

# **SPIRITUALITY**

**LIVING FROM THE  
HUMAN SPIRIT...**

**NOT FROM THE SOUL**

**by NEAL I. FOX**

## **About the cover:**

Disruption of clouds parted by an airplane, forming ice crystals. (Photo by Neal I. Fox)

"The spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God...the one who is spiritual discerns all things..." 1 Corinthians 2:10, 15

## **SPIRITUALITY: LIVING FROM THE HUMAN SPIRIT**

by Neal I. Fox

Version 1.0 July 26, 2023

Copyright © 2023 by Neal I. Fox

All rights reserved solely by the author. This book, in whole or in part, must not be used for any commercial purpose. **Free sharing of this book in its entirety is authorized.**

Bible quotations are taken from The New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. Copyright © 2011 Biblica [Colorado Springs] and BibleGateway.com version Oct 2016

Website: <http://nealfoxbooks.blogspot.com> Contact Information: nealfoxbooks@gmail.com

Other books by Neal I. Fox:

"The Future Times: Biblical Prophecies About the Remainder of History & Beyond" 2017

"Exploring Deep Concepts & Mysteries of the Bible" 2018

"Time & The Universe: A Biblical View" 2019

"Vanishment & Tribulation" (Novel) 2020

"Thought & Belief" 2021

## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
CHAPTER 1 THE FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUALITY	11
CHAPTER 2 THE HUMAN SPIRIT	15
CHAPTER 3 THE SINFUL NATURE	27
CHAPTER 4 LIVING OUT OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT vs THE SOUL	35
CHAPTER 5 THE EARLY CHURCH: HOLY SPIRIT SPECIAL EMPOWERMENT	45
CHAPTER 6 WHAT SPIRITUALITY IS NOT -- FALSE SPIRITUALITY	50
CHAPTER 7 ASSESSING ONE'S OWN SPIRITUALITY	62
CHAPTER 8 WHY THE WORD OF GOD IS THE POWER FOR SPIRITUALITY	69
CHAPTER 9 THE ROLES OF THE TWO SPIRITS	78
CHAPTER 10 CHANGES IN SPIRITUALITY OVER THE AGES	88
CHAPTER 11 OLD TESTAMENT RELEVANCE TO SPIRITUALITY TODAY	99
CHAPTER 12 THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY IN SPIRITUALITY	115
CHAPTER 13 FAITH, HOPE & LOVE RELATED TO SPIRITUALITY	119
CHAPTER 14 THE "REST FROM GOD" -- ATTAINING HIS PEACE	125
CHAPTER 15 BIBLE MIS-TRANSLATIONS & SPIRITUALITY	129
CHAPTER 16 SPIRITUALITY: ROLES OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT & HOLY SPIRIT	133
CHAPTER 17 SPIRITUAL WARFARE: ACCEPTANCE vs. REJECTION OF TRUTH	146
CHAPTER 18 PRACTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO SPIRITUALITY	149
CHAPTER 19 BIBLE DESCRIPTIONS OF SPIRITUALITY	154
CHAPTER 20 FUNDAMENTALIST MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY	161

CHAPTER 21 CHAFER'S "HE THAT IS SPIRITUAL" REVISITED	169
CHAPTER 22 CONCLUDING THOUGHTS	179

## INTRODUCTION

Let us try something different. This introduction will summarize the main points of the entire book in just a few pages. If the Reader already understands the summarized information, and does not require the supporting discussion and references, or want a deeper level of understanding about spirituality, then there would be no need to read the entire book. Fair enough? But you may be surprised, because this is one of the most confused subjects in the Bible, and the root causes go back over 400 years. It is the entire purpose of this book to make the subject of Biblical spirituality clear because it is so important and also very widely misunderstood.

