

Son of My Wisdom



The Ethos of Man

When we handled the topic of the *Ethos* of God we looked at how the name of God is discovered for us in scripture, that is, how the Character and Authority (or purity and power) of God is revealed. Please remember, as you read on that when relating the *ethos* of man, “character and authority” will be interchanged with “purity and power.”

We shall now see what the scripture has to say about the authority and character of man. What better point is there to start at than: *In the beginning... God said let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over...all the earth.*

(Genesis 1:1, 26) This is the genesis of the authority and the character of man. He was created in the image and likeness of God, and we shall consider this in light of man’s *ethos*. That is, he was created to be like God (in character) and to be seen like God (in authority), among other things. I make no mistake here; I am not saying that man’s authority is identical to God’s. For, God’s authority is intrinsic. Man’s authority is derived; man’s authority is imputed. But the goal of man’s derived authority (dominion) is to be a vessel for the authority of God (sovereignty), so that by man’s dominion the sovereignty of God might be manifest to all. By way of illustration: think of man like a car. The reason you want to watch out for car crashes is not for the car’s sake at all, rather for the sake of the people in the car. So then, your watchfulness and caution around other cars in traffic is because of the people in those cars and in yours. The agility and functionality of the car is simply a vessel for the will of man. Likewise, the dominion of man is simply a vessel for the will of God.

The scripture is clear that part of man being made like God is seen in man’s authority, for: *Therewith we bless God, even the Father, and therewith we curse men, which are made after the similitude of*



Boot Camp

Public Enemy #1 - *The Flesh*



Part 5 – The Human Spirit in Relationship with the Spirit of God

As we wrap up the balance of this series, the Lord will educate us on the following:

- ❖ We will receive illumination on the *human spirit* and its relation to the *Spirit of God*
- ❖ We will expose the relationship between the *human spirit*, the *soul* and the *flesh*
- ❖ The Lord will teach us how He intends for the *human spirit* to mentor and lead the *soul* (you will NOT want to miss this topic)

Last month we explored the difference between the *soul* and the *flesh*. We saw the importance of not confusing the entities of the *soul* and the *flesh*. This month, we will unfold the relationship between the *human spirit* and the *Spirit of God*.

Before we meddle with the relationship between these two entities, let’s somewhat differentiate a few of the characteristics of their identities. A couple of points stand right out to us.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Spirit of God is a Person.

He is (what we call) the third Person of the Godhead. There really is no such thing as a “third person” of the Godhead. They are all One and all Equal. Because our understanding lacks the quality of “infinite-ness” it is difficult for us to comprehend (or to speak of) the unilateral equality of “Adonai Ekhad.”

The use of the term “third Person” seems to be acceptable to God, where appropriate reverence is retained; and so we proceed in that vein. On a human level, the term “third Person” also helps us to communicate succinctly.

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Precepts in Practice



All of the Above

Test-taking is a nerve-racking exercise. I remember when I was in grade school, high school, and college. I usually did fairly well on my weekly assignments. I was an “A” student in most subjects (except math and physical education). Still, when it was time to take a test, I would get so nervous.

When I would read the test questions, I learned that it wasn’t always enough to rely on the fact that I knew what the real answer was. What mattered equally as much was whether or not I would select the right option, write my response the way the instructor expected it, or adhere to some other technical requirement.

Personally, I think schools should teach classes just on “how to take and pass any test.” I remember having to answer the famous “multiple choice” questions. This type of question is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, I thought I would be safe because at least I would see the real answer mingled in the bunch. If I could just “see” the answer, I was sure I could choose correctly. Needless to say, this philosophy failed me many times.

One of the major problems with the multiple choice question is that the options presented are often so close. It could be “A” or it could be “C.” It could be “B,” oh but wait, “D” also looks promising. Then, to mix it up further, they sometimes added “All of the above” as an option. This, too, proved to be a hoax. Sometimes in life, I’ve felt like I was taking a test and I was facing “multiple choice” questions.

Here are a couple of real examples:

Question #1: “What should I do to become an independent counselor, now that I have my master’s degree in social work?”

- The obvious options included:

- A: Start my own counseling agency
- B: Research whether or not I should first get a PHD in psychology
- C: Find out what licensure options or requirements exist
- D: All of the above

Question #2: “How should I move forward with my career in general?” - The obvious options Included:

- A: Grow your small businesses
- B: Put your energy into the nonprofit agency
- C: Teach college courses part-time
- D: Do family mediation
- E: All of the above

What I remember about multiple choice questions on tests are that if they are not similar, it is easier for me to choose the correct one. However, if all of the choices *sound* right, I am clueless to pick the right answer. This is where I was in my personal life.

