

Chapter 13

THE SPIRITUAL SIN OF ADAM AND EVE

*What made the Tree of Knowledge (of good and evil) so abominable to God that to eat the fruits thereof would spell death?
Does nakedness before the Fall really indicate innocence?
What difference is there between nakedness before and after the Fall?*

The sin of Eve is perhaps one of the great mysteries of the Bible as thought by many people. Some religious sects preach Eve ate an apple. This has no scriptural basis. What really is the sin causing the downfall of man? If we believe, we inherited the sin of Adam and Eve,¹ why is it written sin is non-transferable.

Ezekiel 18:20 "...the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

God revealed this also to Moses:

Deuteronomy 24:16 "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin."

What is the sin? Is it enough to know that they ate the fruits of the forbidden "tree of knowledge of good and evil?" What is the tree of knowledge of good

¹ Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

With God's revelation through His words, this apparent contradiction or inconsistency is reconciled in Chapter 14 with the PHYSICAL SIN OF EVE.

and evil? How could this tree be so abominable to God that to eat the fruits thereof would mean death? Are the questions answered by just saying, "They disobeyed God's command?" Who can clear up all these questions?

By this time, the reader of the book must have realized that it is not any man, whoever he may be and no matter how great, wise and intelligent,² that can answer questions of things about God. Only God through His word can! Opinions and philosophies,³ that are the basis of human doctrines and religious traditions, are not accepted as "things of God."

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN

We ask God, "Lord, what is your purpose in creating man?" As if God is saying, "Don't you know that in the beginning I was alone?"

Nehemiah 9:6 "Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven..."

"I created the angels, but they were not in My image. I, therefore, planned to create beings that are 'in My image and likeness' who are worthy to be My eternal companions. I created man for that purpose – to be My companion in eternity:

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man (Hebrew Ish) in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

"Take note that I am typified by Adam, the first man, who was alone like Me."

Genesis 2:18 "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

² 1 Corinthians 1:19 "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰ Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

Does God refer to the wise men in science, politics, business and economics, and arts? No! God is referring to the wise men in religion, for the Word of God involves things about God.

³ Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through *philosophy* and vain deceit, *after the tradition of men*, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

"My plan was illustrated when I created the *woman* (Hebrew Isha) to be man's companion."

Genesis 2:21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam....and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; ²²And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

"The woman was taken out of man, just like Man created in My image:

Genesis 2:23 "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

"You can see now that I am typified by Adam, the man; while Eve, the woman, represents mankind, both male and female:

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female..."

MAN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

We ask God, "Lord, what do you mean by 'man created in Your image?' How could it be when You are a Spirit, while man is a physical being?"

As if God is saying, "Have you forgotten how I manifested Myself in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ?"

1 Timothy 3:16 [KJV only] "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."

Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God...¹⁶For by him were all things created...all things were created by him..."

John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

"Man, therefore, upon creation was in My image in the person of Jesus Christ, a physical being like you! However, that image was shattered upon the fall of

man. However, I have to execute My plan of having eternal companions. Therefore, I have to mend whatever man has wrecked.

THE IMPENDING FALL ON MAN

Genesis 2:15 "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden..." ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat."

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

We ask God, "Lord, the fall of man is very vague to us. You say that the serpent tempted Eve to eat the forbidden *tree of knowledge*. No theologians or Bible scholars have ever explained the sin to our satisfaction. We are, therefore, at a loss as to the real cause of the fall of man. Lord, will you please explain to us everything related to the fall? First, we want to know what the *garden* is, then, the tree of knowledge that made them to lose, or be separated from, the tree of life."

As if God is saying, "You said your questions regarding the fall of man have not been clearly explained by theologians. What did I say regarding spiritual knowledge? Did I give this to the 'wise and prudent?' or to the 'humble like babes?'"

Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

"Why don't you ask and trust Me to clarify everything that bothers you? Who can explain My words that I express them in *parables*? My Apostles? My servants? Remember, I alone and no one else can explain the great message of My words:

Mark 4:34 "But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

Jeremiah 1:6-8 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I

shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD."

"The trouble with you is that you put your trust in men more than you trust Me. Try Me if I will not answer all your questions, if only to prove that I am alive through My words."⁴

Jeremiah 1:9 "Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."

ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

God put man in a place called Eden, also called the garden of God:⁵

Genesis 2:8 "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

1. To use the literal language of the Serpent, the *ground or garden* is nothing but a parcel of land probably segregated and enclosed.
2. To use the same language, the *natural man* will think of the different kinds of *trees* as literal-physical trees. There are three kinds:

FIRST KIND – "Every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food."

SECOND KIND – "The tree of life in the midst of the garden."

THIRD KIND – "The tree of knowledge of good and evil," also in the midst of the garden.

⁴ 1 John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie..."

⁵ Ezekiel 28:13 "Thou hast been in *Eden the garden of God...*" (God was referring to Satan)

3. How can religious wise men of the world explain why Eve committed sin by simply eating the fruits of the Third Kind, "the tree of knowledge of good and evil?"
4. Is it sufficient spiritual knowledge to think that the sin is simply "disobedience to the command of God?"
5. What really is the "tree of knowledge" that to eat the fruits thereof will make man commit sin and cause his death?
6. Moreover, how did this sin transfer to humankind? Is sin transferable from the parents to the children?⁶ Why did the sin of Adam and Eve cause "death sentence" to humankind?
7. Could the word of God be contradictory?

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

With God's revelation through His words, this apparent contradiction or inconsistency is reconciled in Chapter 14 with the PHYSICAL SIN OF EVE. It is written the word of God is pure, perfect and right:

Psalms 12:6 "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Psalms 19:7-8 "The law of the Lord is perfect... the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart... the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Psalms 119:140 "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."

8. How can the *natural man* explain the sin of Eve through the pure and perfect word of God? In total frustration, he will simply say, "It is a mystery. Just believe it." But Jesus Christ rebuts this excuse:

John 5:39 "Search the Scriptures; for in them..."

⁶ Ezekiel 18:20 "...the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father..."

Acts 17:11 "These were more noble...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

THE SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE OF GOD

We ask God, "Lord, in many cases, why can't we understand what you are saying? As if God is saying, "Don't you know that I am speaking *Spiritual Things*, while you are limited only to literal-physical? To follow your literal understanding of My words, I would have been the liar, instead of the serpent, in the following."

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

"Did Adam and Eve die *in the day* that they ate the forbidden fruits? You yourself know that they did not die within that day! In fact, they bore many sons and daughters thereafter.⁷ I speak "spiritual things," and I alone can explain them through My words. Do not My words represent Me? Who can understand that Adam died *within one day* if I will not explain it? Your day is different from Mine:"

2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

"Take note that Adam indeed died within *one day*. In fact, he was short 70 years from 1,000 years, which is *one day* for Me."

Genesis 5:5 "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."

"Can you now trust Me for the clear understanding and explanation of My words? Remember I alone should you trust."