At the most foundational level, spirituality requires living out of the human spirit, not out of the human soul, although very few understand what that means. Never heard of the human spirit? You are not alone. Most believers, including many pastors and theologians, do not understand the human spirit. And it is not another name for our soul, or a generic reference to our entire immaterial inner human. The human spirit exists alongside the soul as a separate, distinct, and very specific component of our inner self which only believers in Jesus Christ possess, and it makes us capable of interacting with God, since He is Spirit, and the Bible says it takes spirit to interact with Spirit. It is reborn when we are "born again" at salvation, because it died when the original humans sinned, causing them to die spiritually, and also their descendants. Therefore only those humans who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ have a human spirit, which means unbelievers do not have one. And only believers can be spiritual since they have both a soul and human spirit, while unbelievers have only a soul. However, simply having a human spirit as the foundation of our spiritual life does not automatically provide spirituality. Achieving spirituality is the reason we remain on earth after salvation.

But why is there such a lack of understanding regarding spirituality? And how does the human spirit lead us into a state of spirituality? Explaining these issues is the purpose of this book and makes it worth reading since spirituality must be developed, and that requires knowledge of the subject.

The Bible describes spirituality as more than simply having eternal salvation, although that is a necessary first step because salvation provides regeneration or rebirth of the human spirit.

Rather, spirituality is using God's power from inside the human spirit, which must first be filled with spiritual information found only in the Bible if it is to function properly. Therefore the power source of spirituality is the Word of God, but only when it is inside our human spirit, not simply inside our soul as with general information. At this point we can define spirituality as living out of our human spirit using the power of the Word of God to have a right relationship with God. This is counter to living from a soul filled with human learning and backed by the sinful nature in conformity with the thinking and desires of the world. And it is important to note that spirituality is not continuous, because all believers sin and fail. But when we fail we must regain our focus on God and His plan, to live by faith in Him through our human spirit, and make progress toward a closer relationship with God and our Savior. It is also important to understand that our eternal rewards will be based on the level of spirituality we achieve.

There is a big difference between the soul and human spirit, although both are immaterial. All humans are born with a soul, but without a human spirit. That is the primary consequence of the original sin of Adam and Eve, that they lost their human spirits, and also chose the same fate for all their descendants. The human spirit is only regained (regenerated) at salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and this is what being "born again" means. At that moment the human spirit is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, making the person a spiritual being, but without spirituality because the human spirit is imparted as an empty vessel. In order to actually use the human spirit it must be filled up with spiritual information, since a spiritual vessel can only contain and use something which is also spiritual. Just as with a baby at birth who must learn a lot of human information in the soul before it can function as a human ought to function, so also with the spiritual rebirth, the new believer which the Apostle Paul called a "babe in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1) must set out on a long journey to learn vast amounts of Truth from the Word of God to fill up the reborn human spirit with Biblical information, which is the only way to grow spiritually and enable spirituality. Spiritual Truth must have a spiritual residence, and that Truth can only reside in the human spirit where the Holy Spirit also indwells the believer, since Spirit must reside in spirit, and only spirit can commune with Spirit. Spiritual information cannot be housed in the soul, except as memorized information with no power, because the soul is not a spiritual vessel. Therefore living out of the human soul cannot result in spirituality. Only when the human spirit is filled with spiritual Truth can the believer live a spiritual life, because the Word of God becomes the power from God when it resides inside our human spirit. And it is the only power source God accepts as spiritually pleasing to Him. Sadly, most believers are trying to please God from their soul, even though the soul cannot meet that requirement without the backing of a human spirit filled with Truth. [Note that "Truth" is capitalized to denote learned Biblical information as the Word of God transformed by the Holy Spirit into spiritual power inside the human spirit.]

After the human spirit is gained at salvation the basis for being spiritual then exists, but that does not make us spiritual in the sense of a close daily relationship with God. That means we are a spiritual being after the human spirit is regenerated, but without spirituality until we have accumulated spiritual power. The accumulation of spiritual power requires learning the Word of God and then applying it. But if this learning of Truth never happens, the human spirit remains empty or nearly so, and the believer lives a non-spiritual life out of the soul, just like any unbeliever. Such a believer has salvation, and although they are a spiritual being, they do not have spirituality. And striving and straining to be moral using the soul is a life of avoidance, not the positive Christian way of life, and therefore is not spirituality, which is a day-by-day relationship with God which pleases Him, not perfectly, because we are all sinners throughout our lives. So spirituality is only possible if the human spirit, which is gained at salvation, has been filled with Truth from the Word of God to a sufficient degree, and then applied to life. But if we do not put spiritual Truth into our human spirit, then we believers are not capable of living out of our human spirit since it lacks the power source God has provided, therefore it remains an empty and weak vessel. No growth in the Word means no progress toward spirituality and a lack of eternal rewards.

