

Spiritual Life Required!

Learning to live based on Christ's supernatural provision for life and ministry.

1

John 10:10b

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

2

Session 1

An invitation to
walk in a new way

3

FYI...

We will talk about something deeper than...

- ...receiving things from God,
- ...receiving forgiveness of sins,
- ...trying harder to be faithful, or
- ...trying the next new strategy which promises success but somehow fails to deliver the expected results.

4

In these sessions...

- We will be focusing on the new life that flows from Jesus.
 - The new way of life provided for us to practice throughout the rest of our life until the day that we finally reach Heaven!

5

I have noticed that...

...many Christians are not aware of the principles behind such a kind of walk and, therefore, are not that interested in learning and developing them. They have not learned to walk as spiritual human beings. They have not learned to **walk according to the Spirit**.

6

What are these sessions all about?

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

7

Three foundational concepts

Romans 8:14

Who is in charge?

God is!

- For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:16

Two spirits:
God's and ours

- The Spirit Himself** bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

21

8

Three foundational concepts

Luke 6:46

- But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

Obedience
is a must

9

How should we proceed?

- First, we must **try to understand the difference** between the old man and the new.

- Then, we must **discover the equipment** that God has provided for us to live like the new!

- Finally, we must **learn to walk** according to the new.

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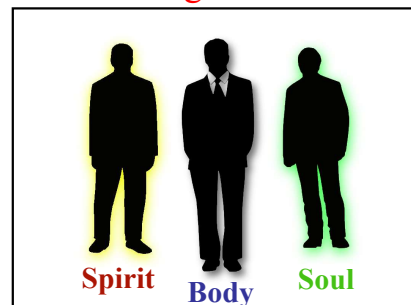
Session 2 Behold the Old Man!

11

God's original creation



It was indeed
very good!
(Genesis 1:31)



12

It was indeed very good!
(Genesis 1:31)

God's original creation

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,

Who is in charge?

13

It was indeed very good!
(Genesis 1:31)

God's original creation

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,

[There were terrible consequences:]

for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Rule of the game:

↓

All based on trust and obedience.

God led—they followed!

There was no other way!

14

It was indeed very good!
(Genesis 1:31)

God's original creation

Spirit Body Soul

Sadly, all this was about to change.

Satan used his power of persuasion to deceive humanity.

Great!

15

"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

"We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Genesis 3:1-7

16

"You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
(Genesis 3:1-5)

"So when the woman saw... she took of its fruit and ate... and he ate... Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew..."
(Genesis 3:6-7)

Genesis 3:1-7

17

The Old Man

Spirit Body Soul

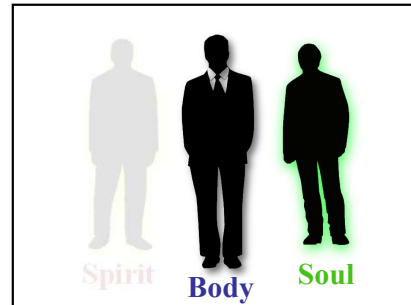
A deadened spirit →

18

Why is this so important?
What a difference does it make?

19

The Nature of Man

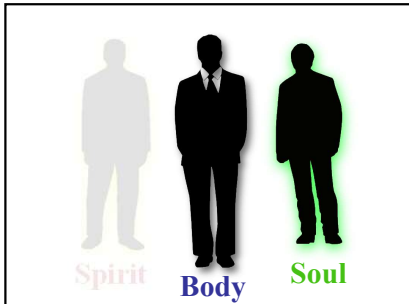


Fallen creatures are **self-centered**:

- They consistently think about themselves first.
- Just see what happened to Adam and Eve right after the fall...

20

The Nature of Man



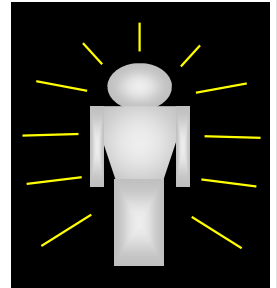
Fallen creatures want to be like God:

- They truly believe they still carry in themselves **the full image of God!**

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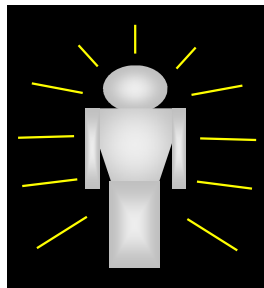
- The following is what we humans want to believe:

- Human beings are essentially good...
- In fact, they are not just good. They are essentially **great!**



22

- This is what fallen humans desperately want to believe!
- But is God in agreement with this assessment of who we **really** are?