Love and *The Truth*



The Secret Life of a Christian IV

We have seen that the *life of a Christian* is indeed secret, that the *principle* and *way* of the Christian life are secret. We have seen also that the *hopes* of the Christian life are secret. The key to the Sermon on the Mount, and indeed Jesus’ whole ministry, is the Kingdom of God. In fact Jesus’ whole message is at times summed up as “repentance and the Kingdom.” I see, therefore, verse 33 of Matt chapter 6 as being CRITICAL to the whole understanding of this chapter and Jesus’ parables and teachings generally. Please understand that although Jesus is very much talking about the Kingdom as manifest in this world; He is nevertheless talking about the Kingdom as it relates to “the world to come” just as much.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

What things? Matthew 6:25 tells us: Life, Eat/Drink, Body, and Raiment. Here the secret is further explained. This life not only *comes from* a secret place and *is carried on* in secret; it is *going to* a secret place. One clue in Matthew 6 is the word ‘shall.’ Again, I agree with those who see the manifestation of these promises as occurring in this world. However, I will say that the fullness of these promises stands far beyond what this world can manifest. This word ‘shall’ points us to some elements that though they be glimpsed here, are only FULLY manifest when the Kingdom is fully manifest.

For concerning Life, scripture says *keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.* (Proverbs 4:23) We learned earlier in this series that as our treasures are, so is our heart. Out of the treasures of the heart, issue the life. A main reason that the LORD is focused on us being conformed into the character of Christ is because out of that constitution of the heart issues a certain type of Kingdom Life. If we treasure the heavenly now, we will *become* the things which are valuable in heaven. Whereof Paul writes “*one star differs from another in glory.*” (1 Corinthians 15:41) I don’t just mean that we shall *have* the heavenly treasures; rather, we shall *become* heavenly treasure. For scripture testifies: *If you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall **BE** a peculiar treasure unto Me...* (Ex 19:5)

Concerning Eat/Drink, scripture says they shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. (Psalm 36:8) Again, to him that overcomes I will give to eat of the tree of life which is in the garden of God. (Revelation 2:7) This may seem far out, but pray that the LORD reveal these truths to your heart. They are glorious to behold. *For eye hath not seen,*

POEM

In fall I shed the Leaves of me

In fall I shed the leaves of me
Sheet by sheet, a naked tree
Open to the air outside
Then is when I lost my pride

Swayed in winds and danced in rain
Filled with years of buried pain
Bent in storms and bowed in snow
The darkest sides of me aglow

Lightning struck and broke my limbs
Unfastened all my childish whims
Tumbling down I broke in parts
Crushed cars and then broke people's hearts

Winter draws through middle time
All my mistakes I tagged as crime
World shrinking and so losing space
Scared and quickly losing face

Spring will come, new chapter give
Again we'll learn just how to live
In love and lend each other grace
Lead life in one harmonious pace

In summer I will run away
Original love again will stay
Shorter night and longer day
Will make all nightmares fast decay

Special Guest, Written circa January 31, 2011

“what is happening?” Without deliberation or delay, the Lord responded. His reply, “There is pestilence in the land.”

“Pestilence?!? Father,” I asked. I cried out (almost with tears in my eyes), “Father, what is the role of a Priest, when there is pestilence in the land? What do we do?” Again, without hesitation, the Lord replied, “Research “*pestilence*” you will need to understand what it is, before you can attempt to deal with it.” I am reminded of a phrase I used to share with my colleagues; it was some variation of this phrase: “50% of the solution (or resolution) is to properly identify the problem.” You understand that if a problem cannot be “properly identified” (but for the grace of God) it is not likely to be properly resolved. We see this all of the time.

Testimony: A number of years ago, I had just moved to a new city. Not long afterwards, I began to experience a very severe problem with my eyes. They were red, irritated, and could not endure much light. I mean I, literally, had to wear sunglasses indoors. They hurt!!! During that season of my life, I was driving an hour and 15 minutes (one-way) to work; every day. Someone suggested that I go see an Allergist, to see if I had been experiencing an allergic reaction to something. Now I’m not “officially” a doctor, but from what I was able to assess, that was not the problem.

Nevertheless, I went to see an Allergist. After the examination, the doctor said that he could not determine what I was experiencing; he had no idea. Even so, he proceeded to write out a prescription for me. YES! Pen to paper, he began to write out a p-r-e-s-c-r-i-p-t-i-o-n. With a furrowed brow, I respectfully asked “if you cannot determine what the problem is, what are you writing a prescription for?” He said, “Perhaps....” As you can see, I do not recall what explanation followed the word “Perhaps....” I believe my ears went numb, thereafter. His words fell on “stony ground.” I’ll give you one guess (only one) how long it took me to fill that prescription. That prescription never saw the “light of day.”