Therefore, spirituality first involves learning the Word of God to put Truth into the human spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit, and then living out of the human spirit to drive the soul to interact with God and the world around us. The Bible says "The Word of God is alive and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12), and we must use that power from God to live a spiritual life. When the human spirit is filled with Truth and then applied to daily life, everything the believer does within the plan of God becomes part of their spirituality, meaning our spirituality is not about doing something specific, or avoidance of certain things, but rather living from the human spirit filled with the power of the Word. This means a person can have high levels of spirituality even when living what appears to be a rather mundane and uneventful life. It is not about specific actions and appearances, but rather it is consistently applying God's power from the human spirit to daily life. Whatever that might be for each individual.

However, most believers are attempting to be spiritual by living a life of negatives, trying to please God by what they avoid doing. Such believers live generally as they had before salvation, with maybe a little more restraint thrown in, trying to be a "good person." But trying to be a good person, or even achieving such as status, is not spirituality. Many unbelievers are relatively good people who are generally moral and law abiding, help others, treat people well, love their families, and so on. But they do not believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior, so they do not have salvation and do not have a human spirit, therefore they



cannot be spiritual in any way. They have no relationship with God at all. Therefore spirituality is not straining from our own human capabilities from the soul to be a good person and live a life relatively free from sin. That is an avoidance approach and self-improvement. Rather, spirituality is using our spiritual side, our human spirit, filled with spiritual Truth from the Word of God as the power source to live a life pleasing to God. That becomes a consistent spiritual relationship or "walk" with Him using divine power from the Word. Although this includes morality and much more, it is motivated by a positive approach which results from living a life out from the human spirit based on the Truth stored in it, which motivates a right relationship with God. Spirituality is not using the soul alone to try to conform to Bible mandates (the "avoidance" approach), but rather using the human spirit filled with Truth to direct the soul to fulfill what God desires of us in a positive spiritual sense. Believers must stop living out of the soul, and instead live out of the human spirit, where the Holy Spirit also resides as our Mentor helping us learn from the Word of God to fill up our human spirit so we can apply the power of God from His Word to our daily life.

Therefore we can only have spirituality from a human spirit filled with Truth, which drives us to live the entire spectrum of what God requires of us, far more than mere morality, avoidance of sin and other negatives. Only our spiritual side can please God. Of course the human spirit must use the soul to communicate to the outside world, but to be spiritual the human spirit must be in control of the entire person, especially the soul. And that is the primary issue: what controls our soul? There are two opposites at war inside every believer -- the human spirit and the sinful nature. One or the other will be in overall control of the soul, because the soul cannot remain in neutral for very long in between the two. But that is precisely what most believers do in their attempt to be spiritual, since their human spirit is empty, or nearly so, therefore they cannot use it properly to achieve spirituality. Without Truth the human spirit has no power, and is as helpless as a baby. Such a believer therefore uses their soul to attempt to resist the sinful nature, which will result in failure since that is using human power, not divine power. God is not impressed with using the soul to merely avoid certain types of sins, or to become a better person. Avoidance and self-improvement are not the significant issues in spirituality, but rather using the human spirit filled with spiritual information which provides divine power for everything we do -- that is spirituality.

The sinful nature drives sin and many other types of wrong thinking and behavior contrary to the will of God. That includes arrogance from morality, which also displeases God. The believer with an empty human spirit will inevitably gravitate to the sinful nature and think mainly like the unbeliever thinks, and therefore will act like an unbeliever acts. The soul is like a moth to the flame, since the sinful nature cannot be resisted for long without significant Truth in the human spirit. It is the human spirit which must resist the sinful nature, but only



when it is sufficiently filled with Truth from the Word of God. The soul alone does not have the power to do so, and what little power it has to resist is only human power, not spiritual power from God. Divine power is the power which impresses God. Without Truth in the human spirit, the believer is a spiritual baby crawling through life without any spiritual power. Therefore the soul resorts to trying to please God by avoidance, trying to be a generally nice person, trying to avoid certain sins or stray thoughts, straining from human power from the soul, but not using God's own power which must be stored in the human spirit. While most believers consider what they do to be the key to their spiritual life, or even how they feel, the Bible says it is what we think which is the primary determiner of spirituality.

Additionally, those who teach that the Holy Spirit "fills" and controls or directly empowers the soul of the believer and enables a spiritual life miss the point entirely. It is not the Holy Spirit who empowers us directly with His own divine power, but rather He mentors us when we study and learn from the Word of God, turning Truth into divine power inside our human spirit. Then we must apply Truth to life from our human spirit. So it is the Holy Spirit who uses the Word of God to build up spiritual strength in our human spirit which gives us the ability to live a life of spirituality, which is an indirect approach used by the Holy Spirit, not a direct empowerment or control over our soul. The human spirit must be continually filled up with the Word so that we can apply the power of Truth to enable our spiritually, and also to keep our sinful nature in check. The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God as we study from a pastor schooled to properly teach it, and fills up our human spirit in a manner whereby that Truth is actually converted into spiritual power. This is a long process requiring much study, as the Holy Spirit mentors us in the Truth so we can then apply that Truth from our human spirit to life, and keep the sinful nature from running the soul as much as possible. Spirituality is a life of positive impact from the human spirit using divine power, not one of avoidance using only the soul and human power.

And spirituality has a destination, called the "rest from God." After a long and overall successful trek toward the goal of nearly continuous spirituality, the believer can finally enter into a status of spiritual rest. This is the final stage of spirituality where the believer enters into a restful stage of the spiritual life, and life becomes much smoother and more restful in a spiritual sense. At that point the believer has "the peace which passes all understanding." (Philippians 4:7) This stage is seen by very few believers, but the eternal rewards for those who achieve it are greatly enhanced.

So if the Reader thinks they already knew all this, those very few are dismissed. Otherwise, the rest of us are going on a fascinating and enlightening journey. There is much more to

understand, and this book will explain concepts related to spirituality which go much deeper and into more detail than Seminaries teach, while providing supporting documentation from the Bible. And it will be done as simply and clearly as possible. We will need to dispel misunderstandings about the subject, while also explaining issues and concepts which are both enlightening and amazing. This is a spiritual journey, if you are willing to come along. Do you want to live a life of spirituality, or do you simply want to strive on your own apart from God's power? And by the way, how has that striving worked out so far? God has a much better way, and He provides all the power we need to achieve spirituality if we will simply accept it.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **THE FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUALITY**

As the overview indicated, most Christians do not understand the basics of spirituality, let alone advanced concepts. Spirituality for Christians ought to be a well understood concept, but the key to our spirituality, the human spirit, is either unknown or vaguely understood by most believers. And if the key component of spirituality is not understood, the entire subject will be unclear. Therefore, this book will explain spirituality in detail, from the basics to advanced concepts, and make clear what it means to be spiritual as a Christian. In doing so it will also challenge some long-held beliefs which are misguided, and the reasons for those misunderstandings may seem astounding, as they go back many centuries and involve early mis-translations in the Bible. But we must start with the fundamentals of the subject of spirituality, then work our way through to more advanced information.

We have defined spirituality as living out of our human spirit using the power of the Word of God to have a right relationship with God. It is the opposite of how most believers live, which is conforming to the thinking and desires of the world from a soul filled with human learning and backed by the sinful nature, which is failure to use the human spirit. It should be alarming to believers that we could have the basis for spirituality and yet ignore it, living a life apart from spirituality just like any unbeliever. But that is exactly what most believers do, living a life from the soul only, striving and straining by their own power, and never pleasing God. The spiritual life of the believer is a war inside our immaterial self, namely, the sinful nature trying to prevent spirituality, while the human spirit tries to enable spirituality. And the human spirit lacks ammunition to fight if it has not been filled with Truth from the Word. This internal war continually pulls believers in two opposite directions. After salvation by faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we believers are required to live in spirituality in order to please God and earn eternal rewards. But it is a process, not something instantaneous, and there are many failures along the way. And we must use God's power, not our own. While salvation is not earned, eternal rewards are indeed earned, but not in the way most believe. Eternal rewards for the believer are earned by living a life of spirituality, which the Bible refers to as producing "gold, silver, and precious stones," which are highly prized and will endure for all eternity. (1 Corinthians 3:12)