James 1:5-8 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. ⁷For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁸For let not that man

⁷ Genesis 5:4 "And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters."

think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

THE GARDEN

We ask God, "Lord, what is the garden or ground where the tree of knowledge is found? As if God is saying, "Don't you know that I am speaking My *Spiritual Language*? To you, a garden is a literal ground. But look! Is garden an inanimate object in the following?"

Song of Solomon 4:12 "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse..."

"A spiritual garden therefore is a human being, female, and a Wife! I am the principal character in the verse, the husband, and called Rose of Sharon."

Song of Solomon 2:1 "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

"Could you now relate the spiritual garden to *Eve*, the wife, and Adam, the husband – to Me? Do not forget that Eve represents humankind, while Adam portrays Me. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ, Who is My physical image, is called the last Adam."

1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

"If Eve, the woman, and wife of Adam, represents the people; could you now understand what I said that 'I am married unto you?'"

Jeremiah 3:14 "...saith the LORD; for I am married unto you; and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family..."

Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker is thine husband..."

"Now you clearly understand that *garden* represents you, in particular, and the people in general. In addition, *ground* also symbolizes the people. Abraham got this revelation in:"

Genesis 18:27 "And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:"

"And, did I not refer to mankind as dust?"

Genesis 3:19 "...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

"Now wherever you look at *garden* and *ground*, they both refer to you, the people. Now compare you literal-physical language with Mine. It is understandable why the Natural Man cannot understand 'spiritual things.' Remember, My words are in *parables*,⁸ and I never speak except in parables:"

Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without...¹²That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand..."

TREES IN THE GARDEN

As if God is saying, "Try asking people about the trees found in the *garden* or *ground*. You will be surprised with their answers compared with what is written:"

Genesis 2:9 "And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

On careful scrutiny, there are actually three (3) kinds of trees growing on the *ground*:

FIRST – Tree pleasant to the sight and good for food

SECOND – Tree of life

THIRD – Tree of knowledge of good and evil

As if God is saying, "What is the explanation of your great theologians for these three kinds of *trees*? Do you expect them to give a common answer? This is the proof why denominations proliferate, because of the different explanations of their respective leaders on My words. They formulate varied

⁸ Ezekiel 20:49 "Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?"

doctrines out of My words. Unwittingly, but with all the best intentions, man is tempted to use philosophy and human wisdom that I hate.”

1 Corinthians 1:19 “...I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”

As usual, we will just ask God. By this time, God must have won our confidence. “Lord, we now realized that only You can truly explain Your words. Will You please tell us the meaning of the three kinds of trees in the garden, after You have revealed that the ground symbolizes us?”

As if God is saying, “Remember, I created man in My own image and likeness, that is, in the image of Jesus Christ. Now, I tell you that this is My *spiritual image* in My physical manifestation. I have revealed this to My prophet Isaiah:”

Isaiah 42:1 “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment...”

“To whom do you think am I referring to? Who shall bring forth judgment to the people? Don’t you know that I am referring to Myself in the person of Jesus Christ?⁹ Matthew wrote about this and points to Me in My human form – as model to show the Way, by example:”

Matthew 12:18 “Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles.”

“I had My physical *Body* like you. I also spoke of My *Soul* all incorporated in My person as Jesus Christ. In *Spirit*, I was in Him. Can you now imagine the “spiritual image” of man upon creation in the image of Jesus Christ?” He was composed of *Body* and *Soul*, and I in *Spirit!*”

⁹ 1 Timothy 3:16 [KJV] “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...”

THE BODY OR "TREE PLEASING TO THE EYES AND GOOD FOR FOOD"

As if God is saying, "If the garden or ground symbolizes mankind, in the image of Jesus Christ, with three components; can you now relate the three (3) kinds of trees to the three (3) components of man? Of the three kinds of trees, which do you think corresponds to the *Body*?"

1st - Tree pleasant to the sight and good for food?

2nd - Tree of life?

3^d - Tree of knowledge of good and evil?"

"Very clearly, the *Body* is nearest to the Tree pleasant to the sight and good for food! The *Body* is composed of the senses: sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste, sex."

THE TREE OF LIFE IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN

As if God is asking, "Of the remaining two kinds of trees, which do you think matches the *Spirit*?"

2nd - Tree of life?

3^d - Tree of knowledge of good and evil?"

"Remember, it is my Spirit that gives eternal life. The Spirit refers to Me and My Spirit is the kind of tree that bears fruit(s):"

*Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,...
23Meekness, temperance..."*

"No doubt the *tree of life* perfectly matches My Spirit. It is a life-giving tree. It is in the "midst of the garden" so it is hidden from the sight. This perfectly matches with my Spirit that gives eternal life:

Galatians 6:8 "...he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit that quickeneth..."

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from

the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

The Second Kind of tree is the *Spirit*. This is the Spirit of God in the real Christians as it was in Adam upon creation. It gives spiritual discernment, divine wisdom, and spiritual strength.

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Now, clearly the forbidden of *tree of knowledge of good and evil* is the *soul*! It is likewise in the midst of the garden "hidden from sight" like the *Spirit* of God. This is the tree whose fruits will render "death sentence" to whoever would eat them.

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Of the three components of man, the Soul perfectly matches the "tree of knowledge of good and evil." This human spirit makes man distinct from other living creatures. The *spirit of man*¹⁰ or the *soul* is what distinguishes an individual person from the rest. The "fruits" of this tree are the *intellect and feeling or emotion*. As a whole, the *soul* with its "fruits" determines man's personality.

The Spirit of God or the *Spirit* is set apart from the *spirit of man*, or the *Soul*. God forbade man "to eat" the "fruits of the soul." Example of "eating the intellect:"

Proverbs 29:11 "A fool uttereth all his mind..."

Does not God call it "tree of *knowledge*?" This is man's use of the *intellect* on matters pertaining to God. This does not cover other human activities such as scientific, political, economic, social, and the like. As proof, Adam was not guilty of eating the forbidden fruit when he gave names to the different animals.¹¹ God knows that the moment man uses his intellect and feeling, on

¹⁰ Ephesians 4:23 "And be renewed in the *spirit* of your mind."

Psalms 78:8 "...a stubborn and rebellious generations...and whose *spirit* was not steadfast with God."

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the *poor in spirit*: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

¹¹ Genesis 2:20 "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field..."

matters pertaining to God, he would reject spiritual truths: Thus, for the intellect:

1 Corinthians 1:19 "...I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

For the feeling or emotion:

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Proverbs 28:26 "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..."

Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts..."

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way..."

God endowed intelligence on man for his physical needs and benefit. This is the reason why Jesus said, "Man is much better off than the fowls of the air."¹² However, God condemns the use of the intellect in understanding and interpreting His words. Our Lord showed this in the Scribes or Teachers of the Law. The use of the intellect and feeling on spiritual matters promotes *religiosity*, instead of *spirituality* that Jesus Christ demonstrated during His time.

Spiritual ignorance and religious pride are the results of "eating" the forbidden fruits of the "tree of knowledge." Our Lord showed this in the Scribes and Pharisees during His time.

