

# BECOMING THE CHURCH

## “The Natural Vs. Spiritual Man”

(1 Corinthians 2:10-16, 3:1-9)

**Unseen realm:** (what’s happening in the body; Have you ever seen your own liver? How do you know you have one? **Microscopic life:** (amoeba, protozoa, fungi, algae, bacteria, and viruses) – all living, growing, & INVISIBLE - Same as the wind, you cannot see the wind, BUT REAL = only see effects on everything on which it blows.

\*Spiritual Realm (the immaterial). = **VERY real**, though invisible.

-The world around us (scientists, rationalists, atheists) refuse to believe the spiritual exists b/c can’t see it =WE are comprised of Body, Soul=[Mind/heart, Emotion, Will] & Spirit. (the **Material** and **Immaterial**) =both are very real! 1 Thes. 5:23 “May your Spirit, and soul, and body be made complete & without blame at His com

1. Everyone on earth has a soul (= Center of our being, self-aware, & the ability to know and commune with God)
2. Everyone on earth has a conscience (the moral ability to distinguish between right/wrong – good/bad) = what separates us from animals. = Pinnacle of God’s creation.  
\*Because ALL humanity have a soul/conscience = they are equipped to Know GOD exists (Romans 1:18-30) = (**The prayer that God hears from anyone is Save me, rescue me!!**)
3. ONLY Christians have God’s Spirit (the Holy Spirit) living within them -when we are converted from death to life  
1 Cor. 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is a <sup>temple</sup> of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from <sup>God</sup>, and *that you are not your own*?”
4. ONLY Christians have God’s wisdom, spiritual gifts, and spiritual discernment =(What is True, Eternal, Godly)

**READ 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 and 3:1-9** “<sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. <sup>13</sup> We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, <sup>combining</sup> spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. <sup>14</sup> But a natural person [an unspiritual person] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one. <sup>16</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**God’s great gift to us is that we have His Spirit living within us: The very presence of God living within us.**

**\*But now, notice the Rebuke from Paul to the Christians at Corinth:**

**3:1** And I, brothers *and sisters*, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but *only* as fleshly, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to consume it*. But even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup> for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like *ordinary* people? <sup>4</sup> For when one person says, “I am with Paul,” and another, “I am with Apollos,” are you not *ordinary* people? <sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. <sup>7</sup> So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.<sup>8</sup> Now the one who plants and the one who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

**God’s great gift to us is that we have His Spirit living within us: The very presence of God living within us.**

**And as Believers, we can easily go back to our Fleshly, carnal-minded lives – rebelling against God’s Spirit**

As a person, He can be resisted (Acts 7:51), quenched (1 Thess. 5:19), and grieved (Eph. 4:30).

BUT... God has given us the GIFT of His Spirit that we would be led, ruled by, and saturated with His love, Truth, and mercy:

**Notice the very Titles given to the Holy Spirit:**

- The Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17)
  - The Spirit of life (Romans 8:2)
  - The Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29)
  - The Spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10)
  - The Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 15:26)
  - The Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4)
  - The Spirit of justice or judgment (Isaiah 28:6)
  - The Spirit of fire or burning (Isaiah 4:4)
  - The Spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- = Since we have the Spirit of God, we have access to The Spirit of wisdom, discernment, & Truth.

**A. Because God has gifted us with His Spirit, we can Know God through REVELATION (to show what is hidden)**

- Revelation is God's gracious self-disclosure of His Own nature, Purpose, His Heart for us:
- God reveals Himself through Scripture & the Holy Spirit is the Divine Author of Scripture (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

**VS. 10:** For to us God revealed *them* (this wisdom) through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among people knows the *thoughts* of a person except the spirit (the mind) of the person that is in him? = our innermost thoughts (they are real, just not said out loud). = Talking to yourself

\*Married Couple – knows each other better than anyone, BUT still can't read each others' minds/thoughts  
- We have to **ASK** ... "penny for your thoughts" .... *What are you thinking about? What did you mean by...?*

Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts"

So also the *thoughts* of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God (the Mind of God), but the Spirit of God shares the thoughts of God with us ... self-revelation through God's Word. **Spirit is the Author & revealer of God's nature:**

2 Peter 1:20-21 "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture <sup>(a)</sup> becomes a matter of <sup>(a)</sup> someone's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

In Scripture, God is sharing Himself with us, His Nature, His purpose, His Heart, **His very thoughts**

Psalms 139:17-18 "How precious also are Your thoughts for me, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sand." = AMAZING...we can know the heart of God & learn to love it

**B. Because God has gifted us with His Spirit, we can Know God better through ILLUMINATION (to lighten)**

The Spirit works in US as Believers to give us Revelation (God's self-disclosure) And Illumination:

-Illumination is the Spirit's work to declare to us what is TRUE, what is ETERNAL, what is Life-Changing.

