

# Your Human Spirit

Living in the Spiritual Realm 3, Session 3

## Intro

- Previous session:
  - Your relationship with God is – or should be – most important to you and should occupy your thoughts
  - Communication is essential to any relationship
  - Hearing God’s voice is the most important spiritual experience you can have
  - God does speak to you & wants you to recognize his voice
  - With practice, your spirit & psyche will cooperate & you’ll succeed

## You are a three-part being

- 1 Th 5:23 “May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- You are a spirit being with a psyche, temporarily living in a physical body
- Your spirit is the real you
- You are currently living in the spiritual realm but not fully aware of it because your psyche remains dominant & doesn’t acknowledge everything your spirit senses or does

## Your spirit is what makes you like God

- Genesis 1 gives us insight
  - Hebrew word *bara* means to bring something new into existence
  - Genesis 1 uses *bara* three times:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> time: God created physical existence
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> time: he created creatures with conscious awareness
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> time: he created beings with spirits
  - Gen 1:26-27, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness ....’ So God created man in his own image ....”
  - God created us in his image and likeness, to look and be like him, to think and act like him; to be his peers, as much as created beings can be peers of their Creator. He honored us by making us the pinnacle of all creation, crowning us with glory like his own and giving us our own domain to rule over.
- “I choose to see God’s image in every human and stop viewing people from a worldly perspective.”

## Your spirit is your source of life

- Jn 19:30, "... when he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."
  - What happened to Jesus when he gave up his spirit?
- Acts 7:59-60, "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep."
- Jn 6:63, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing."
  - While God does sustain us with life — i.e., his Spirit provides life to our human spirit – it's also true that our human spirit imparts life to our human psyche & body
- Pr 18:14 "A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?"
- A person's body often reflects the condition of their spirit
  - Mt 12:22, "Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see."
  - Mt 17:18, "Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment."
- The spiritual realm governs the physical realm; same is true of us human beings
- Your spirit gives life to and sustains the rest of you — your psyche & your body.

## Your spirit's functions

- **Interaction with God**
  - Jn 4:23-24, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit** and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is **spirit**, and his worshipers must worship in **spirit** and in truth."
  - 2 Tim 4:22, "The Lord be with your **spirit**."
- **Authority**
  - