

John 8

Sunday 10/10/2021

Last week, we started John chapter 8, and we really got a look at the depth of the deceit and the lies of the scholarly world back in Jesus' day that reached a new level of, the only way I can say it is, satanic hatred of the Word of God. We saw last week that after all the things they had done, all the things they had said, all the accusations and lies, they had stooped to the lowest level of actually using a woman to set Him up. In the process of doing that, they completely violated the Word of God just for the purpose of getting to Him, all to get rid of God's truth, then and the same way it is now.

I have told you and made it no secret that I am a history buff. I love history. Military history is my forte; I really enjoy that. For a number of years, I am not even sure they publish it anymore, but I probably have 200 of them that I kept over the years. There was a magazine that was called *After the Battle*. They actually produced a number of books on different aspects of World War II and World War I. *After the Battle* magazine, its sub-theme was "Then and Now." They actually went back and found the actual pictures of events taking place—battles, people, wherever—during World War II, and then found the exact same place some 30, 40 years later, showing you the changes. Much of it was really the same, showing you what was then and what was now. I was fascinated by it; I could not wait for the next issue to come out. It only came out every other month. Then when all the books came out, they had one on the Battle of Britain, they had one on Normandy, they had one on the Battle of the Bulge. They actually went and found these places and then showed you the actual place during the war, and then in the 70s and 80s, found that exact same place. It was incredible stuff, and then showed you the story that went along with it.

I have always felt that my Bible, in a spiritual sense, did the same thing. It showed me then and now. It showed me the way things were at the first coming of Christ and the way they are today for you and for me at the second coming of Christ. We have talked about it. The Bible shows you and me Noah's time, then and now, as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. It shows you Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah, then, but then it also shows you now, as it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. The Bible is a great history book that presents, if you are paying attention, if you know how to use your Bible in a historical sense, it will show you the then and the now, the way it was then and the way it is now.

The reason it does that is because of the great principle and truth that I have tried to instill in you over the years: history always repeats itself. You want to learn what is happening today? You go back and see it happened in the past. That is so vital in everything that we do. As I have said throughout our study, some things never change. In time, some things do change, but in reality, nothing really ever changes. The Alexandria cult, the "Yea, Hath God Said" society, they are still with us today. They may have worn robes and sandals back then and wear three-piece suits with ties and shoes now. They may have ridden donkeys back then; now they have cars. But they are the same crowd. Nothing has really changed.

Many times, we lose sight of things like this because we get fooled by the change of the venue of clothes, transportation, the way it was then, and we think things actually change. Clothes may

change, modes of transportation may change, but human nature never changes. The same people who hated the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God back then, will be the same crowd that hates Him today. Some things never change.

I. The Finger of God

We saw how Christ held them accountable in an amazing way with the Word of God, the finger of God. We talked about that last week. What an incredible aspect that is, the great principles out of the Old Testament that He probably wrote from Deuteronomy 22:22. It is the same way today. The thing that keeps everybody accountable, no matter where you are at, will be the principles of the Word of God.

We finished up yesterday, our second week of leadership training, very intense, two weeks of just really hitting it, and taking anybody in this church who wanted to. I explained to them that I knew that coming into leadership, we were going to have three levels. We are going to have the older guys and gals that have really hammered in the mail that it will help you be better. Then we have the midline people who are really on their way. Then I was pleasantly pleased to see so many of you young men and young ladies that just got saved. You do not want to miss anything, and you want to be part of that because you want to get all that you can get. I explained that I just in good conscience cannot just tell some people you cannot come. I would rather open it up to anybody that wants to come and then allow you to either prove yourself or not prove yourself when you decide. That way, I have a good conscience toward God. I gave you the best shot I could. That is my job, basically, in whatever we do, is to give you the best shot I can. You have to decide if you are going to take the shot or not. I cannot do that for you.

The Bible tells us that Jesus stooped down and with the finger of God wrote on the ground. We talked about, as I said, Deuteronomy 22:22 is probably what He wrote, but whatever He wrote certainly got their attention. What is interesting is the story says that it is the finger of God who writes in the dust of the ground. I thought about that all week long after I read that last week. I thought to myself, what a great picture that is, and how interesting that is, that the finger of God writing the Word of God in the dust of the earth. The Bible says that man was created on the dust of the ground in Genesis 2:7. To me, that is a picture of the finger of God bringing the Word of God down to man. When He wrote that in the dust of the ground, He is writing fundamentally the Word of God that He gave to man. It was an incredible thought.

I do not care much for Roman Catholic art. I think some of it is good and some of it is not so good. But one that always intrigued me was the painting by Michelangelo where I think it is on top of the Sistine Chapel. It is a thing where it has God's finger touching man's finger. Remember, ever see that? I know that is kind of goofy from the Roman Catholic standpoint, but I have to tell you, I kind of like that because that is actually what happened. I mean, I know the Catholic Church is messed up, and we do not believe anything that it says, but even a broken clock is right twice a day. So I like the idea of God's finger touching the finger of man because that is exactly what He did.

