

The Spiritual Man

by Sherry Jones

The apostle Paul speaks of three divisions in his writings: the natural man, the carnal man, and the spiritual man. The natural man has not been born again and is walking according to the course of this world. He is without hope because he is without God.

The second group that Paul describes is an individual who is born again but still lives like the world does. Paul calls this man a carnal man. This man is in union with Christ but he walks according to the dictates of the flesh and lives like the world.

Then Paul speaks of a third group in 1 Corinthians 3:1. “And I brethren, could not speak unto you as *spiritual*, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” God desires that His people grow up spiritually and become mature concerning spiritual things.

In order to grow spiritually, we must:

- 1) *Desire* to grow and mature in the things of God. No one can force us or make us grow. We must all make that decision. 1 Pet. 2:2 says, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”
- 2) The Bible must become revelation instead of just information. As long as the Bible remains a book of information, the believer will never grow. Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus that “the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened.” (Eph 1:18). Someone said “A revelation that has brought illumination in our lives is more than just good words.”
- 3) Right teaching is essential to grow. Kenneth E. Hagin said, “One reason we haven’t grown is that we’ve preached to believers like they were sinners, and in that environment, it is impossible to grow.” We must spend time “feeding” on the Epistles, on 1 Cor. 13, and on all five chapters of 1 John.

There is no reason why we should not grow. We have God’s Word and the Spirit of God living and working within our hearts. Kenneth E. Hagin said, “The greatest concern of my life is whether or not I know more about God, and have grown any this year beyond last year.” God does not want us to be carnal but to be spiritual. The only way we can get out of the carnal state is to grow out of it. If we have the right *diet*, we are going to grow and mature spiritually. Here are some realities from God’s Word that will cause us to grow.

- 1) The integrity of God’s Word
“God is not a man that he should lie, neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Num. 23:19) The Bible is God speaking to us. It is not only a book of the past and the future: it is a book of the *now*.”
- 2) The reality of our redemption

- “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree. Our redemption is eternal, complete, and legal.
- 3) The reality of the new creation
“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17). We are not just a forgiven sinner. There is nothing left of what we used to be.
 - 4) The reality of righteousness
“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). The Gospel is a revelation of righteousness making it possible to stand before God without a sense of sin, guilt, or inferiority.
 - 5) The reality of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit
“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16) His direction for our lives is always available because the Spirit of God lives on the inside of our re-created spirits.

We pray that these realities become an every day part of your lives as you partner with us to bring these truths to the Body of Christ.