

Who is Man?

For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect: and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! Psalm 139:13-17

Man was given two births. One is referred to as a horizontal birth, or physically born of a man and woman, and there is a birth which is vertical, a spirit birth from God down to man on earth. There are two aspects to our personage; carnal and spirit. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* John 3:6 The flesh will perish to the dust of the earth from where it was formed, but the spirit, reconciled to the Kingdom of Heaven, will live eternally. There is a trinity to man which is spirit, soul, and body.

The important question is which are you living, a carnal life or spirit led? The carnal person responds to this earthen world while the spirit person answers to the Kingdom. We are to separate the carnal from the spirit and not accept the misconception that we can live a worldly life and be in the spirit, simultaneously. Reborn in Christ, we should yearn for the things of the spirit realm. *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.* Romans 8:5 It is against the Kingdom to attempt to mix carnal willfulness with the spirit realm, for the natural and the spirit are governed by two entirely different ruling powers.

In fact, they fight one another for supremacy. *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.* Galatians 5:17 God tells us to beware of the conflict that arises between the two and remain staunch in the spirit. This is critical concerning our relationship with God. *But put ye on the Lord Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.* Romans 13:14

It is human nature to default to the carnal, or natural, without consideration of the spirit, but God emphasizes the difference. *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.* 1 Corinthians 15:44 Conducting our life according to the spirit person we are in Christ begins the day we accept Jesus as our Savior, for He absolved us of our sins and sinful nature at the cross. Now we initiate our study of God's Word.

Unmistakably, there is an innate comfort in the natural, and we trust ourselves and others based on what we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell. What is tangible to our human person is far more real than anything we cannot apply our senses. When we are reborn in spirit in Christ, we have chosen to live as a spirit person for God and not be persuaded by our carnality. We choose faith over the senses. In not making this distinction and transition and continuing to rely on the natural, we are cutting ourselves off from the Father. God declares: *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.* Matthew 6:24 The results we experience are determined by whom we serve. In living a carnal life, our servitude is to man and not God which is man's downfall to receiving Kingdom power.

In our modern culture, we are exposed to a multitude of media information used to persuade our thinking and structure our lifestyle. We follow the fads, fashions, and trends striving to have the best. In theory, these things are meant to make our life easier; however, in reality the object of our desires does the opposite. It causes overconsumption or greed, manipulation of our time and money, placing people in bondage under various addictions from debt to gambling to physical destruction and so much more. With this constant inundation, we are bombarded and our mind is overloaded which makes it almost impossible to give any thought to God. This is a deliberate distraction by the ruler of this world, so that we may not receive our Kingdom inheritance.

Our heavenly Father should be the first person we think of when we open our eyes in the morning, the One we commune with throughout the day, and the last One we give praise and glory to before we fall asleep. *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him.* 1 John 2:23-29

For the individuals who have made a conscious choice to live in the natural with no interest in a relationship with God, they do not live according to the Kingdom laws nor by faith, and He is not present in their life. Their interest remains self-serving. They want instant gratification and follow the dictates of the world accepting the present day as the substance of life. *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* 1 John 2:15-16 God is very explicit.

The atheist does not believe in God and concludes that man evolved into a human form. In this line of thinking, evolutionists believe man's earliest manifestation began with fish larva first detected on the ocean's bed of coral rock and through time and numerous transformations elevated into a mammal, the ape, and then a human. Of course, this is after the great cataclysmic energy explosion in space, thus, creating the universe and all its components. This is far removed from God's Kingdom without any forethought, or validation to creation as a whole. They also live without God's presence.

For the person who chooses to live a spirit life with a rebirth in Christ, they are children of the Father and seek His Kingdom. The spirit realm, or unseen, becomes more real than what the natural declares. *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* Romans 8:1 A child of God inclines his heart towards the truth of his Father's Word. *Who by him do believe in God that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.* 1 Peter 1:21 God's children understand they are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and made righteous, holy, and sanctified as an heir in the Father's Kingdom. They stay focused in faithful obedience to His Word.

However, the majority of the Christian population falls somewhere in between. They believe in God but also in their human capabilities and lack the willingness to surrender the things of the flesh. They claim faith in Christ but continue to place trust in the wisdom of men even when God explicitly instructs against it. *That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* 1 Corinthians 2:5 They have not made the separation. This is where God says we can't have it both ways. We cannot live, figuratively speaking, with one foot in the Kingdom and the other grounded in the world. Either we commit to establishing a relationship with God and live by the governing principles of His Kingdom, or we put our attention on the world relying on our instinctive nature and the wisdom of others.

If we conduct our life according to the carnal, or natural, we should not expect supernatural power. God's spiritual laws apply. *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.* 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 The attempt to combine the two worlds, carnal and spirit, violates Kingdom laws; therefore, we are responsible for blocking God's power from entering our life. It depends on which we are living as to the results obtained, earthen or heavenly.

We wonder why we aren't receiving a miracle or healing, mending an estranged relationship, or obtaining satisfaction in a financial or emotional crisis. We question if God is even listening to our plea. God has not changed, nor has His Kingdom moved, you are not forgotten or forsaken, so what is the reason for not hearing from God? By not knowing how His Kingdom functions, we have inadvertently distanced ourselves from our Father. What we thought was entitlement through our belief has prevented closeness to Him because we lack knowledge with diligent application of faithful obedience. *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.* Romans 12:2

We are responsible to learn how the Almighty King of His Kingdom rules, and submit ourselves before Him in unwavering faithfulness. Mixing the natural with the spirit is not in alignment with His laws. This is one of the reasons Adam and Eve could not remain in the Garden of Eden.