Not long following that episode, I was back in my home town visiting and went to see an Ophthalmologist (a doctor whose specialty is the organ of the “eye”). Who after only a few minutes, was able to tell me EXACTLY (and

in specific detail) what the problem was. No prescription, he simply said “refrain from wearing contact lenses for about a week.” Voila! The problem went away; never to return (by the grace of God).

So of course, I understood my Lord’s directive to “research *pestilence*.” Off I went, to research *pestilence*.

Quick Sidebar: Regarding the pestilence that is in the land. The Lord knows exactly what’s going on “in the land.” He knows what pestilence is afoot. Might He not have been able to simply “tell” me what the pestilence was and how to confront it? Absolutely, He could have. But Wisdom has directed Him otherwise. “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*”⁽¹⁾ The process of conforming us into the image of His Son,⁽²⁾ is a joint-venture, it is a *Divine Partnership*.⁽³⁾ Sometimes He “speaks” and I “do.” At other times, He directs me to “speak” and He “does.”⁽⁴⁾ And so He had “spoken.” He had given me a directive; it was then my responsibility to “do” accordingly.

The first question I sought to answer was “**What (pray tell) is pestilence?**” Pestilence is a plague; a deadly epidemic disease; an affliction or calamity. Another question I believed important, was to determine “**Where does pestilence come from?**” This you’ll find quite interesting. 2 Chronicles 7:13 records the beginning of God’s response to Solomon’s prayer as follows: “If I shut up the heavens, that there be no rain.... If *I send* pestilence among my people....”

Now before we go any further, let’s qualify a few things (and I’ll say it like this): Goshen was a “protected” environment. You remember Goshen, the land where the Israelites lived just outside of Egypt. When the Lord sent frogs, lice, locusts hail, etc. to Egypt; Goshen did not experience these devastations.⁽⁵⁾ The Word of God protected Goshen (Israel) during the first nine plagues. But the Lord used the “blood of the lamb,” to protect them during the final plague. The Lord also used the final plague to, invoke Divine Partnership transactions; to prophecy concerning the shedding of the Eternal “blood of the lamb;” and to institute a traditional ordinance to Israel.⁽⁶⁾

It is the same today, the land wherein dwells the children of God, is a “protected” environment. So if there is pestilence in “our” land God is thoroughly aware of it. God has a causal relationship to everything that happens to His children; be it reward, or chastisement.

Now we see that it was not a foreign thing for God to say to Solomon, “If *I send* pestilence among my people.” Israel was painfully familiar with God sending pestilence in their land.⁽⁷⁾

Finally, I inquired “**what is one to do about ridding the land of pestilence?**” The Lord is very kind, He goes on to tell us what to do if He is provoked to send pestilence. He says “If my people (the Geneva Bible says) among whom My Name is called upon; will humble ... pray ... seek ... and turn (repent). I AM pre-committed to hear and heal.”⁽⁸⁾

There IS a pestilence in the land, and if we would rid our land of this noisome pestilence we MUST humble ourselves, pray to the Living God, seek His face and turn from our ungodly ways. We cannot continue in sin, that grace may abound. How shall we, who have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb, continue to deny the power of this great salvation?⁽⁹⁾ It is this very “way of life” that brings pestilence into our land.⁽¹⁰⁾ The way of life, that denies the power of the Blood of the Lamb, to deliver us from the tyranny of sin.⁽¹¹⁾ This misconception creates, for us, a veil upon our hearts. If we refuse to acknowledge this fundamental truth (that we can be delivered from our sins; as a way of life), we must then find other ways to explain the problems we are having; problems we cannot seem to rid ourselves of. It sets us upon a path of “ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth.”⁽¹²⁾ We find that we have the same challenges as Israel, when they entered Canaan and refused to drive out all of the inhabitants of the land.⁽¹³⁾ Israel initially learned to “*live with them;*” but they eventually learned to “*live like them.*” Not realizing that one of the reasons that the Lord wanted to drive them out of the land, was because their sins were egregious to Him. There is pestilence in our land. And we may choose to “live with it” or we may choose to “fall down on our faces before the Living God.” And acknowledge that He is right. There is no other God before Him; and we accept our duty and obligation to serve Him to the exclusion of everything and everyone else.

There is pestilence in our land, but there is hope!! Our Lord has given us a strategy against it. Note: While

our Lord's love for us may well be "unconditional;" His strategy for ridding the land of pestilence certainly is not. It is VERY conditional, and was presented to us in a logical "If/Then" format. He says to us, that "if" we do some things; "then" He'll do some things.

We don't have a problem "praying for rain." That's easy, because, we're essentially asking *God* to "do" something. We like to "ask" God to do "stuff." We somehow think that this is "praying." However, we often, and insistently, neglect our duty: to humble, pray, seek and turn.

Here's the strategy:

IF My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves, and pray; seek My face; turn from their wicked ways, ***THEN*** will I hear from heaven and heal their land.

What does it mean for us to *humble ourselves*?

It means to climb down off of our pedestal of "high self-esteem." Here we're not talking about us being "the head and not the tail; above only and not beneath." It means to see ourselves like God sees us. It means to see our daily and hourly need for God. It means to be willing to be lead of the Spirit of God, for a change. This duty also includes "fasting." Almost nothing impacts and subdues the *flesh* like "the Word of God; genuine prayer, and fasting."

What does it mean to *pray*? Here we are not talking about our habit of getting on our knees, folding our hands and attempting to "direct the traffic of heaven, in the name of Jesus." We're talking about recognizing that there is an Eternal Movement going on here, and we were created to "enter into it." God was not waiting for us to get here so that we could tell Him what to do to make our lives easier, better, faster (no disrespect intended). When we *pray*, we "enter into the intercession of the Spirit of God." Never heard that before? Sure you have, it's in Romans 8:26-27 "The Spirit *Himself*, knowing the mind of God, makes intercession for us in accordance with His will." The Spirit speaks our part, on our behalf. He talks with the Father, about the roles we are assigned to play in the grand and eternal scheme of God's. While we are praying for a "liquid black, 2012, BMW, with spinners, a sun-roof top, 4-wheel drive, ABS, air-conditioning and a driver;" the Spirit procures for us the "*Way*," (it may look like a camel, a donkey or another pair of sandals or moccasins). He talks with the Father and procures our provisions so that we

may fulfill our duties.

What does it mean to *seek the face of God*? The "face of God" represents "God's presence and His approval (or disapproval, as the case may be)." You almost cannot be any "more" present with a person than to be "in their face." We are also, most able to see the approval/disapproval of a person "in their face" or "in their eyes." The scriptures teach that.... When Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar she fled from the *face* of Sarai.⁽¹⁴⁾ The cry of Sodom & Gomorrah had become quite an issue before the *face* of the Lord, which is why He sent angels to remove Lot (et al) and destroy the cities.⁽¹⁵⁾ Jacob sought the favor of Esau,⁽¹⁶⁾ saying "... afterwards I will see his face; peradventure he will accept me." According to the Geneva Bible, in the Hebrew the phrase "accept me" is actually "receive my face." In the Interlinear Bible, the phrase "accept me" is translated from the phrase "lift up my faces." 1 Corinthians 13:12 says that "now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face..." (having both the presence and approval of God). Lastly, we see that God has shined in our hearts, ... to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (both His presence and His approval) in the face of Jesus Christ.⁽¹⁷⁾ So to "seek the face of God" means that we are obliged to study and search to discover what pleases God, and do that. We are also to meet the necessary requirements to dwell in His presence as a way of life.

What does it mean to *turn from our wicked ways*?

Do we really need to go here? Perhaps, we do; because somehow we don't see *our* ways as "wicked." Albeit, we don't have a problem seeing other people's ways as "wicked." We judge ourselves by our *intentions* and others by their *actions*. You know how we are; we *excuse* ourselves, and *accuse* others, which is exactly the opposite of the mandate of the scriptures. We are to judge ourselves (according to the Word of God) and we are to love our neighbors; to cover them in prayer when they error (remember, loves covers a multitude of sins.)⁽¹⁸⁾ If our "eye" offends, we are to pluck it out. The "thoughts and things" that we have allowed into our lives; that we know provoke the disapproval of God (we are to forsake them). Turn and run!!

There is pestilence in the land. Let us begin (or continue) to see ourselves that way the Lord sees us (humble); enter into the work of the Holy Spirit in the earth (pray); seek the presence and approval of God (seek); and turn and run. <cc>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) Romans 11:33
- (2) Romans 8:29
- (3) Kingdom News, Edition: *February 2010*, Column: *Living Waters*; Article: *Divine Partnership – From Words to Works*
- (4) Matthew 18:19; John 14:13-14
- (5) Exodus 8:22-23; 9:4, 26; 11:7
- (6) Exodus 11:1; 12:12-24
- (7) Leviticus 26:25; Numbers 14:12; Deuteronomy 28:2; 2 Samuel 24:13-15; etc
- (8) 2 Chronicles 7:14
- (9) Romans 6:1-2
- (10) Leviticus 26:21, 23-25
- (11) 2 Timothy 3:5
- (12) 2 Timothy 3:7
- (13) Exodus 23:31-33
- (14) Genesis 16:6
- (15) Genesis 19:13
- (16) Genesis 32:20
- (17) 2 Corinthians 4:6
- (18) James 5:19-20

Leadership Living

Continued from page 1

year. It's as if nature comes alive.

For our agency, this spring is also a time of harvest. You remember I mentioned that during the fall and winter we worked hard to get things in place for our organization. Now, we have begun to see the *fruit* of our labors. In late March we received our IRS tax exempt letter. In mid-April we were approved to begin administering out Teens Maturing & Parenting (TMP) teen parenting program in one of the local public high schools starting with the 2011/2012 school year as a "demonstration project."

In addition, we were approved to work with the state Child Protective Services (CPS) department to administer our Leadership Co-Parenting program. We will also begin two significant research projects looking at teen parenting in our local community.

Why am I sharing with you news about what is going on in our agency? I'm delighted that you asked. A few months ago the Lord said to me, "Joyce, I am the Lord of the Harvest" (Matthew 9:38 – paraphrased) Many of us have heard this scripture read or recited. Still, God continued to speak these words to me. He then told me that everything I do has a harvest.

God cannot "sow" nor can He "reap" (for humans). But, God is the "Lord of the Harvest." God already did his sowing and reaping when he made creation, when His Son, Jesus Christ, paid the sacrifice for sin, and when He sent the Holy Spirit to us. Now it's our turn.

Harvest is what comes as a result of what we sow. Check

this out. When we sow (we do what God has placed in our hearts to do, including what we know we are responsible to do), we could simply reap whatever our toiling brings. But, this is not what God allows to happen.

When we sow, God does something before we reap. He multiplies the seed that is sown (I Corinthians 9:10 – KJV paraphrased). What happens next? God gives us a harvest that is much larger and more comprehensive that what we would have received just as a result of our sowing.

Now, let's go back to our agency update. During the winter we were desperately trying to develop a partnership with the Family Court judges. We knew our Leadership Co-Parenting program would be beneficial to parents who are going through divorce. But, no matter how hard we tried to get in, the judges of three large counties were unresponsive.

At one point I was told by a colleague that we need to work with CPS, but we'd tried that too – with no success. Finally, one day I was asked to attend a luncheon on behalf of someone else (who could not make it to the event). During the presentation, I chatted with the two ladies at my table. One of them was a director at...CPS. We set up a meeting, met with several other CPS directors and agreed to partner.

In the CPS meeting, we were told that our program needs to be brought to the attention of the Family Court judges. I let the CPS directors know that we've been trying to get into the Family Court system for several months with no success. They told us that when we start working with CPS clients, our program information will go into their court reports. These reports go to the Family Court judges.

CPS said once their reports are read by the judges, our agency will also be called upon to work directly with the courts. Not only that, CPS is a federal agency. Once their case notes circulate, divisions of CPS in other communities and states will contact us to find out how to bring our co-parenting program to their areas.

This was awesome news to us! This is why God had me to reflect on what was happening last fall and winter. We were working behind the scenes to do the somewhat "boring-yet-necessary" tasks. All the while, God was multiplying the seeds we were sowing.

We have our tax exempt letter. We have our agency policies and programs established. And now, we have partnerships with a public school district and CPS. Along with that, we will now be in partnership with the Family Court judges. Why, because God is the "Lord of the Harvest!"

We sow (do the often tedious, non-glamorous, and sometimes boring tasks that accompany what God has

Leadership Living

Continued on page 8

called us to do). Then, God multiplies the seed we have sown. Once He does this, we reap a harvest that is far beyond anything we could have received by ourselves.

My encouragement to you is to continue the good work you have begun. The Lord of the Harvest is multiplying your seed. And, when it is time for you to reap, you will reap a whirlwind of good!

Be exceedingly blessed! ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, LMSW
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*under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. **But now we see not yet all things put under him.*** (Hebrews 2:5-8)

This scripture illustrates the paradox between man's created authority and his present lack thereof, between original "multi-potence," to coin a word, and his present "impotence." I appreciate this scripture because it goes further to say that even the world to come is purposed to be in subjection to mankind. This scripture more clearly illustrates the far reaches of the *purposed* dominion of man.

Now of particular interest is the portion of scripture used to segue: "but now we see not yet all things put under him." So then, scripture illustrates man's very obvious, crystal clear impotence. Man is so impotent; in fact, scripture elsewhere declares him "dead." But to explain the context within which this impotence thus exists he is said to be "*dead in trespasses and sins.*" (Ephesians 2:1)

You may remember from earlier in the series (*Ethos* of God) that character is foundational to authority, we begin to expand upon that here.

The foundation of man's *ethos* is God. Man's character rises and falls subject to his perspective of God. Remember now, that we have gone from speaking of man's *authority* to speaking of his *character*. For his authority is streaming out of his character, which as I've said, is purely founded upon his perspective of God. The purity of man's character is restricted only by the purity of his pattern, the purity of his vision, and the purity of his conformity. For "see," says He "that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." (Hebrews 8:5 cf. Exodus 25:9) Whereas Hebrews' reference to Exodus is regarding the temple, and whereas the temple is patterned after the being of man (holy of holies, holy place, outer court <<>> spirit, soul, body), understand God to also be saying "see that you are conformed to the example revealed to you in Christ."

God...these things ought not so to be. (James 3:9, 10)
Here we see the implication of the honor due humanity purely on the basis of his "being made after the similitude of God." This is not even set forth with a distinction between saints and sinners.

We acknowledge that there were generally three phases of *Ethos* for man.

- There was the *ethos* of man as originally created (about which we have almost no conception)
 - There is the *ethos* of fallen man, and
 - There is the *ethos* of regenerate man
- So we see that there were three general phases of man's authority and character.

We shall now approach man's authority as it relates to The Fall. The next scripture is (I think) a great segue between man's created and fallen authority.

For unto the angels has He NOT put in subjection the world to come...but one in a certain place testified, saying "what is man that thou are mindful of him, or the son of man that thou visit him?" Thou made him a little lower than the angels; thou crowned him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of thy hands. Thou have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection

Man has been shown a pattern of character in Christ. **If your covenant with God is not purifying your character, it is neither authorizing your power.** Be sure, that “power without purity” is counterfeit, and “purity without power” is not grounded in faith in God. Furthermore, be sure also that purity which is grounded in faith in God is accompanied (as a covenant gift of God) by power of like quality.

Thus man finds his *impotence* by reason of his *impurity*. Man’s purity derives first and foremost from his faith in God. The Fall of man was precipitated first by impugning the character of God. Here the character of God was called into question; even above the power of God, which we shall look into.

For where the enemy says “*ye halt not surely die,*” (Genesis 3:4) he calls God a liar (*character assassination*). Furthermore, where the enemy says “*God does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil,*” (Genesis 3:5) he not only attempts to reaffirm that God is a liar, but implies that He withholds the good; that He is selfish; that He is not love.

This is the beginning of the demise of the *ethos* of man, the view that God is of impure character. For *IF* man is created in God’s holy image/likeness, AND man esteems God to be impure in character, exactly how holy can man become, being but patterned after the Holy One? For, make no mistake; God says “*be ye holy, for I AM holy.*” (1 Peter 1:16)

BUT, by faith we behold God aright, and by faith we are being thus conformed.

The final stage of Man’s *Ethos* (man’s regenerate *ethos*) will be discussed in the (Sanctifying Man’s *Ethos*) article(s) to come. You may want to refer back to the outline of this *Ethos, Logos, Pathos* study published in the January 2011 edition of Kingdom Newsletter. -SOMW-

David L. White

The human spirit is not, itself, a “person.”

The human spirit does not have its own (mind, will and emotions); which are the marks of personhood. It, however, does have faculties that are functionally very similar to the faculties of the soul. One reason for this is because the human spirit is, to us, a gift from God; it is the breath of life. ⁽¹⁾ Another reason, that the human spirit is functionally similar to the soul, is because it was given to assist in the conforming of the soul and to mentor the soul.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTREST

The term “spirit” in the English language has manifold representations. And sometimes if we are not careful, we’ll confuse and inter-use these terms. Sometimes the term “spirit” can identify an “entity” (such as the Spirit of God, or the human spirit). At other times the term “spirit” can be simply a characteristic expression that identifies a things or being as lacking the physical qualities of “time and space” in this realm. As an example an angel can also be called a “spirit” because he is a spiritual being. The enemy can be called a “spirit” for the same reason. Even the human soul can be called a “spirit,” because its constitution is spiritual in nature as opposed to physical. Although the *human soul* can be called a spirit as a quality of its being, it is not itself to be confused with the *human spirit*.

When Jesus was preparing to go to Calvary, He told us that He would pray the Father and the Father would send us another Comforter. ⁽²⁾

The relationship between the human spirit and the Spirit of God are such that the *human spirit* is the vehicle by which the *Spirit of God* interfaces with the human soul, in this world. ⁽³⁾ In the world to come, things will be quite different. -BC-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

⁽¹⁾ Genesis 2:7

⁽²⁾ John 14:16-17; 26

⁽³⁾ Romans 8:16

All of the choices to each question sounded good. I felt like this is what was holding me back mentally. So, I took my issues to God to find out which path He would lead me to take. He did not answer me immediately. But, a little while later I received His word.

As it is God's tendency, He spoke to me in riddles. He said, "I am Alpha and Omega." With that response, I was like, "O...k.....what do I do with that?" Then, a few days later, God said, "I am the First and the Last." I felt like this response was of no more help to me than the first one. This string of "mini proverbs" went on for weeks. God said things like:

I am the...

- Lion and the Lamb;
- Beginning and the End;
- First and the Last;
- Night and Day;
- Left and Right;
- Both sides of every coin....

Can I tell you that my head had started spinning? I was like, "God, PLEASE!!!! What are you trying to tell me?" His answer blew my socks off (literally – I am barefoot to this day☺). Are you ready?

God said, "Joyce I am giving you the answer to your multiple-choice questions. I am "All of the Above!" He went on to tell me that I am not to choose any **ONE** option if He has indeed placed them **ALL** in my heart. I am, instead, to pursue every single option, thought, passion, and desire that registers in my heart. This was overwhelming to me, at first. How could God expect me to do essentially "Everything" that comes into my mind? Nobody can do this. Oh, but I was wrong (oh so wrong). God wanted to change my thinking about what I considered to be "Options" in life.

God said, "Joyce, you don't have any options." If I cause something to register in your heart (meaning that it is not just a passing thought, but it lingers), I expect you to give energy to finding out more about it. God told me that He does not waste His "Treasures."

Listen to this! God told me that "Ideas" are like gold nuggets from His kingdom treasury. They are seeds of life. When God gives us ideas, the kind that stay with us, He has in fact planted this "Seed" in our hearts. We are to water the seed (follow the passion) to see what He wants to do with it.

Is your hair curling up on the back of your neck? It should be. Here is how it works. In Proverbs 2:6 (paraphrased) it says the Lord gives wisdom and knowledge (thoughts and ideas) "Out of His Mouth." God opens His mouth and speaks life into our hearts. He then expects us to "Do" something with what He gave us. A couple of verses down in Proverbs 2:10-11 (paraphrased) scripture tells us that when wisdom

and knowledge enter into our heart and soul, they will "Keep Us."

This implies that we are "Doing" something with what God has said. The words of our Lord go into our heart and soul, and we "Act" on whatever He said. Keep in mind; we don't act simply on "What" God says. Instead, we act on "Everything" God says on a daily basis.

Now, take a minute and focus. Every day God waits for us. He and His heavenly hosts have so much to tell us. They want us to come into the presence of the Father. Sit at His feet, lie in His bosom, and hear His heart. Then, we are to get up and "Do" all that God has placed in our hearts.

So, let's add in a caveat before someone blows a blood vessel. Of course, we cannot do everything at once. But, we are to aggressively move in the direction God has spoken of. Then, we will see Him maneuvering situations and circumstances. He will give us clarity as we go. And, He will determine which activities will precede and/or follow other activities.

Here is my point. God opens His mouth and speaks ideas into our hearts. These ideas may relate to family, career, health, leisure activities, community involvement, or any number of other areas. **We are not to take anything He says lightly.** On the contrary, we are to move in the direction of all that God says. He will then guide our hands and feet. He will give clarity. And, He will show how all of what He has said is actually related to each other.

In closing I'll say this. Having multiple options or ideas may be intimidating if we think our lives will be all over the place. However, once we realize that no matter what God tells us to do, all of the ideas are simply part of one journey He has for us. Everything God speaks of, is connected.

We do not serve a compartmentalized God. He is not schizophrenic. Our God is cohesive. In I Corinthians chapter 12:4-6 (paraphrased) scripture gives us insight of how the Holy Spirit works. We learn that although there are a variety of spiritual gifts, they all work together by the Holy Spirit. The entire twelfth chapter explains this principle. God is multi-faceted. This is one reason why He gives us so many ideas.

In this same manner, each of us has many goals, dreams, and passions – options. Instead of trying to figure out which one to choose, embrace them all. Then, begin to move in the direction of each one (with prayer and research). God will guide us. He will open and close doors that lead us along our individual paths.

God will not fail us, nor will He overwhelm us. Instead, He will show us that He is "All of the Above!"

Go forth and conquer!! -PIP~

Joyce M. White, LMSW

nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love Him. ⁽¹⁾
Corinthians 2:9)

- I give you these for now; **Body** and **Raiment** shall come in the next article. **Body** particularly requires some wealth of scripture that would make this article substantially longer. Until then, take what I've put down so far, and seek God for light on them. When I expound upon **Body** and **Raiment**, you may already have some material on the subjects yourself.