I cannot stop there because as the world progressed, and these are great keys you get when the Antichrist is going to take over the world and he wants you to believe, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man." The sons of God came down in Genesis 6. They are going to come back down again. As I have told you many, many times, the devil, through the mystery of iniquity, has been preparing this world for the sons of God to come back and the Antichrist to come back. So when the movie E.T. came out, E.T. being extraterrestrial, I do not know if you have ever paid attention to it, but there are over 20 parallels between little E.T. and the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the movie E.T. wanted to subtly bring the world into an understanding that E.T. probably was Jesus Christ.

I do not know if you know it or not, but E.T. was an alien, not from Mexico. He was an alien from outer space, so he did not have real parents here. You know that when Jesus Christ came, He was an alien from outer space. You know that Jesus' adopted mother here on this earth when He came to the first coming of Christ was Mary. You know when the movie E.T.'s adopted mother's name was Mary? All the similarities. When E.T. is in a little hospital there and he is dying, if you pay attention and you look up at the clock in the emergency room, it is the exact same time Jesus died on the cross. When they wanted them, I do not have time to go through all of those, it is quite incredible, but on the marquee that they wanted, they really sold the movie, it was the Michelangelo painting of the finger of God touching the finger of E.T. Very subtle. Very subtle.

It is a thing where that finger of God touching the dust of the ground is a picture of the Word of God coming to us. After all of this story, and you remember I told you, if this does not show you some things, the story runs from John 8:1-11. In that story, you see all the wickedness, the lies, the deceit, the poverty of the Sadducees and the Pharisees, how they are corrupting and using the Word of God for their own gain, how they are setting this thing up, that they are totally against everything that Jesus Christ is doing. I mean, the lies, the deceit, the sinfulness, the envy of these religious leaders. Then our modern-day Sadducees and Pharisees have the guts to try to tell you that that story should not really be in your Bible. I guess so. If I was a scholar, I would not want that passage to be in the Bible either. They are protecting the brethren. Some things never change. The demonic scholarship of today helps out the brethren back then.

In John 8:8-9, and this is where I want to focus today, we see the reaction to the pure Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, written with the finger of God coming down to man, written in the dust of the ground.

John 8:8-9

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Now, Father, we ask You today to help us pull all this together. Give us the wisdom and insight of Your Word, the Holy Spirit of God. Forgive us where we have failed You. Put us under the

blood. Give us the clarity of thought today. Make the scriptures come alive that we might be able to see and understand all that You do have for us. We love You. We pray that as we give You this time, You will use it to teach these, Your people. We thank You for the tremendous crowd for the last two weeks of young men, moms and dads, the men and women of this church who want to help kick this thing over the top. Lord, I thank You for that. I pray, Father, as we continue to build and work and do what we do, You will continue to build these men and women in this church to be part of this ministry. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

II. The Conscience: A Piece of the Puzzle

The Bible says that when they hear it, they are convicted by their conscience. Today, I want to give you another piece of the puzzle. When you get into stories in the Bible like this, you are going to find sometimes that within the stories themselves that represent a complete picture of something, which we have been laying out, you are going to find that within that story, sometimes there is another great doctrinal teaching that needs to be unearthed. Sometimes there is more than one. But in our study last week, it was obvious to me that when the Bible talks about them being convicted in their conscience, I needed to take some time and try to help you understand some things.

Today, I want to give you another piece of the puzzle of life on exactly what your conscience is and how it works. I think that we hear things about ourselves, but we do not always understand how it applies to us. So I want to take this idea of a conscience, and I want to try to walk it through the Word of God and show you all the pieces, not only of your physical body, but of your spiritual body.

You have two bodies. You have a physical body, which is your flesh. Look at the person to the left and the right of you; you have just seen the evidence of that. But inside, you have another body. That is a spiritual body. We are going to talk about this here in just a little bit.

III. Man as a Trinity: Body, Soul, and Spirit

Let us start with what we do know and work our way out. We know that God is a Trinity. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I am going to go very slow. You will be happy to know I will not yell today. I yelled yesterday, did I not? I am not going to yell today. I have no voice left. I am just going to, I want you to get this. So I am going to take my time. I am going to walk you through it, because I want you to understand these things at some point in your life.

So let us just start where we are at here in John 8. We know that God is a Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We know that when God made man originally in the garden, Genesis 1:26, He says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." I get questions all the time that somebody says, "In Genesis 1, it says, 'Let us, God said, let us make man in our image.' Who is the 'us'? Who is the 'our'?" It is the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are speaking as one here. The first thing you need to know is

that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three different aspects of God, but they are all God. They have a different function and a different work, but they are all one.

So when God made man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, God made man a Trinity. He gave him a body, He gave man a soul, and He gave man a spirit. The best way I can illustrate this, and I have used this for years, and it is a simple illustration, is you take a football, a basketball, or a tire in your car. Well, I cannot do your car in the car anymore; I do not think they have inner tubes anymore. But anyway, take a football or a basketball, and you have got the outside pigskin covering of a football. That will be your body, your flesh. But on the inside of that, you will have a rubber inner tube that is the exact same shape as the outer pigskin, but it is separate. If you would cut that, you could pull the inner tube or the inner piece out of the thing, and that will be a picture of your soul. Your soul is your spiritual body that is just like your physical body. You have another body inside you. One is physical, that is your flesh, and one is spiritual, that is your soul.

