



# **MOVING FROM CARNALITY TO SPIRITUALITY!**

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*The House of Healing – DMV, Inc.*  
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# OPENING THOUGHT

**WE CANNOT BECOME WHAT WE NEED TO BE  
BY REMAINING WHAT WE ARE!**

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# Introduction

Key Verses: Romans 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.*

There is a clarion call in the earth to both converts and believers to know the righteousness of God and to live righteously by faith. To capture such righteousness requires a total dependency on the Lord and not on fleshly appetites or carnal desires.

**Objective of today's lesson:**

**to move from carnality to spirituality as the driving force of our lives.**

# JUSTIFICATION: The Beginning Stage

Beginning of our spiritual journey; adopted into son-ship/relationship with God. (Romans 8:15-16)

New life in Christ (spirituality) becomes oppose to your old way of living (carnality/fleshly). At the moment of salvation, we are free from the dependence of the flesh and have entered a new life in Christ. (II Corinthians 5:17)

We then live our lives in faith in God (Galatians 2:20).

Justification does not mean that our lives are whole or complete, but it now means we enter into a process of spiritual maturity or sanctification to become more like Christ.

In other words, justification says we are saved, but sanctification says I'm aware of the urges of the flesh or lures of the world that want to distract me from living righteously.

# SANCTIFICATION: A Progressive Work

- Builds on the knowledge of justification which then says we have to “draw closer to the Lord” (James 6-8).
- Sanctification is solidly based upon justification
- Sanctified means to be set apart; move on a journey of looking like God.
- Justification is an act of grace/mercy, but sanctification is participatory act by which partnership with the Holy Spirit is crucial.
- The rudiments of (first principles; basics) the gospel are crucial in the act of Sanctification.

***Prayer***

***Fasting***

***Word Consumption***

***Worship/Praise***

***Servitude***

***Church attendance/participation***

# SANCTIFICATION II

Understanding justification and sanctification, we can now greater appreciate our struggle between carnality and spirituality. While we may have justification in Christ, we can still be very much 'mere infants in Christ' (carnal); spiritually immature (1 Corinthians 3:1-5).

The source of such carnal living is dependency on self, which results in our sinful nature directing our lives. We are enslaved still to sin (Romans 7:14). We need to focus our eyes on Jesus, and live as Christ wishes us to in sanctification, yielding and having our lives directed by the Holy Spirit.

In walking in the Spirit, we can overcome our old life, as we "will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16). Sanctification is a progressive and continuous process in which we need to aggressively pursue in our spiritual journey with the Lord.

# CARNALITY VS SPIRITUALITY

## *Romans 8:6-10*

<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

<sup>8</sup> So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his

<sup>10</sup> And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness

# DEFINITIONS

## Carnality/carnally minded

- when we behave according to our sinful/fleshly nature
- being saved, but living your life like you're not saved

(I Cor. 3:3; Eph 2:2-3; Titus 3:3)

## Spirituality/spiritually minded

- to be spiritually minded and aligned to a Christ like nature
- when we exercise total dependence upon the Lord in each area of our lives; governed by the spirit of God (Romans 8:1-17).

# FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT

## Romans 8:1-17

As a believer because you are still developing spiritually you might have a moment of carnality; It's not that you don't make mistakes after you get saved the desire to change and repentance is the difference from your carnality when you weren't saved (See Romans 7)

Verses 1-4: We are to follow the dictates of the Spirit, NOT the flesh (*AMP-Our lives governed not by the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit*)

Verse 5: What you do with your mind has everything to do with who you follow and how you live. A huge part of maturity has to do with controlling your thought life.

Verses 6-7: The flesh profits nothing (John 6:63); You're not going to live a good life and be against God.

Verse 8: You can't please God and live in the flesh; (*AMP-Catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature*)

Verses 12-13: You owe the flesh nothing and you have to mortify (render extinct) the deeds of the body –  
Flesh, I owe you nothing and you're dead

Verses 17-18: You can't suffer with Him in regards to bearing sin and the curse, but you can suffer with Him in regards to saying NO to the flesh

# FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT II

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 - A big part of spiritual maturity is knowing how to possess your vessel; failure to possess your temple means you'll be overtaken by your vessel**

A. I Peter 2:11-12 - Fleshly lusts wars against your soul

B. Proverbs 25:28 and Proverbs 16:32 - We are to rule over our spirit (emotions, thoughts desires, will) not be ruled by it