**VS. 12:** Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God. = God grants us the ability to know God & His Word **if** we will RECEIVE it. **U?**

Ps. 119:18 "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your Law., your Word."

Luke 24:44-45 "Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their <sup>(a)</sup> minds to understand the Scriptures." – Pray that today. God open my

This Holy Spirit in us illuminates, enlightens our minds to know and love His Truth: to know **What is TRUE!**

1 John 2:27 "And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him remains in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, **and is true** and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, <sup>(a)</sup> you remain in Him."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

This Holy Spirit in us illuminates, enlightens our minds to know and love **What is Eternal!** 1 Pt. 1:24-25 "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory is like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off,<sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was <sup>(a)</sup> preached to you."

As Believers, God has granted us the ability and privilege to know God (how to grow in relationship with Him) – Through the WORD of GOD, through the help and ILLUMINATION of the SPIRIT. = **how to love God & how to PLEASE God:** 1 Thess. 4:1-3 “Finally then, brothers *and sisters*, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received *instruction* from us as to how you ought to walk and **please God** (just as you actually do walk), that you excel *even more*. For you know what instructions we gave you by *the authority of the Lord Jesus*. For this is the will of **God**, your sanctification.” – Our spiritual growth is what PLEASES GOD. HOW?

I John 3:22 “And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments [His Word] and do what pleases him.

Heb. 11:6 “It is impossible to please God without Faith”

Romans 8:8 “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God”

Hebrews 13:16 “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Phil. 2:13 “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

=God works in us, through His Spirit, to lead us into Truth, & into what pleases HIM (spiritual growth)

**VS. 13:** We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining [interpreting, explaining, comparing] spiritual thoughts with spiritual words [to the spiritual]. (revelation, then Illumination) ... then

**C. Because God has gifted us with His Spirit, we can Know God better through INSPIRATION (to breathe into)**

-Inspiration is how the Holy Spirit encourages us to know that we can be a part of God’s purpose and pursue meaning on this earth as we Glorify God and allow His power to work through us to accomplish His Will in others’ lives (gospel). **VS. 14:** But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. **Dog/Algebra**

-Natural Person (Unsaved) = divine Truth is Hidden from them. (Mt. 11:25, 13:10-13) “You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to babes.” = *Foolishness to the world*; Paul = “I rec. mercy bc acted ignorantly in unbelief” (1 Tim. 1:12-13)

<sup>15</sup> But the one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is discerned by no one. <sup>16</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him/God? **But we have the mind of Christ.** = Jesus knows God’s thoughts. He shares them w/us. We live em out and have such blessing to be IN Christ, In UNION w/ Christ.

**APPLICATION: 3:1** And I, brothers *and sisters*, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but *only* as fleshly, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to *consume it*. But even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup> for you are still fleshly. – **This is a rebuke** (that the church has chosen laziness, selfishness, comfort, and division VS. a desire to grow spiritually, to crave sp. Meat, to grow in God’s Word, to be selfless, servants, unified.) = **what will be said of our church?** What will be said of YOU?

**“But we have been given the mind of Christ.”**

**Think about what we as Christians HAVE, that the lost world does NOT have:**

- Eternal Salvation and a Relationship with the living God, a Covenant God, the sovereign God of the Universe.
- How to Know Truth & live in God’s wisdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and God’s Word
- How to Have lasting Joy & Peace even in the most dire of circumstances, b/c God never abandons us, nor fails us
- How to live in purpose/meaning on this earth, loving those around with God’s love, selflessly serving, giving life
- How to share the gospel and give the message of life and hope to the hurting, the lost, the spiritually dead.

= HOW BLESSED ARE WE!!!!!!!

The world does not have any of this. Those who are Natural, (unspiritual), unsaved, fleshly =NO joy, no peace

So why are we so grumpy? Why do we complain so often? Why are we so easily discontent?

Why are we not spiritual? Spirit-filled? Growing in our faith with the Lord (and not stagnant, not “babies”)??

- Are you committed to pursuing the Holy Spirit daily to fill you, to empower you, to enlighten your mind?
- Are you committed to your spiritual growth – to being discipled. (who is discipling YOU?) Ready?
- Are you committed to praying for opportunities to love, serve, and share the gospel with the lost?