The Bible says "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) Here we see the Bible identifies the two components of spirituality as "spirit and truth," which are the human spirit and the Word of God inside our human spirit. Our interaction with God must therefore be a spiritual one, which means we are required to use the spiritual component of our inner human, the human spirit, along with the spiritual power source God has provided, which is Truth from the Word of God, to interact with God and live a spiritual life. [Note that "Truth" is capitalized to denote learned Biblical information as the Word of God transformed by the Holy Spirit into spiritual power inside the human spirit.] Truth provides divine power for believers to live a spiritual post-salvation life based on the power God provides, not from our own power. The more Truth inside the human spirit, the more spirituality will be exhibited in the life. And that is the key to spirituality, using what God has provided, mainly the human spirit and the Word of God, and these two combine as the only means of empowering a life of spirituality which conforms to God's plan. The end result of maximum Truth inside the human spirit is called "wisdom" in the Bible. Wisdom is not from human learning, but rather from learning divine Truth, which becomes spiritual power from God since it is converted by the Holy Spirit into power available for our use inside our human spirit. Recall that the Bible says "the Word of God is alive and powerful," but only inside our human spirit, not as words in book form, and not as memorization in the soul. Remember that the soul is not a spiritual component. Therefore our primary goal in life as a believer must be to live by spiritual Truth from the human spirit, not by human knowledge from the soul. It is critical to understand that God requires us to use His power to live the spiritual life, not our own human power. Even if the results are the same, that which results from Truth inside the human spirit is pleasing to God, and that which results from human power from only the soul is displeasing to Him. Both salvation and spirituality require acceptance of what God has done for us, not trying to do it ourselves using our own human striving.

If we try to use only our soul, which is a non-spiritual component, along with human learning, which has no spiritual power, we cannot worship or please God. That rules out striving and straining to please God merely by avoidance of sin and trying to do good, since those are soul efforts when the human spirit is not involved. God has provided power in the form of the Word of God for us to take into our human spirit, which is the storage location for all spiritual Truth, so that our human spirit can be strengthened with divine power to direct our soul in a spiritual way. So we can see that although the human spirit uses the soul to get to the outside world and to God, the issue is whether the soul is driven by the human spirit filled with Truth, or acts on its own apart from Truth by using soul knowledge. The former has divine power and the latter has only human power. The first has spirituality and the second does not, regardless of the outcome.

Sadly, most believers neglect to take hold of the power God has provided for us, and will live generally like unbelievers using only the soul, which is a life without spiritual impact. While a moral life as a decent person may sound like it would please God, our eternal rewards are based on something far beyond that. Even an unbeliever is capable of morality by avoidance of certain types of sins, performing good deeds, and acting as a good and decent person, but they have no spirituality. Understand that this is not promoting immorality, since that is clearly the wrong approach. The point is that although all believers will end up living with God forever, most will have very few or no rewards because they failed to live a life of spirituality, even though many were very good and moral people. But most believers live such a life fully expecting to be highly praised, blessed, and rewarded by God, so there will be considerable shock when rewards are handed out. After salvation such believers neglect their human spirit by never learning the Word, so their human spirit remains empty, powerless and ineffective. Instead they live a life based on striving and straining from the soul alone and never achieve even a basic level of spirituality. And that will make a huge difference in eternal happiness, as well as how much we glorify our Savior during both our time on earth and eternity. To further emphasize the rewards issue, there will be significant differences in levels of happiness and status in eternity. While salvation is the most important issue in the life of any person, after a person is saved, spirituality becomes primary. And it is not just about our eternal happiness, but also about pleasing God and glorifying our Savior.