C. To rule over the flesh you must understand the make-up of man (I am a Spirit-being, I have a soul, I live in a body)

D. Inside your tri-part being there is spiritual hierarchy (pecking order, chain of command) - See II Corinthians 10:5 and I Corinthians 9:27 - Your spirit reign over the mind and body

E. You rule over your body and soul with the words of your spirit (Romans 8:5, James 3:2, Psalm 103)

# FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT (Practically & w/Participation)

- **Lay, build and sustain a proper foundation.**
  - Resist the urge to desire strong meat until you've mastered consistency and steady practice in the basics. It takes time to move from carnality to spiritual. *Hebrews 5:12-14 (ESV) - 12 By now you should be teachers. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the first things you need to know from God's Word. You still need milk instead of solid food. 13 Anyone who lives on milk cannot understand the teaching about being right with God. He is a baby. 14 Solid food is for full-grown men. They have learned to use their minds to tell the difference between good and bad. Learn to be in touch with yourself*
- **People who are self-aware are able to transition more readily into the things of the spirit**
  - If you are not in touch with yourself it becomes difficult for you to connect spiritually because nobody is feeding you through the avenues that you are accustomed to being fed
- **Be honest with where you are and where you need to grow**
  - Remember, what you feed will grow. Some of you are bombarding your senses everyday with information and tools that fails to edify your spirit. While others are great at feeding other aspects of themselves or areas of interests, but neglect their spirit.
- **Select wisely. The enemy is always trying to influence our choices** (Remember, Eve in the garden). Manage your thoughts, words and deeds!
- **Accountability of action**
- **The key from moving from carnality to spirituality in God is this: HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU REALLY IN GOD???**

# Carnal Being vs Spiritual Being I

While we may be believers, if we are still living our old life of carnality, our minds are natural and corrupt. However, the mind of the spiritual believer is renewed and receives revelation.

During Jesus' healing ministry of the blind, the people who were being healed were often asked to enact their faith, showing that the mind was indeed "governed by the Spirit" and could be filled with "life and peace" (Romans 8:5-11).

The more we pursue sanctification, the more we move away from the carnality of natural and corrupt emotion to that of Spirit-led emotion, exhibiting such fruit more and more.

The will of the carnal believer is also vastly different from that of the spiritual believer. The former has a will which is neutral and unenlightened, whereas the will of the spiritual believer is aligned with the Father. (Colossians 1:9-11)

# Carnal Being vs Spiritual Being II

The believer is a 3-part being: Spirit, Soul, and Body, each interlinked. The relationship between the three is wholesome and Spirit-directed for the spiritual believer. The Spirit is the directing force and aligned to the Lord; thus, enabling discernment and perception of His Will in our lives. From there, our soul feeds off the Spirit, which being nourished in alignment with the Lord, gives us renewed minds, emotions, and wills.

Our body can then exist in this world in a way that pleases the Lord because it comes under divine alignment to the spirit; hence, it enables us to be light to the community, having healthy relationships, etc.

For the carnal believer, the life is body or sense directed. Bodily senses affect the mind, emotion, and will. Having a life led in a natural and worldly nature, a disconnection then exists between the body or sense directed believer and the Lord, hence leaving the carnal believer bereft of a Spirit-filled and sanctified life.

# Benefits of Spirituality

- Holiness AND WHOLESOMENESS!
- Intimacy with God
- Increased warnings of satanic visits
- Full recipient of the blessings of God
- Increased vision/hearing/speech
- Eternal life

# CLOSING THOUGHT

- **Ask God for a revelation regarding our own flesh and carnality, and then to develop faith to live out righteousness in spirituality.** What He reveals means He's no longer willing to conceal. He's ready to deal with that area.
- **Most people are committed to church culture rather than change in God!**
- **Empty yourself in His presence.** Some people spend so much time cluttering their lives with so much that they are not happy with life. This isn't because of the spouse or because of the job or because of age or because of marital status or because of this or that. Some are so cluttered that vision isn't clear and their spirit is weak, dry or below God's best for them. Decluttering your heart and mind in the presence of God is essential. We must learn to consistently and repetitively dump clutter there and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps, you have no one to talk to – no one to share it with – no one to open up to – because God wants it! We constantly try to use people, places and things to fill spots in us that should be dominated by God. **When spirit driven and filled, the Lord will help you accept any status of life!**