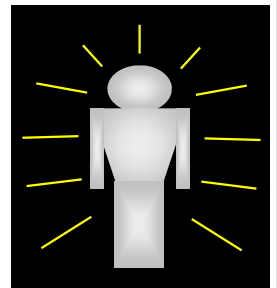


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God's opinion on fallen humanity

Gen. 6:3-7

“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, **for he is indeed flesh**;

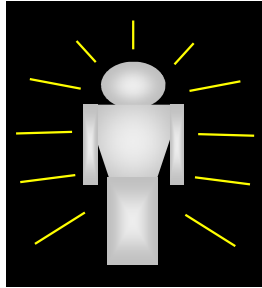


24

God's opinion on fallen humanity

Gen. 6:3-7

- ⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**
- ⁶ And the LORD **was sorry** that He had made man on the earth, and **He was grieved in His heart.**

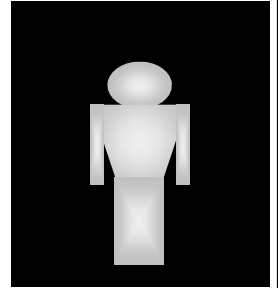


25

God's opinion on fallen humanity

Gen. 6:3-7

- ⁷ So the LORD said,
"I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

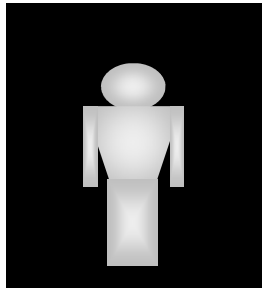


26

God's opinion on fallen humanity

Gen. 6:8

- ⁸ But...
Noah found grace before the eyes of the LORD.

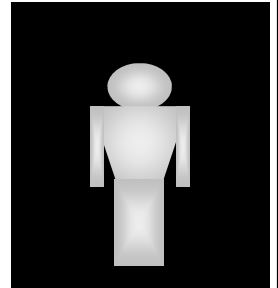


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God's opinion on fallen humanity

Gen. 8:21

- ²¹ Then the LORD said in His heart,
"I will never again curse the ground for man's sake,
although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;
nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."

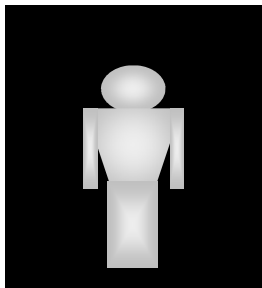


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God's opinion on fallen humanity

Isaiah 64:6

But we are **all** like an unclean thing, and **all** our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;
We **all** fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

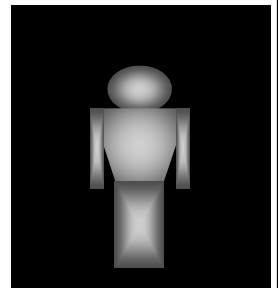


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God's opinion on fallen humanity

Luke 18:18-19

- ¹⁸ Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "**Good Teacher**, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- ¹⁹ So Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.**"

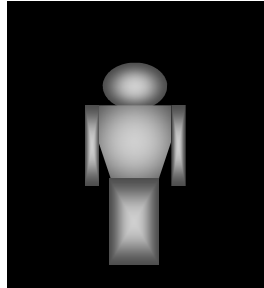


30

God's opinion on fallen humanity

Romans 3:10-11

- ¹⁰ As it is written:
 "There is none righteous, no, not one;
¹¹ There is none who understands;
 There is none who seeks after God.

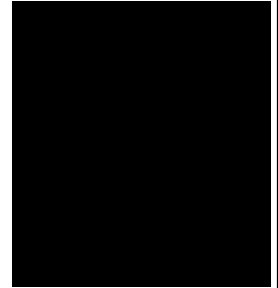


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God's opinion on fallen humanity

Matthew 8:21-22

- ²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."
²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

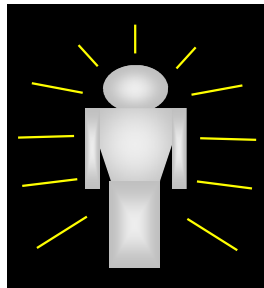


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This is hard to digest!

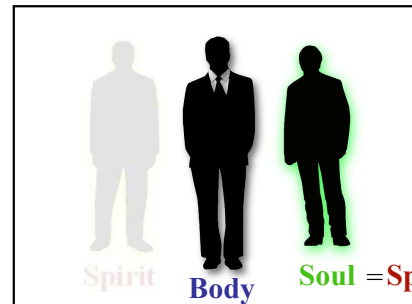
- Accepting the fact that our humanity is not good at all before the eyes of God is very hard for all of us.
- We prefer to believe the opposite of that:

That humans are essentially good and still carry the full image of God!



33

The Nature of Man



What the fallen creature needs to believe...

34

The Nature of Man

- In this bipartite view—i.e., just two parts, body and soul—the thinking goes something like this:



Soul

35

The Nature of Man

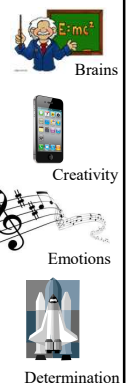
- The soul is what makes us different from animals:



Complex reasoning, emotions and feelings; volition; conscience; creativity, etc.



Soul



36

The Nature of Man

- The soul is what makes us different from animals:
Complex reasoning, emotions and feelings; volition, conscience; creativity; etc.



- The soul, therefore, the spiritual portion of humanity

Soul = Spirit

Conclusion:

37

The Nature of Man

- But this is a way of thinking that came from pre-Christian thinkers—those who had no idea of the spiritual dynamics that would be made available by Jesus after His resurrection



Soul = Spirit

38

The Nature of Man

- What makes us different from animals applies to all human beings whether Christ is part of the equation or not!



Soul = Spirit

39

Are soul and spirit the same thing?

Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Soul ≠ Spirit

40

Are soul and spirit the same thing?

1 Corinthians 2:14-15:

¹⁴ But the soulish 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.

41

Are soul and spirit the same thing?

1 Corinthians 2:14-15:

¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges [discerns] all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

Soulish Man ≠ Spiritual Man

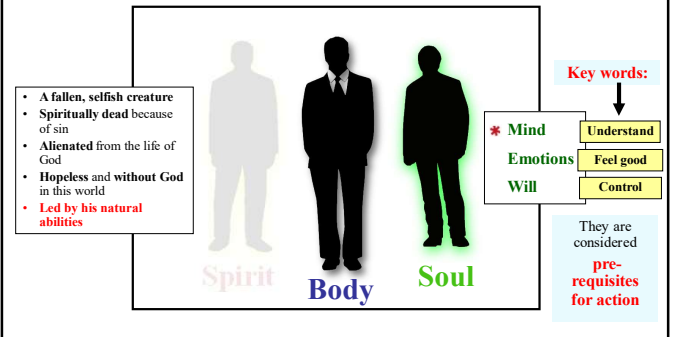
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Conclusion

- Just as the body is different and separate from the soul, there are New Testament passages that affirm the idea that the soul and the spirit are different and separate as well.
- Spiritual** life is a higher state of being than **soulish** or **natural** life.

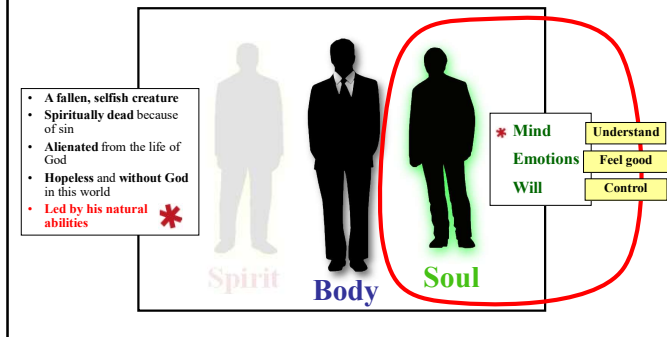
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A natural man



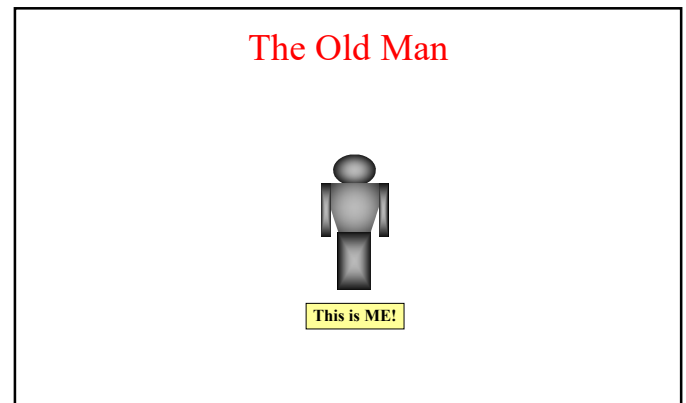
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A Soulsh Man = The Old Man



45

The Old Man



46

Session 3

Behold The New Man!

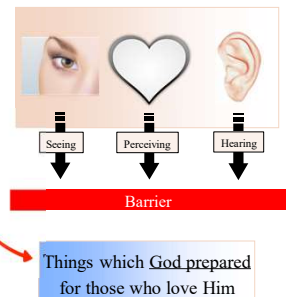
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1 Corinthians 2:9-15

⁹ But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man

① The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."



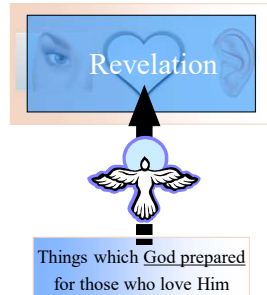
48

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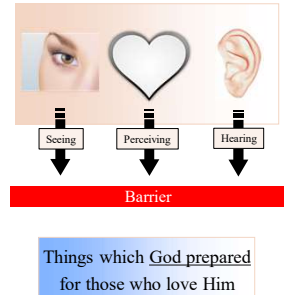
¹⁰ But God has **revealed** them to us
through His Spirit. For the Spirit
searches all things, yes, **the deep**
things of God.



49

1 Corinthians 2:9-15

¹⁴ But **the soulish 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.

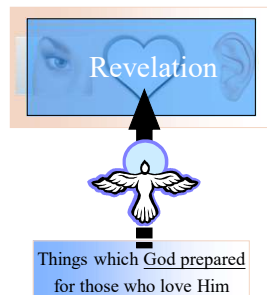


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1 Corinthians 2:9-15

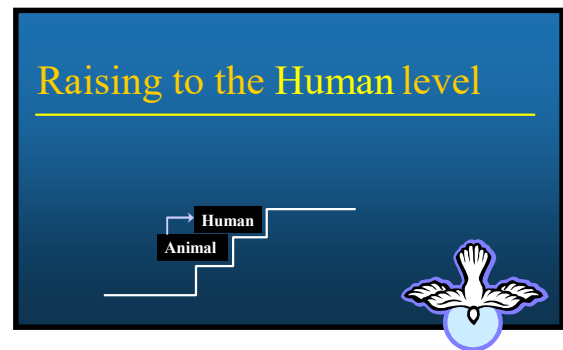
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Soulish Man ≠ **Spiritual Man**



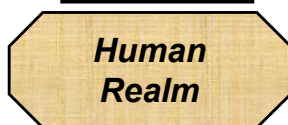
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Raising to the Human level



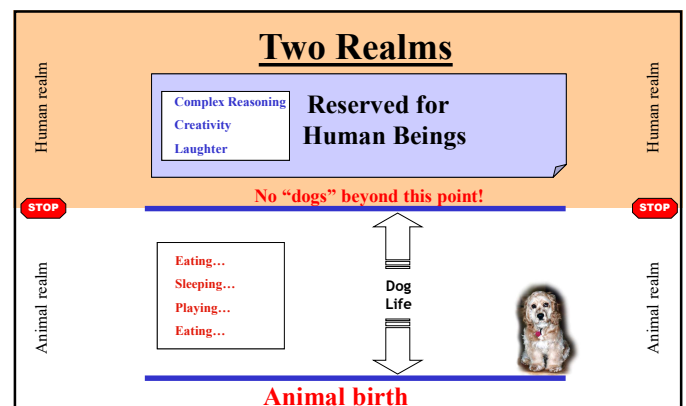
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Two Realms



53

Two Realms



54

The Solution?

The dog should
have to be born again...
as a human!

55

Raising to the Spiritual level



56

Two Realms

**Spiritual
Realm**

**Natural
Realm**

57



58

1 Corinthians 2:13-15:

¹⁴ But the soulish 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.

59



Spiritual Life

- “**Spiritual life**” is a kind of life that happens **at a spiritual level**
 - a level that **regular human beings** **cannot** perceive or understand with their natural abilities.
- “**Spiritual life**” is a kind of life that happens **in a spiritual realm**
 - a realm that **regular human beings** **are not capable** of reaching, entering or seeing.

60

So that's it?

Are we forever trapped in
this soulish condition?

God forbid!

61

However, we must understand
that an amazing miracle is needed:

We **must** be born again!

62

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
- ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

63

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ³ Jesus answered and said to him,
- "**Most assuredly [AMEN, AMEN]**, I say to you, unless one is born again, he **cannot see** the kingdom of God."

64

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

65

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ⁵ Jesus answered,
- "**Most assuredly [AMEN, AMEN]**, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he **cannot enter** the kingdom of God."

For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:21b)

66

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ⁶ That which is born of the **flesh is flesh**, and that which is born of the **Spirit is spirit**.

67



Spiritual Life

- “**Spiritual life**” is of a spiritual nature

*“That which is born of the **flesh** ~~is flesh~~ ^{becomes spirit...}”*

- if you pray more
- if you go to seminary
- if you are really sincere

68



Spiritual Life

- “**Spiritual life**” is of a spiritual nature

*“That which is born of the **flesh** is **flesh**.
That which is born of the **Spirit** ~~is spirit~~ ^{becomes flesh...}”*

- If you are not careful
- If you do not pray enough
- If you sin and struggle with the flesh

69



Spiritual Life

- “**Spiritual life**” is of a spiritual nature

*“That which is **born** of the **flesh** is **flesh**.
That which is **born** of the **Spirit** is **spirit**.”*

It is a matter of **birth**!
You do not **improve** or **revert** to the other.
These are **two different kinds of life**!

70

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-9

- ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you,
“You **must** be born again.”

71


John 1:12-13

- ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, to those who believe in His name:
- ¹³ **who were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,

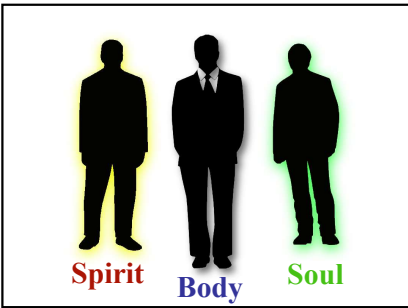
but of God.

72

The miracle of a new birth



It is indeed
very good!




Spirit Body Soul

73

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

74

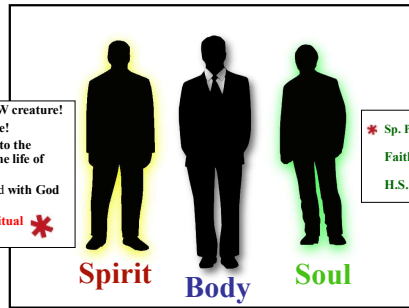


Spiritual Life

- **"Spiritual life"** is the kind of life that can only be lived by those who have been born of the Spirit
 - i.e., those regular human beings who, as a result of a second [new] birth, have the capacity to be and function like spiritual human beings.

75

The miracle of a new birth



Spirit Body Soul

Key words:

* Sp. Perception

Faith

H.S. leading

Know

Trust

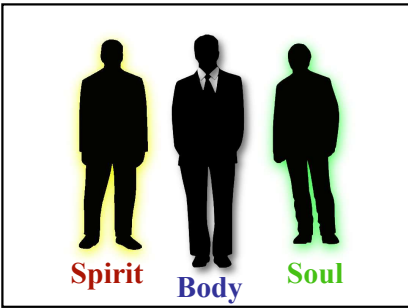
Obey

They are considered
pre-requisites for action

- A BRAND NEW creature!
- Spiritually alive!
- Joined forever to the presence and the life of God!
- Full of hope and with God in this world
- Follow his spiritual abilities *

76

God's original creation



Spirit Body Soul

Rule of the game:

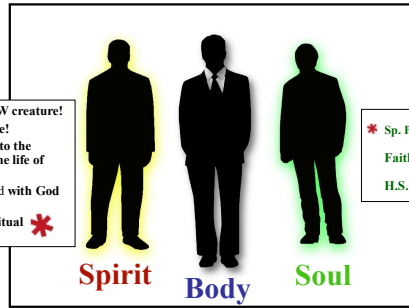
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All based on trust and obedience.

God leads—We follow!