Man uses the intellect and feeling in the formulation of *Man's Standard of "good and evil."* We are witnessing this in the 1001 denominations of

¹² Matthew 6:26 "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

Christianity how each preaches the *way to salvation!* God has His own Standard that is why He warns:

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Romans 10:2 "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

THE TEMPTATION

The serpent tempted Eve or humankind, stirring the *intellect* and *emotion*. The Tree of Knowledge or the *soul* that is in the midst of the garden is the *inner sanctum* of man.

Genesis 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Let us now ask God the significance of the temptation. "Lord, why did the serpent tell Eve that her eyes would be opened upon eating forbidden fruits? The serpent even said that she would be *as gods*, knowing good and evil. Did you not give your standard of good and evil upon creation?"

As if God is saying, "You will notice that the serpent said the 'fruit that would open the eyes' is the *intellect* that comes from the tree of knowledge. Do you know why I forbade Eve to 'eat the intellect,' and telling her that she would 'surely die?' To use the intellect on matters pertaining to Me and to My words would mean rejection of knowledge that comes from Me. 'Eating the intellect' is the use of human wisdom that I condemn. Can human wisdom recognize Me and comprehend My words?"

"When Peter recognized Me saying, 'Thou art the *Christ* and the *Son* of the living God,' was that through human wisdom? Do not forget what I told him:

Matthew 16:17 "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

“Did Peter understand with his own personal competence, what I told the multitudes regarding ‘clean and unclean food?’”

Matthew 15:11 “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. ¹²Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?”

Matthew 15:15-18 “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. ¹⁶And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? ¹⁷Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man...”

“Did Nicodemus, a noted preacher in Israel, understand My words, using human wisdom, when I told him he had to be ‘born again?’

John 3:4 “Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”

“Look! To eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge or ‘to eat’ the intellect would make man use his Literal-Physical language! That is not My language. How can he understand Me? Will not man surely die if he cannot understand what I am telling him? How can he obey Me? He cannot even recognize Me! To him I am a great mystery, when all along I kept on introducing Myself to My chosen people.¹³

“Did My disciples understand Me when I told them about the need ‘to eat My flesh and drink My blood?’

John 6:53 “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”

“Because many of them used their intellect trying to understand My words, they left Me.”

¹³ Hebrews 8:11 “And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.”

*John 6:60 "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?...
66From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."*

"And now, more than one billion people are taken by human wisdom through philosophy justifying 'eating My flesh and drinking My blood' with literal bread and wine, with just the stroke of the hand." What did I say is the spiritual bread? Do not people know that I am the Word of God?

Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

Jeremiah 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..."

"Do Scribes or religious wise men recognize Me through human wisdom?

1 Corinthians 1:20 "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God..."

"How many among you who 'eat the intellect' recognize Me and understand My words? Do you not openly declare that I am a mystery incapable of clear identification with your finite mind? Do you not admit, deep in your hearts, that My words are full of contradictions because you cannot understand My Spiritual Language? Do not you find My words boring, that you only select portions, because you cannot understand the great message? Nevertheless, you still insist on 'eating the fruits' of the tree of knowledge just like Eve did before you, for she represents you all!"

"You want to be My follower as My disciples were who were endowed with knowledge and wisdom. In My eyes, My disciples were "little children" who knew nothing, could not do anything, but simply trusted Me on matters pertaining to Me and My words. That is why I explained everything to them:

Mark 4:34 "But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

TWO STANDARDS OF GOOD AND EVIL

As if God continue speaking, "What you have seen is a demonstration of eating one of the fruits of the forbidden tree. You will notice that the forbidden tree is not just Tree of Knowledge. Rather, I called it the 'tree of knowledge' of *good and evil*. The serpent told Eve that she would be '*as gods knowing good and evil*.' You asked Me, whether I taught man what is good and evil upon creation; because the temptation was for Eve 'to know good and evil' after eating the forbidden fruits."

"What do you think man was, when I created him in My image? Did I not give him My Standard of good and evil? Of course, he did know My Standard! Now, what is this 'good and evil' that the serpent was talking? Could you see now the revelation of the two standards of good and evil?

1. *My Standard of good and evil, and*
2. *Man's Standard of good and evil (with the eating of the fruits of the forbidden tree)!*

"Upon creation, man had My standard of good and evil. The temptation of the serpent therefore was, for Eve or the people, to drop that standard and adopt their own. *I, your God, alone can set this standard*. Lucifer in rebelling against Me set his own standard of good and evil. He wanted to take My role. He wanted to be a God like Me. This is how the serpent, actually Satan, got the idea and tempted Eve to 'be as gods knowing good and evil.' Is it not clear to you now that following My words to your own understanding, unwittingly, make your own standard of good and evil?

EMOTION

As if, God continue speaking: "Where did I say does evil come from? Is it not from the *heart* with the use of the *intellect*?" These are the fruits of the Soul, the forbidden fruits of the 'tree of knowledge of good and evil.' This is what I say about the heart:

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

"It is the intellect with the dictate of the heart that devises man's way:

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way..."

“It is the ‘eating of the intellect and the dictate of the heart’ that makes man spiritually blind:

Ephesians 4:18 “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

“Because of spiritual blindness, man thinks that sincerity is all that makes him close to Me. He is wrong. Sincerity to be considered faith must be based on the knowledge of the truth:

Romans 10:2 “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.”

“Have you noticed how people differ in their ‘standard of good and evil?’ It is Man’s Way all the way! Every religion and all denominations composing it have their respective standard distinct from the rest.

Religions such as Bahai Faith, Brahmanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, Taoism, and many others have doctrines distinct from each other. Christianity, as divided into denominations such as: The Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, and Aglipayan Church.

Baptist, Methodist, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Pentecostal Trinitarian, Church of God, Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Anglican, Jehovah’s Witness, Mormons, Pentecostal Oneness, Seventh Day Adventists, and many others, while using the Holy Bible as the basis of doctrines, each sect has its distinct dogmas different from the rest.

Who can deny that not all these religions and sects use philosophy, the product of the intellect, and greatly influenced by feeling, the product of emotion, as the foundation stocks of their creed? People only see *morality* or religiosity that every religion teaches. Do you know that religiosity only ‘cleanses the outside of the cup?’ Many people are spiritually blind that they cannot see Spirituality, which is the truth in My words according to My explanation. Spirituality purifies the “inside of the cup.” [Discussed in Chapter 12]

“Every man and group of men has their own understanding, thus, their respective Standard of good and evil. People speak different ‘languages’ just like when I confounded the language of the people in building the Tower of Babel [Discussed in Chapter 10]. They speak a common literal language, be it English, German, Chinese, Hindu, Russian, Niponggo, etc., yet they cannot

understand each other when they talk about Me and My words. Can the different Christian denominations understand each other while speaking the same English or other languages and dialects?"

"Everybody thinks they are right. Everybody acts 'as god' formulating their own standard of good and evil. You will note that I confirmed what Satan told Eve. This is after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruits. The serpent said, 'be as gods knowing good and evil.'

Genesis 3:22 "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil..."

"After the fall, man, like Lucifer, had been setting his standard of good and evil – imitating Me. I am the sole authority to tell what is good, and what is evil in spiritual matters. You must distinguish *morality*, a sphere I entrust to you,¹⁴ from *spirituality*, which is My sole domain. Morality pertains to physical life. You have your code of ethics and your civil laws. Spirituality relates to spiritual life that a person gets after truly being "born of water and of Spirit." How many of you can distinguish spirituality from religiosity? Religiosity is closely akin to morality."

"By usurping My authority and formulating their own standard, people now reject My standard of righteousness:

Romans 10:3 "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

"This is the reason why I told Adam and Eve they would surely die if they eat the forbidden fruits:

Genesis 3:3 "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

"Religions deceive the soul! It is a case of the *soul* trying to control the *soul*, instead of being dependent to My Spirit. All religions promote morality, which is what attracts people, believing that this leads to spirituality. This is what I told the *religious* people:

¹⁴ 1 Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; ¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

Matthew 23:25 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter...²⁶...cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

"It is only My Way, sans human understanding and feeling in My words that leads man to spirituality. Spirituality purifies first the 'inside' followed with the 'cleansing of the outside.' I will now demonstrate the 'cleansing of the inside' that should precede the purification of the outside, where the 'inside' refers to *spirituality* and the 'outside' to *morality*."

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

As if God is saying, "I will illustrate the application of the commandment: 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' Using man's intellect, adultery simply means having sexual relation with the opposite sex that is not the lawful spouse. But with My Spiritual Language, I will tell you who is the husband and who is the wife?"

Jeremiah 3:14 "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you..."

Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of host..."

"It is clear that I, your God, am the spiritual 'husband', while you are the spiritual 'wife!' As husband, I am planting My 'seeds' to you in order to bear children or 'fruits.' The seeds are My words (Luke 8:11). The 'children' are the fruit(s) of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." - Galatians 5:22-23

"Perhaps you are wondering who the *other* person is with whom you may commit adultery. Who is trying to plant his 'seeds or words' in you in the following?"

Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

"It is Satan, My rival, who is trying to plant his 'seeds' in you, actually my words for he is also quoting from My Sacred Book!¹⁵ If he succeeds, the 'fruits of your adultery' are the counterfeit 'love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.' You will see later the difference between the two kinds of fruits. The former originates from the 'inside', while the counterfeit, from the 'outside'. The fruits from the 'inside' come from the Spirit, while those from the 'outside', come from man's discipline, mind-conditioning, and human capability. Do not forget what I told My disciples:

John 15:5 "...for without me ye can do nothing."

"In My human manifestation, I have performed two roles. As Son, I AM your model showing the Way acting as spiritual wife like you. Have you not heard Me say?

John 5:19 "... Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself..."

John 14:28 "...I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."

John 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."

As Father, I AM at the same time the spiritual husband. I accepted worship, and the title Teacher:

Matthew 2:11 "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child... and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

¹⁵ Matthew 4:6 (Satan speaking) "And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Satan was quoting:

Psalms 91:11 "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Mark 5:6 "But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him."

Matthew 28:9 "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him."

Matthew 23:8 "But be not ye called Rabbi (or Teacher): for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

"Now you understand why I called My people, both in the Old and New Testament, 'adulterous generation.'¹⁶ They accepted "seeds" or words other than Mine. If you are faithful to Me and love My words, will you still accept teachings other than Mine? Spiritual adultery is 'uncleanness in the inside.' If you are truly "clean in the inside," will you still commit physical adultery? This is what I mean when I told the religious leaders.

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

"I repeat: cleanliness on the outside is plain *morality*. This is what people know about righteousness concerning this commandment. And, they are proud following it as the Rich Young Ruler and the Scribes and Pharisees. They missed cleanliness in the 'inside', which is spirituality.

The Standard of Righteousness of man is only limited to morality. Man cannot comprehend the deep meaning of spirituality. I preached it to the Jews during My sojourn on earth, but they rejected it. That is why, until now they do not recognize Me! How could they understand My words when they do not even know Me?"

"DEATH ON THE DAY" OF THE FALL

God told Adam and Eve that they would surely die on the day that they eat the forbidden fruits:

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

¹⁶ Matthew 12:39 "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas."

Perhaps this is the first revelation of the *spiritual language* of God. To follow the *literal language* of the serpent, God would have lied because Adam and Eve did not die “on the day” or within 24 hours after eating the fruits of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They even had children thereafter:

Genesis 5:4 “And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begot sons and daughters:”

However, Adam and Eve died in that short period as sworn by God. Who was telling the truth? God or the serpent? Jesus Christ said that Satan is the father of lies. To follow the *literal language* of the serpent, Adam and Eve did not die “in the *day* of the fall.” However, God will never tell a lie. Adam really died “within one day” with the *spiritual language* of God:

2 Peter 3:8 “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

Proof that God was telling the truth, Adam died “within one spiritual day of 1,000 years” even short of 70 years!”

Genesis 5:5 “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.”

Not only the period or time set by God in His words that exposed the deception of the serpent. It is in the punishment when God will expound the meaning “death” – separating them from the Tree of Life.

SPIRITUAL DEATH AFTER THE FALL

Using the *literal language* of the serpent, Adam and Eve did not die physically. That is the deceptive promise of Satan. Nevertheless, God true to His word, disobedience spelled “death” to them.

Genesis 3:23 “Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden... ²⁴...he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

God separated man from the Tree of Life. This is the *Spirit* of God. Before, man had two kinds of life:

1. Physical Life that consists of the *Body* and the *Soul*
2. Spiritual Life consists of the *Spirit of God* and the *Soul*

After the Fall, man lost his Spiritual Life turning him into a Natural Man¹⁷ who can no longer understand “spiritual things.”

Proverbs 21:16 “The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.”

GOD CONFIRMED THE STATEMENT OF THE SERPENT! (?)

How could God confirm what Satan told Eve on “eating the forbidden fruits” that she would “be as god knowing good and evil?”

Genesis 3:22 “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.”

God needs to explain His words that He expressed in parable in order for us to understand the intended message. Let us ask Him. “Lord, why did you confirm the statement of the serpent that man ‘would become one of You to know good and evil’ after eating the forbidden fruits?”

As if God is saying, “After man ‘ate his intellect and feeling,’ the fruits of the forbidden tree, he now forms his own standard of good and evil. He will definitely reject My standard for it cannot reconcile with his perception and feeling.

That is what you see in the world. Every man or group of men has their own standard of good and evil distinct from the others. Man, therefore, or the people in general, make themselves ‘*as gods*’ – formulating their own standard of good and evil, that I alone as God can do.”

“The temptation of the serpent, or Satan or the Devil or Dragon¹⁸ is actually Lucifer who committed this sin wanting to be ‘like me’.¹⁹ Misery Loves Company is what drives Satan deceiving the whole world.”

¹⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

SPIRITUAL NAKEDNESS

God seems to convey here that there are two kinds of spiritual nakedness. These are derived from the two kinds of covering:

1. The robe of righteousness
2. The garment of salvation

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with..."

Let us ask God what these two coverings are: "Lord, could you please explain to us the two kinds of nakedness, represented by the two kinds of covering?"

As if God is saying, "You can best understand the two kinds of nakedness as they applied to Adam and Eve *before* and *after* the Fall.

NAKEDNESS BEFORE THE FALL

Adam and Eve were naked before the Fall:

Genesis 3:6 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. ⁷And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Human understanding is limited only to the literal-physical uncovered bodies before the fall. As usual, let us ask God, "Lord, how do you explain the

¹⁸ Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

¹⁹ Ezekiel 28:13 "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius..."

Ezekiel 28:2 "...Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart *is* lifted up, and thou hast said, I *am* a God, I sit *in* the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou *art* a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:"

nakedness of man before the fall? As if God is saying, "You must remember that Adam and Eve did not eat the fruit(s) of the Tree of Life.

Genesis 3:22 "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:"

"The fruits of the Tree of Life, actually the fruit(s) of the Spirit, were available but they did not eat them. These are "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23) In My eyes, therefore, they were 'naked of the *robe of righteousness*.'"²⁰ To illustrate:

"I was with them before the Fall, as I was with David, the conqueror of Goliath, and Peter, My apostle.

"See for yourself how David was spiritually naked of the "robe of righteousness." David My chosen, in order to win Bathsheba, hatched a plan to kill Uriah, her husband.

2 Samuel 11:2-5 "And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house... he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. ³And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba... the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ⁴And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her...and she returned unto her house. ⁵And the woman conceived... and told David, and said, I am with child."

2 Samuel 11:15-17 "And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. ¹⁶And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. ¹⁷And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also."

²⁰ Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; ...he hath covered me with the *robe of righteousness*, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with..."

"Look, how David 'did not eat the fruit of love, joy, peace, gentleness, faith and temperance.' You yourself can see that he was '*naked of the robe of righteousness*' and, *yet, he was not aware of it* that it needed My prophet, Nathan, to remind him of his '*nakedness of the robe of righteousness!*'"

"Another example is Peter, My apostle. He bragged about not leaving Me even if My other apostles would. Three times before the cock crowed he denied Me and, like David, he was not aware of his mistake. He was naked of the '*robe of righteousness*' by not '*eating the fruit of love, joy, peace and faith.*' At that time *he was not aware of his spiritual nakedness.*"

"David and Peter's mistake was equivalent to Adam and Eve's not '*eating the fruits of the Tree of Life.*' They were '*naked of the robe of righteousness.*' David and Peter remained My chosen in spite of their spiritual nakedness of the '*robe of righteousness.*' So with Adam and Eve before the Fall. They have not lost their salvation before eating the fruits of the forbidden tree of Knowledge."

NAKEDNESS AFTER THE FALL

As in nakedness before the Fall, the Natural Man simply sees literal-physical nudity of the body after eating the forbidden fruits, which Adam and Eve became aware.

Let us ask God about this "nakedness after the Fall." Lord, how do you explain nakedness with the '*eating of the intellect*' and feeling, the forbidden fruits?

As if, God is saying, "Intellect and feeling are not the means to understand My Spiritual Language. Did I not say that it is to the *babes* and the "poor in spirit" that spiritual wisdom is given? Remember I deny these to the wise and the prudent!

Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

2 Timothy 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Isaiah 28:9 [KJV] "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts."

"I told you before that the use of the intellect and feeling will make man set his *own standard of good and evil*. With the use of human wisdom, man will cease to understand My Spiritual Language. That is certain spiritual death for how could he follow My word if he cannot comprehend it. That is the realization of Adam and Eve's nakedness and also spiritual death with their separation from the tree of life."

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

"This is what happened. After eating the fruits of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve realized their 'nakedness.' They became aware of the 'lost of the garment of salvation.' How could man, represented by Eve, not lose his salvation if he sets his own standard of good and evil? As promised by the Serpent, Eve or the people would be *like god to know good and evil*. The devil, of course, was referring to man's standard of good and evil. Satan was the first to have his standard of good and evil. That is what rebellion against Me meant."

Genesis 3:7 "...and the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

FIG LEAVES FOR COVERING

Many people do not even know that Adam and Eve's nakedness refers to the "garment of salvation. One thing good for them was they realized their "nakedness" after the fall. They covered themselves by sewing fig leaves as "garment."

Genesis 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

This gives us the message that they tried to win back the salvation they lost. Let us now ask God why He changed the fig leaves with "coats of skin."

Genesis 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

"Lord, why did you change the 'fig leaves covering' with 'coats of skin'"? As if God is saying, "Fig tree symbolizes man."

Judges 9:10 "And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹¹But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?"

"The leaves indicate anything coming from man. Leaves from the fig tree as covering symbolize the 'garment of salvation' coming from men. These are the precepts of men and religious traditions, the product of the intellect and feeling, which I condemn:

Isaiah 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me...and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men. ¹⁴Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

"Remember, desire for salvation is not enough; neither does sincerity correct the erroneous way of attaining it."

Romans 10:2 "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."

"Human ways of attaining salvation, apart from My way, is tantamount to rejecting of My Standard:

Romans 10:3 "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

That is the reason why I substituted 'coats of skin' for the 'fig leaves' that Adam and Eve tried to cover their "nakedness."

“COATS OF SKIN”

We ask God, “Lord, what is the significance of the ‘coats of skin’ as covering?” As if God is asking the following questions that, everybody ought to know, “Can I get the skin of animals, say a sheep, without shedding its blood and killing it? Can you not see the connection between the shedding of My blood in My human manifestation on the cross with this ‘coat of skin?’ Have you forgotten how I am pictured as a Lamb?”

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb...”

John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

1 Peter 1:19 “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

Revelation 5:6 “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as it had been slain...”

“My death on the cross is symbolized by the ‘coat of skin!’ This is the acceptable covering for spiritual nakedness. This is the ‘garment of salvation.’”

We ask God, “Lord, how could your death be the garment of salvation?” As if God is saying, “Remember, I made a Covenant, and this can only be fulfilled by the death of the *Testator*. I manifested Myself in the *flesh* for this purpose, aside from showing the Way by example. In My Testament, I promised Myself to be the inheritance. I manifested Myself in the form of Spirit, so that I can dwell in My chosen to teach them My way and not man’s way, and, My Standard and not man’s Standard of good and evil.”²¹

“I repeat: nakedness after the Fall is spiritual nakedness of the garment of salvation. This is the result of the adoption of man’s Standard of good and evil with the use of the intellect and feeling. A fig leaf covering is man-devised ‘garment of salvation.’ This has to be replaced with My ‘garment of salvation’ which is the ‘coats of skin’” symbolizing the shedding of My blood on the cross.”