I have heard for years and years and years, guys tell me that lost a leg in an accident or a hand in an accident, that they feel like their leg or their toes or their feet are itching, and they do not have one. It was cut off. You see, you can cut off the physical leg, but you cannot cut off the spiritual leg. It is still there. Now, do not try to walk on it, but it is still there, but it is spiritual. So, the first thing I want you to understand that we have to begin to identify here is that you, or Adam when he was created, had a body, soul, and spirit.

Now, what happens? Adam sins. When Adam sins, he loses in essence the image of God, which is spiritual immediately, but then he also loses the likeness of God in time. In other words, when Adam was born or created, he is the only man who was never born, when he was created, he looked just like Jesus Christ. He had a body, he had a soul, and he had a spirit. When he fell, something changed. He loses the image of God. By the way, in the Bible, defined for you, the image of God is Jesus Christ. So, he loses God's image, and now he just has his own fallen image.

Here is what happens now from this point on. You need to understand this. I am just taking my time so you can get this. Adam was created as a trinity: body, soul, and spirit. When he fell, something changed. What changed about him was now that sin had come into the world, and sin had destroyed his spiritual body and his relationship with God. So now, Adam and every unsaved man down through the Old Testament, and every unsaved man and woman today, has a body, and still has a soul. But now they are stuck together. They have become one. He still has a spirit, but now he has a dead spirit. It is not able to communicate with God. It is not able, as 1 Corinthians 2:14 says:

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

He now does not have the ability to communicate or fellowship or have any kind of relationship with God, because he lost the image of God, and now his soul and his flesh are stuck together.

His spirit is now dead. So now he is only two parts. He is incomplete. You should know if you have been around here any length of time that in the Bible, the number three is the number of completion. Everything in life is not complete until it has the third part. Of course, when a man or a woman is unsaved, they are incomplete. They have a body and they have a soul that is stuck together, and then they have a spirit that is dead to the things of God. Of course, that is why he cannot grasp the things of God. Everybody understand that?

IV. The Moment of Salvation: Spiritual Circumcision

That is the condition you were in before you got saved, by the way. The reason why before you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, that many of you have done here just in the last couple of weeks or months, I am going to talk to you about what changed about you. I want you to understand it. I want you to see and be able to realize what you were the second before you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, and then what happened instantaneously the moment you asked Christ to come into your heart and save you. You need to know these things. Nobody knows these things today. We are a Christianity of terminology. We have a lot of terms, and we use the terms, but we really do not know what the terms mean.

I asked a guy one time, I asked him, "Tell me, what happened the moment you got saved?" He said, "Well, I got born again." I said, "I did not ask you that. That is a term. What happened the exact second you asked Christ to come into your heart and save you?" He said, "I was saved." That is not what I asked you. I clarified it. What changed? Here you are at 9:30 in the morning, unsaved. You asked Christ to come into your heart and save you. It took a minute for that prayer. What changed from 9:30 to 9:31 inside you? That is really the key. You see, "born again," "be saved," "washed in the blood," that is all terminology. That does not tell you what changed. That does not tell you what happened. You need to know as a child of God, what did change from 9:30 to 9:31 inside you? The Bible says, "Well, now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus." Well, congratulations. But how did that happen? I mean, what did you do? What inside you, what changed? That is the key.

You need to know this. When you talk to most Christians, they do not know. I am not saying they are not saved, but it is a lot like me with cars. I have two guys here that every time there is something wrong with my cars, I call. They are really proud of me because a couple of weeks ago, I actually changed my own battery out and hooked the terminals on the right ones. Fired that sucker right up. I was proud of myself. But I am telling you what, I drive a car and I have a car. But if you asked me to break down a combustible engine and show you how the rods work and the camshaft works and the rotor things worked and the alternator works and the deal works, I would not be able to do it. I have always admired the guys who could start a car with a screwdriver. Sam knows what I am talking about. You are driving down the freeway and there is this little honey on the road where her car will not start. You walk up. "Hi darling. What is the matter?" "My car will not start." "Open the hood." Pop. "You never open the hood. Pop the hood. Let us take a look at it." She opens the hood. "You have a screwdriver?" "Yes, I do." He takes that screwdriver, puts it down inside that engine and says, "Try it now." And it fires right up. God, I wish I could do that. I tried it one time, burnt the end off the screwdriver, melted the

handle. I was in the hospital for two days. I would love that kind of stuff, but I do not know how to do it. You see, most of God's people are with their own salvation like I am with a car. You do not have a clue what happened under that hood. That is unfortunate. I can live with you not knowing what is going on in a car, but you need to know what happened the moment you got saved. We use a lot of terminology, and unfortunately, we do not use it.

So there was a day in your life when you got saved. Here is what happened. It is real easy. Here is what happened. Before you were saved, your soul and your flesh were stuck together. It was one. You were going to, if you would have died, your soul would have gone to hell. You know why? Because your soul was connected to your flesh, and your flesh is sinful. That is why the Bible says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" in the Old Testament, because in the Old Testament, the soul and the flesh were stuck together. When a man died, he went to hell. Today, nothing changed. If you are unsaved here this morning, your flesh and your soul are stuck together, and your soul, which is eternal, your body connected to your physical body, which is sin. When you die, your soul, because of the sin it is connected to, goes to hell and then later on dumped into the lake of fire. I want you to know that.

So when you got saved, Jesus had to figure out a way to fix that. He figured out a way. You know what He did? The moment you got saved, there was a process that entered into your inner being that was instantaneous, but it could go A, B, C, D, E, F, G, just like that. But it was just like that. The first thing that happened is that when you ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you, the Holy Spirit of God does come in. But what does He do? Because your flesh and your soul are stuck together, and He cannot deal with that. So you know what He does? He cuts, He separates your eternal soul, your soulish body. He cuts it loose and separates it from the physical body.

In the Bible, in Colossians 2:11, this is called the doctrine of spiritual circumcision. Let me read it for you.

Colossians 2:11-12

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

That is New Testament. That is not Old Testament physical circumcision. That is a New Testament spiritual circumcision, and then the next verse, it is called the operation of God made without hands. I will stop here for a second, give you a nice little parallel. Back in the Old Testament, Abraham and Moses were given the doctrine of the literal circumcision. On the eighth day of a male being born, they took that baby boy and they physically circumcised him. They circumcised him on the eighth day on a part of his anatomy that had to do with birth, and it was that circumcision that Israel did; none of the other nations did it. Circumcision was to Israel physically, and that set them apart physically from all the other nations, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Klingons, all the rest of them. But it is a physical thing. This is why they call the

Gentile nations in the Old Testament the uncircumcised Philistines, because physically they are not circumcised. Physically Israel was.

Now that in the Old Testament physically was a picture of what happened to you in the New Testament spiritually. It is on a male on the eighth day. In the Bible, the eighth day or the number eight is the number for new beginnings. So that baby boy was physically circumcised on a day that spiritually represented your circumcision, on a day that made you a new creature in Christ Jesus. It was done on a part of his anatomy that had to do with seed, because when you got spiritually circumcised, it was by the seed of the Word of God.

So He comes down, and before you are saved, your flesh and your soul are stuck together, and through the operation of God made without hands, through the doctrine in Colossians 2:11, He cuts loose the body of the flesh from your soul, separates it. Then the Holy Spirit of God comes down in that instant and seals your soul, the eternal part, with the Holy Spirit of God. Now at that point, the Bible says you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, all things become new. Now you have two natures. Paul talks about this in Romans 7. Now you have the old man and the new man. You have the old flesh and you have the new creature in Christ Jesus, and the two do battle.

Does anybody have any, you do not have to give me your graphic details, but does anybody have any little, middle, or big spiritual battles this week? Nobody? Praise the Lord. Well, you are quite the people. You know, lying, you go to hell for lying, you do know that, do you not? We all have issues today, this week. Where do those issues come from? They came from the fact that you have an old sin nature that likes to sin, and now you have a new nature that wants to love God, that is sealed with the Holy Spirit of God, and the two do battle. Battle back and forth. That is why Paul says in Romans 7, "The things that I should do, I do not do, and the things that I should not do, I do. O wretched man that I am!" He understood the battle between the flesh and your soul.

We are all good so far. I know I am amazing, I get it, but just bear with me here. I want you to understand it. I am taking my time breaking it down, and this is how I had to learn it. You are going to leave here today understanding probably the greatest single doctrine to you as a Christian of what really transpired the day you got saved.

The Bible says that once that happens, it says in Colossians 2:10, "Now you are complete in him." See, where before you were not, you were incomplete, you only had two parts. Now He separated those two, now you are three. Now your spirit at that moment of salvation comes alive. Where before it was dead to the things of God, now because the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residency in your body, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price." When that Holy Spirit of God came in, it made you a new creature in every aspect. It separated your flesh from your soul, and then it gave your spirit life, and now you are complete. Where once your soul was connected to your flesh and you were stuck to it, now your soul is connected to the Holy Spirit of God and you are separated from your flesh.

You have to understand the two bodies of man.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

That is your physical body. We have a building of God made without hands, eternal in the heavens. There is your spiritual body. You have two bodies: you have a physical body that I am looking at, and you have a spiritual body, which is your soul, that I cannot see.

Now we have a lot of terminology today, as I said, that most Christians really do not understand, and many times it makes things more confusing. What I try to do in everything that I do in my teaching, and I learned this a long time ago, I follow a simple rule: keep it simple, stupid. I do not do anybody any good if I lay stuff out that you do not understand. So I do for you what I had to do for myself; I had to break it down where I could get it.

So we have terminology like the soul of man, which now you understand. We have the terminology of the flesh of man, which now you understand. We have the terminology of the spirit of man, which we will clarify even more here in a little bit. Then you hear terms like the heart of man, the mind of man, the conscience of man. What exactly are they? How do they relate to these two bodies that you have? Because you have a spiritual body and you have a physical body. I am going to tell you this: yes, you have a physical body and you have a spiritual body, but you also have a physical heart and a spiritual heart. You also have a physical mind and a spiritual mind, and the conscience is based on your understanding of how all this works.

Let me illustrate something to you. Let me give you a great illustration of your two bodies. Turn over to Luke 16. This is a familiar story. I will show it to you in great detail.

Luke 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The thing I want you to see here is that the Bible tells me that the rich man died and clearly tells us that he was buried. That was his physical body. His physical body consisted of his body, his arms, his legs, his head, his eyes. It still had his heart inside, though it was not beating anymore. It had his brain, which is his mind; it was not functioning anymore, and he is dead and buried in the ground. His physical body. But yet his eternal body, his soul, which evidently was stuck to his flesh and never got separated, he is in hell. I want you to notice, in hell he has eyes, in hell he speaks, in hell he has a mind, he remembers. He has all the qualities of being alive, yet his physical body is in the grave, dead, but his soul body is in hell and has all the faculties of remembering, talking, seeing, feeling pain, and communicating. Clearly showing us that we have a spiritual body, which is your soul, and you have a physical body, which is your flesh. When you died with them stuck together, you are just like the man in Luke 16. Your body went to the grave, but because it was stuck to your flesh and it is sinful, "the soul that sinneth, it shall die," and his soul winds up in hell. That is the way everybody in this room was before you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior.

The moment you got saved, the operation of God made without hands, the doctrine of spiritual circumcision, which by the way is rejected by every Bible scholar in the world today. If you went to a Bible college and brought this up, they would laugh at you, they would scoff at you, just like they did with Jesus. Some things never change. But if you asked these guys to explain what really happened, they would not be able to do it. They would give you some scholastic baloney cut out for suckers, and the more you stay around, the more baloney sandwiches you will make, and pretty soon you will have a diet of it. They could not tell you, but I am telling you because this is what transpires.

V. The Flesh, The Spirit, and The Soul Defined

With all that, let us begin to define some things from the Bible about your inner man. First off, I want to be complete here. We do not probably need to spend a lot of time on this, but first off, let us talk about man's flesh. In your flesh, there is no good thing. Your flesh is the source of every problem, every temptation, every sin, every downfall, every walking away from God, every losing your fellowship with God. It goes back to your flesh. Inside your flesh, there is no good thing. It is when we talk about the depravity of man in Romans 3, where there is:

Romans 3:10-12

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

All of our righteousness, Isaiah 64:6 says, is filthy rags in the sight of God. That is your flesh. Paul talks extensively about the flesh. Nothing good about it, totally corrupt. That is why you have to be loosed from it to ever have any victory in your life with the Lord Jesus Christ, because if God did not devise a way to separate your flesh from your soul, your physical body from your eternal body, God could never fellowship with you because God is a holy God; He cannot fellowship with anything that is sinful. You realize back in the Old Testament, before God came down and walked through the camp to deal with them, they had to remove everything that was sinful in God's sight, or He would not come down. Sitting here this morning, if you are going to receive anything out of the Bible, you have got to do the same thing in your camp; you have got to get rid of all the ungodly stuff out of it, or God is not going to give you anything. That works, not hard, not complicated.

The moment you got saved, as I have said, God separates the flesh from the soul, and your soul is now sealed with the Holy Spirit of God. Now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Now you have the ability to have fellowship with God. The way that you do that is through the next part of your inner man that we are going to talk about. But I want to say this before we move into the next section: your flesh never gets better. You cannot trust it, you cannot feed it, you cannot pamper it. All you can do is crucify it, and it is a thing where it is always going to be the source of our problems.

Now the next thing I want to talk to you about is, now that we have got the flesh out of the way, let us talk about your spirit, the spirit of man. The Bible says that God breathed into the nostrils of man, and man became a living soul. The life that you and I have, the breath of life, is the spirit that is inside us. Whether you are saved or whether you are lost, you have a spirit of man. This is what drives man. This is what, when a man gives him the endurance to climb Mount Everest, this is what man's spirit is what drives him to accomplish great things. Or if he is trapped in the desert, it is his mode of survival. The spirit of man, whether he is saved or whether he is lost, it is the driving force of life that every human being has. But if he is unsaved, it is a dead spirit. It

may get you through the desert, it may get you to the top of Mount Everest, but it will never get you to heaven. Something has to change.

The Bible says that in the Bible there are four spirits. You need to know this. There are four spirits that we are told about in the Bible, and you and me as a human being can have three of them.

1. The first spirit mentioned is in Ecclesiastes 3:21, and that is the spirit that is in an animal. An animal does not have a soul, but all living creatures have a spirit because the spirit is the life that gives that creature life. So your dog, your cat, your horse, your canary, whatever the case may be, it has a spirit.
2. The second spirit is the spirit of man that you have whether you are saved or unsaved. You have that spirit; it is the driving force.
3. The third spirit will be the Holy Spirit.
4. The fourth spirit will be an unclean spirit.