77

The new man



Spirit Body Soul

Key words:

* Sp. Perception

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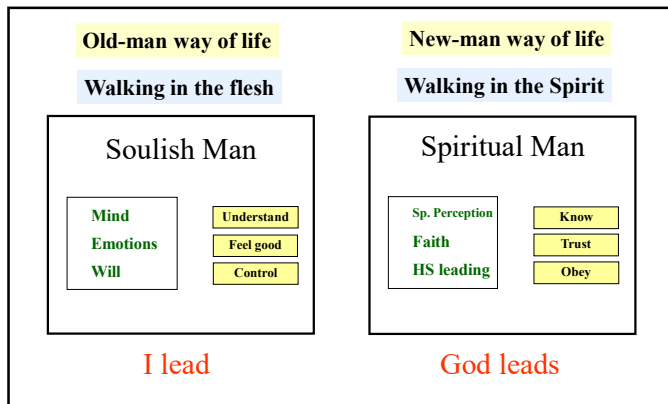
Know

Trust

Obey

- A BRAND NEW creature!
- Spiritually alive!
- Joined forever to the presence and the life of God!
- Full of hope and with God in this world
- Follow his spiritual abilities *

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Galatians 5:25

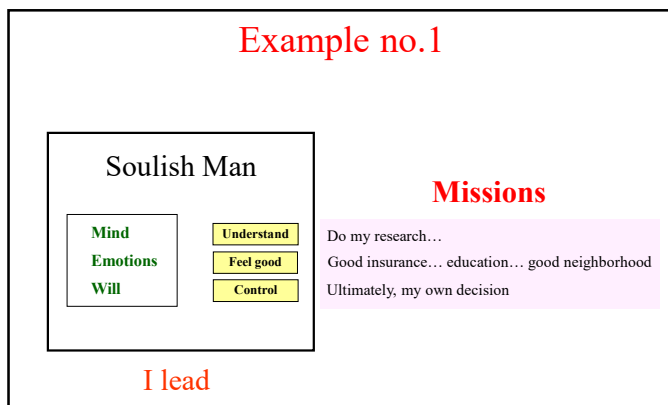
Automatic

If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk in the Spirit.

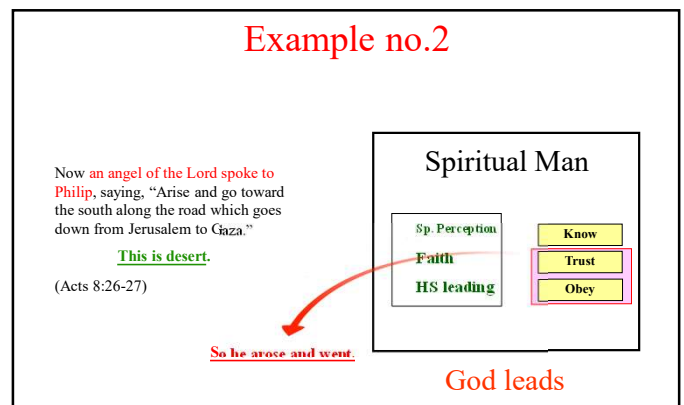
Intentional

This is what radical disciples do!

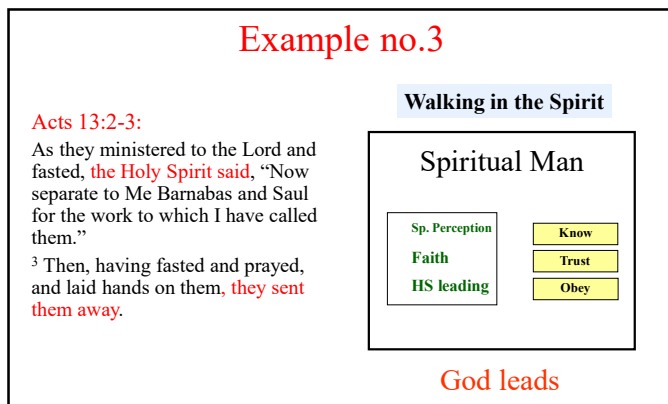
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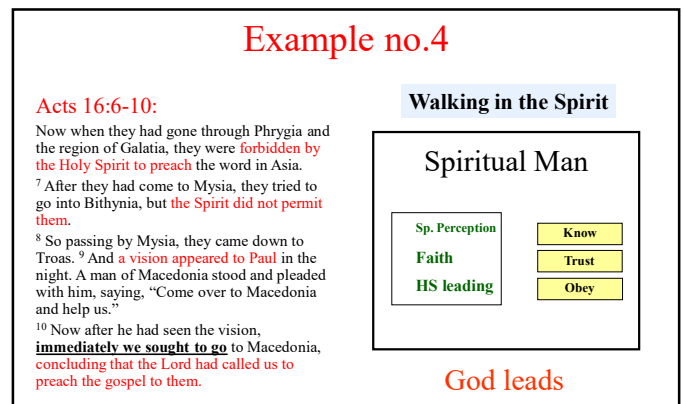
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