²¹ Details in Chapter 5

To summarize the two kinds of nakedness, before and after the Fall:

1. "Nakedness before the Fall refers only to the non-eating of the fruits of the Tree of Life. These are the fruit(s) of the Spirit. This is 'uncleanness on the outside': David's commission of physical adultery with Bathsheba and physical murder of Uriah; and Peter's literal denial of Me."

"This is not nakedness of the garment of salvation as David and Peter still remained My chosen. I demonstrated in the Prodigal son's leaving his father and squandering his wealth on the things of the flesh. He remained the son of his father. His coming back is equivalent to David and Peter's repentance."

2. "Nakedness after the Fall refers to the 'eating of the fruits of the forbidden tree.' This renders 'uncleanness in the inside'. The use of the intellect and feeling in matters pertaining to Me and My words renders spiritual blindness as not to see spiritual adultery, spiritual murder, spiritual stealing, spiritual telling a lie, etc."²²

"This is what I saw in the Scribes and Pharisees. Like Adam and Eve, they tried to cover their spiritual nakedness with 'human ways' of salvation. However, unlike them, the Scribes and Pharisees did not accept My offer of 'coats of skin,' or My Way. With their Standard, they tried to clean the outside, by comprehending My words with their intellect and feeling. They, however, failed to clean the inside of the cup and platter. Therefore they remained spiritually naked without the 'garment of salvation.'"

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

God provided Adam and Eve with "coats of skin," indicating covering them with the "garment of salvation." Why did God still drove them out from Garden of Eden, and therefore ceased to have access to the Tree of life? This is *another message*, and God is reminding us of the following in "searching the Scriptures:"

Isaiah 28:9 [KJV] "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

²² Details in Chapter 12

¹⁰For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

MAN AFTER THE FALL

At creation, God created man in His own image. The image of God is Jesus Christ, a physical being, and pictured as a "Lamb."²³ Man therefore must also be in the image of a "lamb or sheep." After the Fall however, man no longer has that image but of a "goat."²⁴ Only salvation can restore man to his original image.

With the separation of the Tree of Life after the Fall, man is left only with the *Tree bearing fruits pleasing to the eyes and good for food*, and the *Tree of Knowledge of good and evil*. These two correspond to the *Body* and the *Soul*. These are what make man worldly and selfish as we find ourselves today.

Without the Tree of Life or the Spirit of God, man devises and plots his way of salvation. Religions offer different standards of righteousness and Godliness to humankind. Philosophies, or the use of the intellect, and emotionalism, the "fruits of the forbidden tree," are the foundation of all Religions! They are appealing to the people for they come from them. People see and accept different ways to eternal life. However, God says, there is only one way – His Way, His standard. Man is blind to this Way without God opening the "eyes." How many people "see" this? If ever they find it, how many of them will accept it? Many or only a few?²⁵

THE COUNTERFEIT

People believing in the Bible see Jesus Christ pictured as a Lamb, so they want to imitate Him. They, therefore, "cover themselves with wool" by "cleaning the outside." From all appearances, they are *spiritual sheep*. Jesus Christ saw this in the Scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders at that time, who claimed they have followed the commandments: "Thou shalt keep the Sabbath Day, honor thy father and thy mother; thou shalt not steal, kill,

²³ John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

²⁴ Matthew 25:32 "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his sheep* from the *goats*: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his *right hand*, but the goats on the *left*."

²⁵ Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

commit adultery, bear false witness, etc.” Nevertheless, He warned, “By their fruits ye shall know them.” He is referring to the counterfeit “fruit of the Spirit”²⁶ that only came from mind conditioning and self-discipline.²⁷

Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing...”

Many people think Man’s Standard of Righteousness will save them. God says otherwise:

Matthew 7:13 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

People follow religious leaders for their teachings of *morality* and *religiosity*. In the eyes of Christ, they had only cleaned the *outside of the cup*:

Matthew 23:26 “Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

Our Lord keeps on repeating His warning to the chosen few to beware of false Prophets in sheep’s clothing. Let us heed His call. Of all people, Jesus Christ called the Scribes and Pharisees “serpents and generation of vipers.” We did not hear Him say this to the murderers, thieves, corrupt political leaders, the flesh merchants, and incorrigible criminals.

Matthew 23:13 “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

Matthew 23:33 “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”

Matthew 23:15 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one

²⁶ Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

²⁷ This is discussed in Chapter 12.

proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Did the religious leaders know that they were as such? Of course not! They were, in fact, sincere in their beliefs that they even called our Lord "fool and having devils."²⁸ Today, of course, no one would call our Lord, "fool and having devils," but unwittingly many people will pour their hatred on the Truth that represents Him. In their view, they were on the right way to salvation. But the Word rebukes them:

Romans 10:2 "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

That is where we find people today under the different *religions*, and *sects* and *denominations* within each religion. They all preach *morality* and *sacrifices* in the form of long and pleasant-to-hear prayers, and other works acceptable to the people as basis of salvation. God, however, prefers knowledge about Him and His words:

Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..."

Jesus Christ preached *spirituality*, or the cleansing of the *inside*, as a prerequisite to cleansing the *outside*. God entrusted His word to the Jews but did not understand it because they did not recognize Him. Therefore, our Lord did not explain His words to many of them that are all spoken in parables:

Mark 4:11 "...unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand..."

He called the religious leaders blind guides leading the blind:

²⁸ John 10:20 "And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?"

Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:"

However, for His disciples who "were converted into little children," can little children capable of "eating the intellect and feeling?" Christ's disciples were physical adults, but they were "spiritual babes" to Him. They were "poor in spirit" that He explained His word to them.

Mark 4:34 "But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

We have to note that Jesus did not authorize Peter, John, James, Paul or any of His Disciples to expound on His words that were in parables. Why do modern apostles today take this authority?

TREE OF LIFE GUARDED

After the Fall, God separated man from the Tree of Life, and had it tightly guarded:

Genesis 3:24 "...He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Let us ask God why He denied the Tree of Life from man that symbolizes His Spirit: "Lord, did You not create man to be Your eternal companion? Now, why do You deny Yourself from him?"

As if God is saying, "Yes, I created man in My image to be My eternal companion. However, he shattered that image with his disobedience by eating the fruits of the Tree of Knowledge. Did I not tell man, through Adam and Eve, that he 'would surely die' if he would disobey Me? Giving him access to the Tree of Life would mean restoration of 'life.' Does that not make Me a great liar? It is My enemy, Satan, the Old Serpent, who is the liar!

"I cannot just make available the Tree of Life, or restore life after spiritual death, and remain true to My words. Now you understand why the Tree of Life is tightly guarded. I have to be true to My words. If ever I wanted to push

through with My original plan of man to be My eternal companion, I have to rectify whatever he destroyed.”

THE TESTAMENT AND “BORN AGAIN”

We ask God, “Lord, how do you mend what man destroyed? How could we get back the tree of life?” As if God is saying, “May I remind you that I made a Testament for the rectification of whatever man destroyed. In this covenant, I bound Myself, as Testator, to fulfill it with My death:

Hebrews 9:16 “For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.”