As a man or a woman, you do not have the animal spirit, but you do have the human spirit, and that human spirit then is influenced one way or the other, either by the Holy Spirit of God or by the unclean spirit of life. When a man gets saved, God gives his spirit life through the Holy Spirit of God that comes and dwells inside his soul and is sealed, and now the man has the ability through his spirit to fellowship with God. In fact, the Bible says in Romans 8:16:

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

In other words, my fellowship is based on my understanding of wherever I put my spirit, either to the Holy Spirit or an unclean spirit; that is where I am going to go in my life. Before you were saved, you had no option. You had an unclean, dead spirit in you that the only spirit that it could fellowship with was an unclean spirit, not God's Spirit.

When we talk about worship, worship is another word that is thrown around a lot that nobody really understands today. The Bible says in John 4:24:

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Your spirit in God's truth is biblical New Testament worship. You can obviously see the problem: if you do not have the Word of God, you do not have any worship. So your ability to have a relationship with God will rely on your spirit becoming one. Are you giving your spirit to His Spirit, or are you giving your spirit to an unclean spirit?

When a man who is saved, we see it all the time, he will not yield his spirit to the things of God. He will not read his Bible, he will not study his Bible, he will not come to church, he will not do anything, he will not get disciplined, he will not get anybody helping with his problems. What he does when he will not yield that spirit to the things of God, then he yields it to the wrong spirits, and it goes to the world.

The spirit of man, here it is, I gave you the football as a type of the body, soul, and spirit. Here is a good example on your spirit. Your spirit is like the rudder of a ship. You will have an aircraft carrier that is 600 yards long and weighs over 60 million tons, but it is turned left or right by a little rudder that is just a small portion of the size underneath the water. If you turn the rudder this way, you go one way. If you turn the rudder this way, you go this way. The captain up in the wheelhouse gives the order to starboard or to port. The guy in the wheelhouse, the yeoman, he turns it one way or the other based on the captain and the direction of the ship. The question today is, who is the captain on your bridge? Who is in the control house of your ship? If it is the Lord Jesus Christ, He will say, "Turn that spirit toward the Word of God," and you build a relationship. If He is not the captain on the bridge, and something else is, somebody else is, or something else is, you turn that ship, your body, toward the wrong things, and you go toward that spirit. See how simple that is? Not hard.

Having said that, let me even clarify a little more. Your spirit is your mind. When we talk about the mind of man, we are talking about your spirit, not your soul. Your mind is your spirit, and you have the free will of that. You choose which way you are going to turn that rudder, your spirit. One of the things that if you study the Bible, there are some things that will really influence your spirit right or wrong. One of them is music. Music always will go to and deal with directly to your spirit. You say, "How do you know that?" Because when David had an evil spirit from the Lord, what did he do? A song? What did he do? He called for David. David played some of his songs that he had written, and the Bible says when he played that music, the evil spirit left and the Spirit of God came. Music is one of the most graphic illustrations of what you listen to affects your spirit. If you listen to the things of God and His music and the things that it ministers to your soul, you are in the right direction. If you listen to Three Dog Night and the Animals and the Beasts and the Buzzards and all that stuff, if you turn that spirit toward the things of the world, that is how it is going to affect you.

Most young people do not know that, so they think that, and this is the trickery of the devil. This is why in most churches you do not have choirs anymore. You do not have godly music anymore. You have rock bands now who play music that is really outside everything connected with the Bible. If you know anything about the book of Colossians, music is defined for you, but who cares? It is not a book of Colossians. We left the Bible a long time ago, and the thing is, every time I preach a message, I am sure there are people out there or maybe people here that they do not like what I say and they do not agree with what I say, but the funny part is, if somebody put a Bible in your lap, put a gun to your head to prove what you do not like, showing me in the Bible, your brains will be over the wall. You know nothing about the Bible; you have lent your spirit to the wrong spirit. See, that is how it works. Do not tell me anything about it. I have been around the block and bought a few houses.

So you want to see now that the Bible says in Romans 8:27, it talks about the mind of the Spirit. It is your mind.

1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

So you have a human mind. You get saved, your soul gets separated, now your spirit comes alive and can fellowship with God. Now it is depending on if you allow this mind, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God, to be in you and take instructions from that mind, that Spirit, into your spirit, your mind, or you do your own thing. Not complicated.

We are told in Ephesians 4:30 that when you got saved, you were sealed. You were sealed in your soul for all of eternity. You are sealed unto the day of redemption. You do not ever have to worry about your soul, but that is not true of your spirit, because your spirit was not sealed. It came alive, but it is still your free will process to decide where you are going to put it. That is why the Bible says in Ephesians 4:30 that we have to renew our spirit daily. How do you do that? Staying in your Bible, staying in the Word of God, listening to the right stuff, listening to the right music, always taking the rudder of your ship, your mind, your spirit, and keep it hard over to starboard toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I said, your soul is sinless, your flesh is not, and your spirit is not sinless. This is why 2 Corinthians 7:1 tells us:

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

You know what you have to do every day to do that? You have to renew the spirit of your mind. It is a daily process, it is an hourly process, second by second. That is what you have got to do because Ecclesiastes 1:2-3 tells us that you can vex your spirit.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

Proverbs 25:28 says:

Proverbs 25:28

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

You tell me somebody is emotional all the time or depressed all the time or has all kinds of emotional problems. Proverbs 25:28 says he that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down without walls. You have no defenses, so your emotions run wild. When you get over to Job 26:1-4, he actually asks you as a Christian whose spirit came from you. Was it your own human spirit? Was it God's Spirit? Or was it an unclean spirit?

