

# The spirit of a man

ODCC – 16/01/10 (.doc)

**Text:** John 3:1-15

## Introduction

1. I want over the next couple of weeks on Spiritual nourishment from Jesus' teaching about Himself..
  - a. However as I began to prepare the fist of two messages I felt in necessary to lay a foundation and so today I want to give my introduction by explaining man's makeup (man here refers to mankind, both male and female).
  - b. The most important thing I want to emphasise is that man is a spiritual being and his spirit is the most important part of him.
  - c. It is this part of a man that God was talking about when He said, let us make man in our image. It is by his spirit that a man relates to and communicates with God (and vice versa).
  - c. We will see that because of sin our spirit is "dead" and so instead of living for God, we naturally live for the body.

## Man's makeup

1. Man is made up of more than what you can see. He has a body – that which we can see and touch.
  - a. The body is living – it is incredibly complex and wonderfully made [*I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.* (Psm 139:14). Everyone of us has a unique body. Your fingerprints, your eye, face, voice, DNA, etc.
  - b. But man also comprises two other parts – the soul and the spirit. These parts cannot be seen or detected. Sceptics, for example, question the existence of a soul and say that that a body has life and the higher forms of life have consciousness – humans have the highest developed consciousness of all animals.
  - c. The Bible teaches us that man has a soul and a spirit (although some theologians have different opinions and since we're not experts I am giving you what is most commonly believe and taught).
2. Your soul is the real you – and it is through the body that the soul interacts with the world around it and communicates with other beings. So just as the world is a perfect environment for man, so the body is a perfect environment for the soul.
  - a. The spirit is that part of a man that is made in the likeness of God. In Genesis God said, "*Let us make man in our image*" (1:21).
  - b. That which is made in God's image is the spirit of a man. That which gives man a similarity or likeness is the fact that he has a spirit.
  - c. We often hear people talk of the "human spirit" but in reality, the human spirit has a touch of the divine.
3. Don't take that too far because you'll end up in the Hindu belief of pantheism.
  - a. Every human body receives something from its parents – the genes, for example.
  - b. I have my father's genes but I am not my father. But DNA testing can prove that I am my father's son.
  - c. The spirit that every human has is his own spirit but he got that spirit from his Father. And God is Spirit therefore it is uniquely of God.
  - d. Animals do not have a spirit.
  - d. It is by my spirit that that I effectively communicate and relate to God.

## Man's dead spirit

1. The trouble is that every human being is born with a dead or inactive spirit. And we inherited this condition from Adam because when Adam sinned he died spiritually.
  - a. Before they sinned Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God.
  - b. But God warned them that if they did sin that that relationship would be destroyed. There was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden and God said "*Do not eat the fruit from that tree for the day you eat of it you shall die*" (Gen 2:16-17).
  - c. You know the story how they ate of it but they did not drop down dead physically but spiritually something terrible happened.
2. Their children no longer had a natural inclination to fellowship with God or to please Him. Their desire was no longer for God but for self.
  - a. When God created man, his spirit was his crowning glory. "*Let us make man in our image.*" Let us make man for fellowship.
  - b. Let us make man to mirror our glory.
  - c. Let us make man to reflect our goodness, our character.
  - d. Let us make man to fulfil a God-given destiny in this world.

3. Now, without the influence of the spirit which received its influence from God, man now makes his body king and instead of serving God he now serves his fleshly appetite.
  - a. Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 15:48 says, “*As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*”
  - b. One word now describes man – LOST! The question he has been asking for thousands of years is, “What is life all about and why am I here?”

### Man’s spirit made alive

1. I said that a person’s spirit is dead and that’s the way the Bible describes it. But it is dead in the sense of an egg.
  - a. An egg cannot develop into a living being unless it comes into contact with a seed.
  - b. That’s the law of biology!
  - c. When a man and woman come together and communicate with one another – the English word is *intercourse* – a seed passes from the man and unites with the woman’s egg and results in life.
  - d. The same law of biology applies to the spiritual – there has to be a coming together for spiritual life to be imparted.
2. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*”
  - a. The “Spirit” here meaning the Spirit of God who gives spiritual life by quickening our spirit.
  - b. Jesus said in John 6:63, “The Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing”; in the KJV the word used is “quickens”.
  - c. And in 1 John 3:9, the apostle says, “*No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him.*”
  - d. That word for seed is sperm but of course, it is that spiritual infusion of spiritual life from God into our spirit.
3. The person who lives with a dead spirit is living a life of the flesh. Because it falls far short of the life God intended a person to live.
  - a. A person living the life of the flesh will never discover the meaning of life.
  - b. A person living the life of the flesh will only have in mind **three score years and ten** and nothing beyond that.
  - c. A person living the life of the flesh is dead to God, the creator and sustainer of the universe, the Alpha & Omega.
  - d. A person living the life of the flesh has no sense of value – the temporary things of this world thrill them but the eternal things are completely hidden.

### Conclusion

1. Just as the physical life formed in the mother’s womb is a reality, so the life formed when the Spirit of God imparts life to our spirit is as much a reality.
  - a. Next week I want to talk more on this subject but let me encourage you to consider your own condition – has your spirit been quickened by the Spirit of God?
  - b. If this has made sense to you and God has spoken to you today why not call on the Lord today and ask Him to come into your life.