Remember we live a secret life, prayer, gift-giving, fasting, and conformity of character, heavenly treasures, and much more. Seek those things which are above; esteem them. Be a resource for other people to encounter God, and be aware of the standard which that places on you. Beware of the priesthood into which you've been begotten. -LATT-

How Prayer Affects Sinning

A sinning man, stops praying;
and praying man stops sinning.

—Anonymous

Translation: A person whose heart is committed to sin or to cover their sins, will eventually stop praying.

A person whose heart is committed to honor God (although they temporarily find themselves out of fellowship) will continue in prayer; and by the grace of God eventually receive repentance of heart and stop sinning (as a way of life).

Are You Sure?

There is a healthy contemplation that drives us to check our commitment to our various relationships with others. While I have your attention may I ask another question? Do you ever wonder if you're really saved? I don't mean to intrude ... okay maybe I do intend to intrude. Do you contemplate your loyalty and commitment to your relationship "with Christ" very specifically? Respectfully, we are not talking here about your relationship with a religious institution. We're asking about a very up-close and personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. The scriptures encourage us to periodically check our "fruit." We are admonished to work out your own soul's salvation with fear and trembling. (1)

I can just imagine Jesus standing before the fig tree, asking "Hey guys, what type of tree is this?" His disciples replied (almost snickering), "My Lord, it's a fig tree." And Jesus asks again, "How can you tell, that this is a fig tree?" His disciples reply again (almost bursting at the seams), "Teacher, we can tell by the leaves." Jesus once again, "Okay, let Me ask you guys one more question ... what is the purpose of a fig tree, if it won't bear figs." They all fell silent. Jesus cursed the fig tree saying, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit, My Father will remove. It will not be allowed to continue to make demands of (or trouble) the ground." (2) He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. (3) So I ask again, how do we know that we have a personal covenant with God?

May I make a few suggestions on ways to discover the truth? (4)

1. **How does your covenant with Jesus Christ affect your concept of God and your attitude towards Him?**
2. **How does your relationship with God affect your attitude towards Jesus Christ (Him as a Person and His Lordship over your life)?**
3. **How does your covenant with God affect your attitude towards the Holy Scriptures?**
4. **How does your relationship with Christ affect your attitude towards your "self-life" or your "flesh"?**
5. **How does your covenant with Christ affect your relationship with and attitude towards your fellow Christians?**
6. **How does your relationship with Jesus affect your relationship with and attitude towards the world?**
7. **Last, but in no way least, how does your covenant with Jesus affect your attitude towards sin?**

Perhaps we should take the next couple of weeks or months and grapple with this? Try to answer each question thoroughly in light of the scripture's mandates on each of these respective relationships.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (5)

Be Sure!

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

(1) Philippians 2:12

(2) John 15:1-2; Luke 13:7

(3) Matthew 21:17-19

(4) Gleanings and adaptations from A.W. Tozer's Man: The Dwelling Place of God, p.62-68

(5) Hebrews 13:20-21

➤ SUMMARY ➤

The Chief Cornerstone



Without deliberation or delay, the Lord responded. His reply, "There is pestilence in the land."

"Pestilence?!? Father," I asked. I cried out (almost with tears in my eyes), "Father, what is the role of a Priest, when there is pestilence in the land? What do we do?"

Son of My Wisdom



We acknowledge that there were generally three phases of *Ethos* for man.

- There was the *ethos* of man as originally created (about which we have almost no conception)
- There is the *ethos* of fallen man, and
- There is the *ethos* of regenerate man

Precepts in Practice



Here is my point. God opens His mouth and speaks ideas into our hearts. These ideas may relate to family, career, health, leisure activities, community involvement, or any number of other areas. **We are not to take anything He says lightly.** On the contrary, we are to move in the direction of all that God says. He will then guide our hands and feet. He will give clarity. And, He will show how all of what He has said is actually related to each other.

➤ SUMMARY ➤

The Leadership Corner

We sow (do the often tedious, non-glamorous, and sometimes boring tasks that accompany what God has called us to do). Then, God multiplies the seed we have sown. Once He does this, we reap a harvest that is far beyond anything we could have received by ourselves.

Love and the Truth



For concerning Life, scripture says keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. ^(Proverbs 4:23) We learned earlier in this series that as our treasures are, so is our heart. A main reason that the LORD is focused on us being conformed into the character of Christ is because out of that constitution of the heart issues a certain type of Kingdom Life. If we treasure the heavenly now, we will become the things which are valuable in heaven. Whereof Paul writes "one star differs from another in glory." ^(1 Corinthians 15:41) I don't just mean that we shall have the heavenly treasures; rather, we shall become heavenly treasure.

Boot Camp



THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Spirit of God is a Person.

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

The human spirit is not, itself, a "person."

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