Job 26:1-4

But Job answered and said,

How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength?

How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?

To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

You see, this is why we talked a while back about not judging according to appearances but righteous judgment. The Bible tells you over in 1 John 4:1 that now that you are saved, you have been separated, you have the Holy Spirit of God in you, you have your spirit under control. When you look at who you hang out with, what you hang out with, what you allow, what you do not allow, now He tells us:

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Because He says, "Beloved, not every spirit is of God." After you are saved, if you have got any kind of IQ spiritually, you will figure that out in about 10 seconds. It does not stop there because He tells us in Proverbs 7:1-3:

Proverbs 7:1-3

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

He talks about the fact that you keep doing everything that you are doing with the Word of God, and how you can keep doing it and getting God's Spirit will be the key that really brings you to the place where it really helps you be everything that God wants you to be.

Now let us talk about the third part. We now understand the body, flesh. Now we understand the spirit. Now let us talk about your soul. Let us help get that together. We now know that your spirit is the mind of man. We know that you have two minds. You have two spirits. You have your own mind, your own human spirit, and then you have God's mind and His Spirit. You as a child of God, after being saved, have the ability to merge the two. If you do not, you know the problem.

Now we have your soul. So your spirit will be your mind. Now the next part of man will be his soul, and that soul, as we know now, is separated from the flesh at salvation, Colossians 2, and it is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God the moment that happens, Ephesians 4:30. The soul will be what we call the heart of man in a spiritual sense. You see, you have a physical heart which pumps blood through your body, which is central to your life, and then you have a spiritual body,

which is your soul, which is your spiritual heart, which is central to your eternity. One physical, one spiritual. Of course, when you get saved, you now get separated from your flesh. You get sealed in your soul with the Holy Spirit of God, the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the heart of God. Jesus Christ in you, the hope of glory.

You see, the world uses the terminology about heart in all kinds of ways, but all pointing to the same thing. It always does. We talk about the heart of man, we talk about the heart of America, we are always talking about the central part of America. We talk about the heartland of America. We talk about heart attitude. Somebody says, "I love you with all my heart." Somebody says, "We need to get to the heart of the problem." Every time you find the way we use the word, it always relates to the central issue of something. Our heart is the key. Your physical heart is the key to your physical life, and your soul, connected now with the Word of God, the heart of God, Psalms 119, will now be the central aspect of your spiritual body. We will say, "He has got a heart for God." I preach, "You guys need to get your heart right." I preach about you having the right attitude of heart. What am I talking about? It is about allowing the completeness of God in your life at the time of your salvation to come to full force. Your soul, the heart of you, is saved and sealed. You have a flesh that is against everything that God does, and you are going to go either toward the flesh or toward the Holy Spirit of God sealed inside you. You know what determines that? Your mind, your spirit. You either line it up with God's Spirit and then put your heart toward the heart of God, or you take your heart and put it toward the flesh. Just that simple.

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

You see, that is your soul. That is your soul being separated at the time of your salvation and believing on what God said. Now, as this heart here is the main function of your physical life to keep you alive, your eternal heart is your soul that is now separated. This one, with the Holy Spirit of God, is going to keep you alive for eternity. It all works.

Here is how it works. The heart of man spiritually, your soul, will also be your conscience. This is the whole crux of the sermon, but I had to give it all out to you that we got here. We talk about consciousness, we talk about unconsciousness. Bottom line is, consciousness or unconsciousness is either you being aware of something or unaware of something. So your conscience is what makes you aware of something. Let us get that defined quickly. So a man's conscience will make him aware of some things with God.

How does he do that? An unsaved man, because 2 Corinthians 3:3 says:

2 Corinthians 3:3

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

When God made man unsaved, he is incomplete. His body and his flesh, his soul and flesh are stuck together, and his spirit is dead. How in the world is God going to reach him? Because 2 Corinthians 3:3 says, "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of your heart." You know what He did? When He made man, He put a certain element or aspect of the Word of God in your heart.

He says in Romans 2:14-15:

Romans 2:14-15

For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;

You know what He is saying? He is saying you can go into Africa someplace, and you will not find anybody that has ever seen a missionary, ever had a Bible, and know nothing about Christ. But yet they know it is wrong to steal. They know it is wrong to take another man's wife. They know it is wrong to kill. They have in their own society that has no Bible, no missionary, no nothing, but they have the basic fundamentals of the Ten Commandments in a pagan society. Why? Because the Word of God is written on the tables of their hearts. That is why. That is what He says, "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

You see, inside your soul, the heart of man, God wrote the Word of God on the tables of your heart, and that is where God starts with you, and that is where your conscience is. When God began to deal with you about your salvation, He started with the Word of God written on the tables of your heart, and He dealt with your conscience because that conscience had already told you, even though you may not want to admit it, it told you what was right and what was wrong. You really did not need a preacher to tell you your life was not right; you already knew it. You just did not want me to tell you. You did not need somebody to say that what you are doing is wrong.