When we are born into the spirit realm, we are to shed the old carnal ways and put on the armor of Christ and live as He lived, holy and righteous. We renew our mind continuously that we may be accurate in our thoughts, words, and deeds according to His Word. *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* Ephesians 4:23-24 When we live by God's precepts and not our own perception, we gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom found in His Word which sets us apart from the world. It is when we are fully vested in God, that we may expect His power to flow in our life, for we are positioned by our faithfulness to receive His blessings and gifts. *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.* Romans 1:5

A serious issue is that man isn't prone to see himself as the problem. Instead, he places the fault on God with such misunderstandings as He is a sovereign God in charge of everything; therefore, it must be His will that such and such happened. Beware for the wrath of God will come down on you to teach you a lesson. We forget that we are living with a new covenant of grace, not wrath. God does not put bad things in our life, nor is it His will to allow negative occurrences. We live in a fallen world, and if anyone is causing bad things to happen, we should consider the ruler of earth as the culprit. *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* Ephesians 6:12 Satan sets out to kill, steal, and destroy as many of God's children as he can for he knows his time is limited.

We fail to give credence to the spiritual warfare that is ongoing behind the scenes. This is a major factor that affects the events and circumstances we find ourselves dealing with whether illness, disease, heartache, destitution, etc. Satan doesn't want us to have knowledge of the power that is within our reach because this eliminates him and voids his destruction in our life. The only way Satan can deceive is through our thoughts. When we renew our mind and stay focused on God's Word, Satan has no inlet.

When there is reference to the wrath of God, it is for the sinners and unbelievers, the corrupt and defilers. *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.* Romans 1:18-19 God's anger was expressed during the generations living under the first covenant because the people refused to be obedient. God dealt with the soul of man, his carnal nature. In this covenant before Christ, there was performance associated with the law. Obedience was defined by doing something. For example, the sacrifice of a healthy animal taken to the alter to be slain for its blood for man's sins. There was always an action required to show God their faithfulness.

With the new covenant in Christ, God gives grace. He is no longer angry, but is gracious to His people. Performance is not required in grace. Born of Christ, we are pardoned by His blood whereby we are not subjected to wrath as a child of the Father. *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.* Romans 5:9 God tells us that our sins and iniquities He will remember no more.

In the new covenant, we live under grace for God has made it personal, communing with each believer individually who comes before Him in unwavering faith. The communication is in the spirit realm, our spirit to the Father through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. With Christ, our obedience is no longer to the letter of the law, but is in our faith to His Word. *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.* Romans 7:6

Absolutely God is sovereign, but He isn't the one who is making you unhappy by directing misfortunes to occur to you, or your loved ones. He isn't wishing you well and providing you mercy and grace with promises of blessings and gifts while slapping you with negative obstacles leaving you disappointed and discouraged. God takes the bad and turns it into good. He doesn't cause it, He corrects it. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* Romans 8:28-32 We live in a fallen world with the ruler of this earthen place constantly striving to destroy us but even in his attempts, he cannot touch the faithful children of the Almighty King when we profess our faith. Whatever Satan throws in our path, God will turn it to good for He is protective of His children.

God dwells in each believer first through Christ and second as the Holy Spirit. Why would He place harm upon Himself? He isn't, for the least of reasons it would be counterproductive. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* James 1:17 He would be going against the very essence of His nature of love to render illness and disease, or anything that is detrimental to His children.

It is not our Father's intention that anyone should suffer, or die prematurely. Faithful children of the Father live under the provision of grace whereby wrath is not expressed in grace. It is important to understand and separate the covenants realizing that after Jesus came and died for us, everything changed for man. Our relationship with God is not the same as the Israelites because we have Christ.

In believing God gives, or allows the circumstance that we seek Him in prayer for restitution, why should He answer when He has been accused and found guilty? If someone charged you with a hideous incident, how willing would you be to give that person your blessings? When we

believe that our loving Father gives us diseases and hardships, we have in reality rejected His love, His Word.

We obstruct Kingdom power by allowing our carnal thinking to get in the way of our spiritual relationship with the Father. By human nature, man tends to gravitate towards the familiar and accept our security in one another, and consequently, not turning to the only One who provides the promises and power. We get out of sync with God. *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.* Romans 8:7-8

Carnal influence voids answered prayers. There can be no combining man's intellect with Jesus' authority and come up with a whole new belief, one that suits our lifestyle. Family, friends, colleagues, and professionals may give advice and guidance, but it is our responsibility to take their recommendations to the Word and see what God says and then obey His command. Therefore, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.* Colossians 2:8

We are stepping out of grace without realizing the ramifications of our actions, like walking out of a dome of light that holds powerful influence and finding ourselves stranded in the dark, ill-equipped to handle what life presents. *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* 1 Peter 2:9 God's grace is always apparent, but we can find ourselves without the benefits. *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:8

God tells us not to waver in our faith for if we do, we have severed our ability to connect to the Kingdom. Our faith must be inexorable and consistent in all matters. When we mix worldly influences with our soulful reasoning, faith becomes diluted and ineffectual. *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.* James 1:6 It shows instability which reflects a lack of trust and places doubt in our belief. God has given us a place in His Kingdom as an heir in Christ. We are His children. *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* Romans 8:17 With a lack of knowledge and misplacement of our faith, we can miss the marvelous blessings, gifts, and power of the Father. We must not allow the carnal to affect our daily walk with Christ. *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption; That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.* 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Show God how much you love Him by living according to the truth in His Word with the obedience of unwavering faith. Shed the carnal thinking and take up the cross with Christ and become the spirit person whom God created you to be. *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* Romans 6:4 There will be no greater decision than this one, for it is everlasting

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