Unfortunately, there are some long-held misunderstandings regarding spirituality which remain embedded in Christian teachings. As a result, far too many believers fall short in their spiritual lives. This book aims to clarify what the Bible says about spirituality and will attempt to make the issues clear and understandable. But it will take some patience and also willingness to re-examine long-held but incorrect notions regarding spirituality in order to understand these issues as the Bible intended. Having discussed the foundations of spirituality, let us now begin to dive deeper into the issues regarding spirituality, because we are not born into it, nor are we "born again" into it, but rather we must seek to attain it. And God has provided all we need, if we will only accept and use His provisions.

Spirituality is something like walking a narrow path between two opposites, which are carnality and legalism. Both outcomes are displeasing to God. On one side of the narrow path there is a life of carnal sin, and on the other side there is a life of self-righteousness, which is also sin. They are simply two different forms of living without spirituality. God only accepts the narrow path as pleasing to Him, because a life of spirituality is living by His power trusting in His plan and accepting His way as the right way. Of course, none of us are perfect, and all get off the path at times. When we deviate from the path, it is not so relevant which side of the path we fall into, because God finds both repugnant, and rejects both equally. But

God never closes off the path. He is always ready to welcome us back onto it. That is the message of the Prodigal Son parable, showing us that He is eager to help us along the way, and to get us back on track any time we are ready to stop living from our soul alone, and seek to take His power into our human spirit and live by it. And as the Prodigal Son said to himself: "What was I thinking?" Exactly right. Been there, done that. Every one of us. God simply wants us to get back on the path and keep moving.

Even though we have already begun discussing the human spirit, we must now look at it in more detail to understand what it is, how it functions, where it is located, and why we need one to be spiritual. And we must also differentiate between our two immaterial components, soul and human spirit. The information in this next chapter is understood by very few, but is critically important for achieving spirituality.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE HUMAN SPIRIT

The human spirit is probably the least understood component of the inner human, even though the Bible reveals many fascinating things about it. We will now discuss what it is, what it does, and why we need one. The short version is that humans cannot interact with God in any way unless they have a human spirit, since it makes us spiritually alive. Humans are born without a human spirit, so all are born spiritually dead. It is only by salvation that we gain a human spirit, therefore believers have two parts to their immaterial being, both a soul and human spirit, which are separate but connected. And unbelievers have only a soul, and cannot be spiritual or interact with God.

Christians generally understand that humans have a soul, but the human spirit is misunderstood or unknown. The human spirit and soul are differentiated as two separate parts of the inner human in both the Old Testament and New Testament since there are different words for each in both original languages of the Bible (Old Testament Hebrew: nephesh (soul) and ruach (spirit); New Testament Greek: psuche (soul) and pneuma (spirit)). God created the original man and woman with both a soul and human spirit, but their human spirits were lost when they rejected God by sinning. The soul interacts with God's creation, while the human spirit interacts with God, and without a human spirit there can be no interaction with God because the soul is not a spiritual entity. Note that being "immaterial" is not the same as being "spiritual," since one is physics and the other is about relating to God.

The human race is divided into two overall categories in the spiritual sense: those who have a human spirit and those who do not. The difference is salvation, since believers are given a human spirit at the moment they are saved by faith in Christ as Savior, then they have both a soul and human spirit forever. Receiving a human spirit at salvation is called regeneration, also referred to as being "born again," since it is the human spirit which is reborn at salvation, making us a spiritual being. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." It is the human spirit which transforms us as believers into a new creation, because it makes us into a spiritual being, and then we belong to God and can interact with Him. The human spirit is the center



of our spiritual life, and enables us to have spirituality. Since unbelievers have only a soul but no human spirit, they cannot be spiritual in any way, and cannot interact with God. This single issue of the human spirit divides the human race into those who are spiritually alive, and those who are spiritually dead. Unless an unbeliever is saved before they die, they will be spiritually dead forever.