I have had people come in to me that got saved and are being part of this church that said, "You know what? I was looking for something. I was looking for something long before and did not know what it was. I wanted something real. I wanted this, I wanted that. I was looking for this." They finally, God leads you to a place that takes you to the next level. But do you know why you started thinking those things? Because in your conscience, in your heart, the Word of God is already written on the fleshy tables, and the Holy Spirit of God just used that. That is where He starts. He starts with, and then you either, well, we will get that in a minute, you accepted it, you moved toward it, and here you are.

I have always used the example that an unsaved man is like a guy who is trapped in a cave someplace, and he is completely lost, and he has been in there for two or three days, and he wants out, but he does not know how to get out. Suddenly, after two or three days of total darkness, way down the shaft, he sees the light, and it is the rescue party that is coming to get him. You know what he is going to do? He is going to do what all you did when you were in darkness of your life in your world, and then you saw that little light. You moved toward the light, and the closer he moved toward the light, pretty soon he gets hooked up with the rescue party, and he is saved. When you were in the darkness of your life before you were saved, and you saw that light way down there, that little thing in your heart that was telling you what you were wrong, and you started to move toward that light, you know what happened? You met the greatest rescue party on the planet, and you got saved.

Now let us take the other guy. He just killed 28 people, robbed 67 banks, and he is on the run, and the cops are all over the place. He runs into this cave, and he hides way back in his cave. He is crouched down, hiding, and all of a sudden, he sees the light coming into that cave, and he knows it is the guys who are going to arrest him. You know what he does? Because he is in sin and he does not want to do what is right, he gets farther back in the cave away from the light. That is all it is, kids. You either were in sin or saw the light and said, "I need out of this mess," and moved toward the light, or you said, "I am in sin, and I am going to stay in this mess," and you moved away from the light. But that light is the Word of God written on the tables of your heart, your conscience.

Having said that, He writes those things on the table of your heart, and in Proverbs 7:1-3 says:

Proverbs 7:1-3

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

She does not stop there. Once you realize that the law is written on the tables of your heart, when you get saved, you keep adding to the tables of your heart. You keep filling it up. You start out unsaved with God giving you His Word on the tables of your heart. It leads you to conviction like it did to those guys in John 8, in your conscience. You then get saved, you get a new heart, the Holy Spirit of God seals you, your soul, unto the day of redemption, and now God's Spirit with your spirit to make the right decisions in life by His Spirit bearing witness with your spirit, and you are on your way. Simply how it works.

You continue to bind those through your fingers and write this on the table of your heart. But know this: when you set your mind, your spirit, against God's Word, and you give your spirit to the world, then you violate your conscience, and in time, as the Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:2, you will sear your conscience with a hot iron. That is what he said.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

You go to sin so long, you reject the Word of God so long, and you sear your conscience that the Word of God written on those tables, you bury it so deep in the filth and the ungodliness of this world that it cannot touch you anymore. That can be true of an unsaved man, and that can be true of a saved man, because your conscience and your spirit, your spirit is deciding on what you do with it, with your Word of God or the things of the world. Where you are going to put it to? You are going to put it to the Spirit of God or the spirit of the world? That determines when you put it to the world, you bury yourself, you rationalize yourself, you quit coming to church, you do not read your Bible, you stay away from people, you hate sermons that go against what you think, and in time, nothing touches you.

Now watch this. In John 8, when Jesus nails them, and they leave, the damage had already been done in their heart. They had already seared their conscience. You say, "How do you know that?" Because they saw what He wrote. It convinced, it convicted them in their conscience, and they leave, but they never got right. When you preach the Word of God and people do not like it, they do not like what you say, they will leave, but they will never get right. They will just find another church where they can start over again and play the game for another six, seven, eight, nine months, and get mad there and go someplace else. In time, they sear their conscience. It is just that simple. You hear the famous last words, "Well, you know, we are going to take a break from church for a while." You hear the famous last words, "Well, you know, it is a thing where, you know, we just, we are going to find another church." You have already been in 10. The problem is, you will leave like they did, but you will never change.

VI. Conclusion: Yielding to God

The greatest aspect and truth of the Word of God is the fact that it changes you, and it changes you on the outside. But there is only one way God can change where you go and what you do with your flesh and give the honor and glory to God. There is only one way God can change you on the outside, and that is first He has to change you on the inside. He has to separate your soul from your flesh. He has to seal it with the Holy Spirit of God. He has to quicken, that is the word, quicken your spirit with His Spirit, and then you take that spirit and you bear witness with His Spirit that you are the sons of God. You bind them on your fingers, you end up writing on the tables of your heart, and you take this wicked flesh that wants to go against God and by crucifying it through the Word of God and giving your life to Christ as He gave it for you, we get a work done for the Lord. Any other way, it will never happen, and it is as simple as that.

Romans 6:13

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

How do you do that? By recognizing what took place inside you that changed the outside of you in a directional life. You do that by getting your soul circumcised spiritually, by getting your spirit come alive, and then you take your mind and your heart and you put them to God's mind and heart, and off you go to serve the Lord.