“This is foreshadowed by the shedding of blood of animals in the Old Testament. After I manifested Myself in the flesh,²⁹ I fulfilled the Testament with My death on the cross:

1 John 3:16 [KJV] “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us...”

“By this time, you must have been familiar with the ‘inheritance’ in My Testament. I promised Myself to be the inheritance.³⁰ My Disciples received Me for an inheritance in My manifestation as Holy Spirit:

John 7:39 “(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”

Acts 2:2 “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...”

“My death and resurrection marked the accessibility of the Tree of Life or the availability of the Holy Spirit to those who will believe Me. This is the atonement or expiation that I made for whatever man has destroyed in My plan. You have seen this at Pentecost when My disciples received Me as their *inheritance*.”

²⁹ 1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: *God was manifest in the flesh...*”

³⁰ Ezekiel 44:28 “And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance...”

"That, in a nutshell, is My gift of love to those who will humble themselves as 'little children.'³¹ 'This is what I told Nicodemus, a well-known teacher of My words in Israel. Without access to the Tree of Life, he did not even understand what I am saying that one has to be 'born again.' He was thinking of literal-physical, while I was speaking spiritual things. Before Nicodemus had no access to the Tree of Life, he was a Natural Man. He did not yet have the Holy Spirit. He did not have the Inheritance I promised to the *priests*. The Inheritance is Myself for I am the Tree of Life!"

"These are the signs for people who have already the Tree of Life, proofs for having received Me:

1. I give them a heart to know Me because they have come to Me with their whole heart.³²
2. I reveal Myself as I did to My prophets and disciples, that I am no longer a mystery or a strange God to them, not only in the Old but also in the New Testament:

Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

3. Not only do I open their 'eyes' to recognize Me, but I also open their 'ears' to understand My words with My spiritual language:

1 Corinthians 2:15 "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

"How many therefore can claim that they are truly "born again? Many or only a few?"

Matthew 20:16 "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

³¹ Matthew 18:3 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

³² Jeremiah 24:7 "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."

THE "SIN AND PUNISHMENT" OF ADAM

It is to be noted that Adam "ate" the forbidden fruits at the instance of Eve. Adam was never deceived but Eve who succumbed to the temptation:

1 Timothy 2:14 "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

Adam ate the "fruits" knowing that he would suffer the consequences of the transgression. So this is his "punishment:"

Genesis 3:17 "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it...in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee..."

Have we not seen that Adam personifies God being alone and needing a companion? Adam was created in the likeness of God, actually in the image of Jesus Christ who is the image of the invisible God. Jesus Christ is referred to as the last Adam:

1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

Because Adam was not deceived, eating the forbidden fruits was his demonstration of love for his wife. Then he could assume all the punishment. This is a shadow of what Jesus Christ did for His "bride."

1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness..."

Just as Eve was taken from the side of Adam,

Genesis 2:21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam,³³ and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;²² And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

³³ This is equivalent to the death of Jesus Christ.

so is the *Church*, the spiritual wife or individual believers, also taken out of the side of Jesus Christ:

John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

How is the *Church* composed of real believers established?

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

"Water symbolizes the "letter" of word of God,³⁴ while the Spirit³⁵ is made available with the shedding of *blood* on the cross, represents the Holy Spirit. The "letter" of the word and the Holy Spirit are the "two witnesses" to the Truth! "Born again" therefore means born of the truth. Since Christ is the truth, "born again" marks the miracle of transformation from spiritual "goat" to a spiritual "lamb or sheep" as Jesus is pictured in John 1:29. The real "born again," spiritual sheep in the eyes of God, can now understand Jesus Christ, who speaks "spiritual things".

The *thorns and thistles* for Adam were the equivalent of *Calvary and cross* for Jesus Christ. It is not only the physical suffering of Jesus Christ, but also His life as a whole depicted the spiritual thorns and thistles. We all know how He lived as a man. He was born in a manger, raised in the infamous Nazareth by a carpenter, and He Himself was just a simple carpenter. He was derided, scorned, mocked, and greatly humiliated by the religious leaders, etc.

Jesus Christ is the Truth. Expect the Truth to suffer in the hands of religious leaders today. Truth will be ridiculed, mocked and be "killed" like Jesus Christ. But it will surely resurrect!

Love is what characterized the relationship between Adam and Eve – so with Jesus Christ and the *Church* composed of real believers. That is why God is called love.

1 John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love..."

³⁴ Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of *water* by the *word*."

³⁵ John 7:39 "(But this spake he of the *Spirit*, which they that believe on him should receive: for the *Holy Ghost* was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

THE "PUNISHMENT" FOR EVE

*1 Timothy 2:13-15 "For Adam was first formed, then Eve.
14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being
deceived was in the transgression. 15Notwithstanding she
shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and
charity and holiness with sobriety."*

To take the word of God literally, "woman" refers only to Eve. However, take note how God used the plural form "they" that actually refers to real believers, both male and female. Again, to take the word of God literally, how simple it is for a *woman* to be saved by simply giving birth to children. However, Eve represents the real Christians who are the "wife" of God. "Childbearing" means the fruitfulness of man, the spiritual wife, in union with God Who is the spiritual husband. The spiritual children are the fruit(s) of the Spirit:

*Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23Meekness, temperance..."*

SPIRITUAL HISTORY OF MAN IN DIAGRAMS

Figure 1

Man Upon Creation

In the following diagram, man upon creation had three components. God said in Genesis 1:27 that He created man in His own image. However, God is a Spirit (John 4:24). He must therefore be referring to Jesus Christ, a physical being, Who is the "image of the invisible God."³⁶ The "image of man" upon creation is the image of Jesus Christ in the following:

*Matthew 12:18 "Behold, my servant, whom I have chosen;
my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my
spirit upon him, and he shall..."*

³⁶ Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation."

- SPIRIT (God's Spirit)
- spiritual discernment
 - divine wisdom
 - spiritual strength
- SOUL (human spirit)
- intellect
 - feeling/emotion
 - free will
 - personality
- BODY ("flesh")
- sight
 - hearing
 - smell
 - taste
 - touch
 - sex

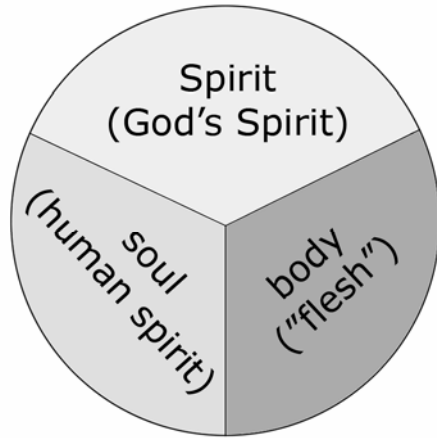
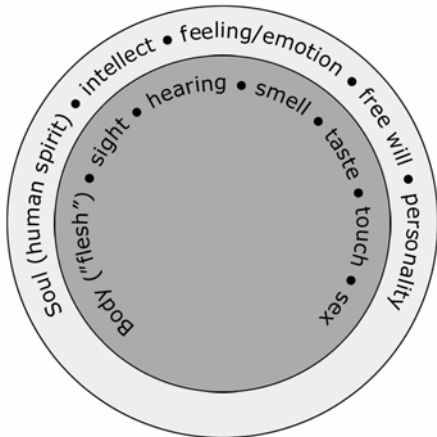


