is imparted to the reborn Christian, giving him the new life.

Those present on the day of Pentecost, who heard Peter preach the first gospel sermon and realised salvation was through Jesus Christ, asked what must they do?

- Acts 2:38 Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is given to the reborn Christian / believers as a seal, and as a mark of Gods ownership.

- Eph 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in him with a seal the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are Gods possession - to the praise of his glory.

By bestowing the Spirit, God marks the believer as his own;
His adopted child, whose redemption is real when the Holy Spirit is present in one's life.

- 2 Cor 1:21-22 ... , He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

The Christian knows that he/she belongs to God when:

* the Spirit regenerates and renews him/her

- Jhn 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
(See also John 3:3-6)

* delivers them from the power of sin

- Rom 8:1-17 Life through the Spirit
- Gal 5:16-25 Life by the Spirit

* given a consciousness of God as Father

- Gal 1:5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance to with his pleasure and will

- Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry "Abba Father"

- Gal 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba Father"

(Abba = deep intimacy, emotion, earnestness)

* The Holy Spirit

> Is the mark/seal of Gods ownership
> Is a deposit of the believers' inheritance
> Is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation

- Eph 1:17 I keep asking that God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better

> Helps the believer when he/she draws near to God

- Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit

> Reveals the mystery of Christ

- Eph 3:4-6 ... This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles as heirs ... members together of one body ... shares in the promise in Christ Jesus.

> Strengthens the believer with power in his inner being

- Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

Fruit of the Spirit

Having received the Holy Spirit, the Christian must live by the Spirit,
i.e. must be led by the Spirit, because the Spirit desires that which is contrary to the sinful nature.

Gal 5:16-17 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

The spiritual conflict within the believer, involves the whole person; the struggle is whether the person will surrender to the sinful nature's inclinations and again submit to sin's control, or whether he/she will yield to the Spirit's demands and continue under Christ's dominion (v:16; Rom 8:4-14)

The battlefield is within Christians themselves, and the conflict must continue throughout their earthly lives if they are to eventually reign with Christ.

(Rom 7:7-25; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 12:11; See note Eph 6:11)

Spirituality is a state of being, which shows itself by the fruit of the Spirit as the Christian grows.

The fruit of the Spirit is produced in God's children as they allow the Spirit to so direct and influence their lives, and walk in fellowship with God. (Rom 8:5-14 - Read)

- Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. Against such things there is no law.

1. **'Love'**
i.e. a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person, without motive of personal gain
(Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 13; Eph 5:12; Col 3:14)
2. **'Joy'**
i.e. the feeling of gladness based on love, grace, blessings, promises and nearness of God that belongs to those who believe in Christ
(Ps 119:16; 2 Cor 6:10; 12:9; 1 Pet 1:8)
3. **'Peace'**
i.e. the quietness of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his/her heavenly Father.
(Rom 15:33; Php 4:7; 1 Thes 5:23; Heb 13:20)
4. **'Patience'**
i.e. endurance, long-suffering; being slow to anger to despair.
(Eph 4:2; 2 Tim 3:10; Heb 12:1)
5. **'Kindness'**
i.e. not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain
(Eph 4:32; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 2:3)
6. **'Goodness'**
i.e. zeal for truth and righteousness and a hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness.
(Lk 1: 37-50) or in rebuking and correcting evil. (Mt 21:12-13)
7. **'Faithfulness'**
i.e. firm and unswerving loyalty to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trust - worthiness and honesty.
(Mt 23:32; Rom 3:3; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:2; 4:7; Tit 2:10)

8. **'Gentleness'**
i.e. restraint coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when necessary and humble submissive when needed.
(2 Tim 2:25; 1 Pet 3:15)
9. **'Self-control'**
i.e. mastering one's own desires and passions, including faithfulness to marriage vows and purity
(1 Cor 7:9; 9:25; Lit 1:8; 2:5)

Christ Living in the Christian

As the fruit of the Spirit increases and the Christian grows in other aspects of Christianity - so spiritual maturity increases and Gal 2:20 becomes a reality

- Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.