There is an important difference between the human soul and the human spirit, which are separate and distinct immaterial entities. The Bible makes it clear there is a difference between the soul and human spirit. Hebrews 4:12 says: "For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says: "May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 8:16 says: "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." 1 Corinthians 2:14 says: "The person without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God." And Isaiah 26:9 tells us "My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you." The soul and spirit are therefore separate and distinct immaterial entities with different functions and purposes. The human spirit is not the same as the Holy Spirit indwelling and mentoring the believer, but rather it is a second portion of the immaterial life of the believer, and although it is interconnected with the soul it is entirely separate.

Therefore, the soul is primarily the humanity part of a person which enables interaction with God's creation while the human spirit is the spiritual part of a believer which enables interaction with God. "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) Therefore the human spirit is the center of our spiritual life, the part of us which makes interaction with God possible. Everything which is thought or done from the human spirit is spirituality, because it is a spiritual entity, and therefore cannot do any wrong. As Galatians 5:16 says " So I say, walk by the spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." The human spirit is the only perfect part of us, which is why it is the only source for our spirituality. Spiritual Truth from the Bible as the Word of God is stored in the human spirit, not in the soul, and it is the Holy Spirit working within the human spirit which turns Bible information into a spiritual form of knowledge and power. Growing in God's Word is not like other learning which results in knowledge of the universe, because Bible information is literally "alive and powerful" as Hebrews 4:12 says. Unlike learning math or physics or a hobby, the Word has spiritual power in and of itself, which can only be unlocked and harnessed by the Holy Spirit so that it can reside in the human spirit, where the Holy Spirit indwells. 1 Corinthians 8:1 says "We know that we all possess knowledge. But knowledge puffs up while love builds up." As used here, love is a specific reference to maximum Truth in

our human spirit, and is used to define the peak of spiritual attainment as we grow to truly love God and our Savior. Therefore it is learning the Word and growing by it which gives us power from God to live a life focused on God's plan for us. Growing spiritually allows us to have greater and greater fellowship with God, and to actually love Him on the basis of knowing Him. Only spirit can interact with Spirit, so it is our human spirit which interacts with God. However, the human spirit must use the soul to reach God, so these two parts of the inner human are required to act in unison. This is why the human spirit must control the soul, rather than the soul being controlled by the sinful nature. We must pray and worship and apply spiritual truths out from our human spirit, which in turn uses the heart of the soul to reach God. And the Holy Spirit indwells our human spirit, not our soul, so when a believer is living the spiritual life that person is living out of their human spirit, the location of both the Holy Spirit and spiritual Truth from the Word. The human spirit filled with Truth must therefore direct the soul, so that we do not live from the soul alone as unbelievers live.

Although the human spirit makes a person a spiritual being, simply having one does not provide spirituality, which is about our day-to-day interaction (or lack of it) with God. That interaction requires filling the regenerated human spirit with Truth from the Word of God, which is a long process of spiritual growth and increased levels of spirituality. So the task outlined for each believer after receipt of a human spirit is to achieve spirituality, where we can live under an optimal, although always imperfect, level of consistent interaction with God from our human spirit. And the goal becomes to achieve spiritual maturity, although that will take years of learning and applying the Word. Therefore we see that spirituality is not a singular level, but rather the believer who has very little Truth in their human spirit can only achieve a minimal level of spirituality, while higher levels of spirituality can be achieved with higher levels of Truth inside the human spirit. Of course, the believer must also make consistent decisions to live by Truth out from the human spirit.

A human spirit must be gained by salvation, or we could say it is "regained," since Adam and Eve chose for all of us when they lost the human spirit through sin. That is what regeneration means, because the human spirit was lost through the original sin by Adam and Eve, and is only regenerated or restored at salvation in their descendants. John 3:3 says: "Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'" Being "born again" is the rebirth or regeneration of the human spirit at the moment of salvation. This is why salvation must be a gift from God, not something to be earned over time, since no unbeliever can please God in any way or earn anything because they lack a human spirit. No human is a spiritual being until they are first saved and regenerated, and the human spirit is given all at once, not gradually over time. Only God can make humans into spiritual beings at the point of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, not as a result of anything the person does to try to

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