Figure 2

The FALL OF MAN is shown in the following diagram:

- SOUL (human spirit)
- intellect
 - feeling/emotion
 - free will
 - personality
- BODY ("flesh")
- sight
 - hearing
 - smell
 - taste
 - touch
 - sex



"Eating" the fruits of the "Tree of knowledge" meant "spiritual death" to man. This refers to the loss of the *Spirit* (of God) with the separation of the Tree of Life from man! Man, therefore, was deprived of spiritual discernment, divine wisdom, and spiritual strength. He degenerated into a *Natural Man* who

cannot understand “spiritual things,” because these can only be “spiritually discerned”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

In this state, man finds himself in his “natural self”: philosophical on matters about God, and selfish with his feeling or emotion. All these are the fruits of the *Soul*. Man is also at ease with his worldliness through his senses that make up the *Body*. The body is but the shell of the real man. The real man is represented by the *soul* that makes up his personality. After the fall, man has been under the complete control of his *Soul*. Satan has succeeded!

BORN AGAIN

In order for man to be bailed out of this lost state, Jesus Christ said in:

John 3:3 “...verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

“Born again” is the miracle of transformation of a Natural Man pictured as a “goat” into a Spiritual Man, the image of “lamb/sheep,” as Jesus Christ is represented.³⁷

1 Corinthians 2:15 “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Jesus Christ explained, “Born again” in the following. However, man has his own understanding of a changed life of immorality and sin into a life of goodness and piety. Jesus Christ explained, “Born again” in the following:

John 3:5 “...verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

“Water” here refers to the “letter” of the word, the *First Witness* to the truth where a person has to be engrossed.

³⁷ John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

To indicate that it does not just refer to the "literal word," our Lord emphasized "and of the Spirit." This refers to the Holy Spirit, the *Second Witness* to the truth. It gives "life" to the 'letter' for the spiritual message of the word. The following can now be fully appreciated:

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit that quickeneth...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

Spiritual rebirth marks accessibility to the Tree of Life again that has ceased at the Fall. The Tree of Life is the Holy Spirit.

Figure 3

The following diagram shows the restoration of the *Spirit*, or being "born again."

SPIRIT (God's Spirit)

- spiritual discernment
- divine wisdom
- spiritual strength

SOUL (human spirit)

- intellect
- feeling/emotion
- free will
- personality

BODY ("flesh")

- sight
- hearing
- smell
- taste
- touch
- sex



The Tree of Life is restored! The *Spirit* is given back to man! The Inheritance promised in the Testament of Salvation is received. Man is born again and now restored to the original image of a "lamb or sheep"! He is now a "spiritual baby." Look at the position of the components. The spiritual baby is still dominated by the *Soul*. Thus, emotionalism and spiritual stumbling are not uncommon at this stage of spiritual growth. However, the attributes of the *Spirit* are already discernible:

1. Spiritual discernment, or the ability to distinguish truth from falsehood,
2. Divine knowledge, or the understanding of the spiritual word of God, and its application or divine wisdom,
3. Spiritual strength, or the power to resist things not of the truth, and
4. Thus, the ability to walk the "spiritual way."

As spiritual baby, man is fed with "spiritual milk" growing in stature spiritually.

1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

The *Spirit* gradually gains control over the *Soul* and the *Body*. This simply means that human reasoning on spiritual matters and emotionalism, and worldliness slowly give way to the dictate and control of the *Spirit*. The *Spirit* leads the Spiritual Man to the standard of righteousness of God, abandoning the "soulish and earthly" Standard of Man. The attributes of the *Soul* and *Body* are what are referred to as the "old man" in the following:

Ephesians 4:22 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts."

Paul puts the gradual subordination of the *Soul* and *Body* to the *Spirit* in:

1 Corinthians 15:31 "...I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

Figure 4

Spiritual growth is shown in the following diagram

SPIRIT (God's Spirit)

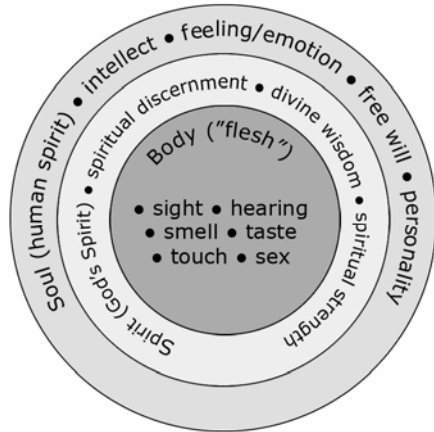
- spiritual discernment
- divine wisdom
- spiritual strength

SOUL (human spirit)

- intellect
- feeling/emotion
- free will
- personality

BODY ("flesh")

- sight
- hearing
- smell
- taste
- touch
- sex



"It is in death that there is life." As Jesus died on the cross and then resurrected to life again, so is the Spiritual Man "must also die" that he could have a *real spiritual life* while still in his physical body. He must grow spiritually by "dying everyday!"

Spiritual perfection is manifested by the complete control of the *Spirit* over the *Soul* and the *Body*. Jesus Christ, as model, showed the example of spiritual perfection in His human body. This is shown in the following diagram:

Figure 5

Spiritual perfection is illustrated in the following diagram.

SPIRIT (God’s Spirit)

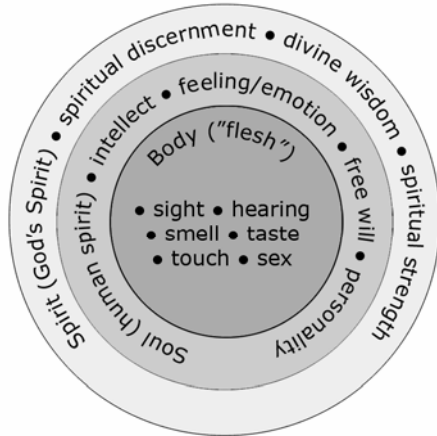
- spiritual discernment
- divine wisdom
- spiritual strength

SOUL (human spirit)

- intellect
- feeling/emotion
- free will
- personality

BODY (“flesh”)

- sight
- hearing
- smell
- taste
- touch
- sex



Spiritual Perfection, Jesus Christ as model, shows that the *Spirit* of God (Father) is in complete “control” over the *Soul* (soulishness) and the *Body* (flesh). It is at this stage of “spiritual walk” that God will take His chosen to the *Second Heaven*.³⁸ This means physical death to the chosen who have overcome³⁹ to meet Abraham and all the saints in Paradise. Paul wrote about the three heavens in:

2 Corinthians 12:2 “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”

³⁸ The *First*, *Second*, and *Third Heaven* will be taken up in Volume 2.

³⁹ Revelation 3:5 “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”

Maranatha!

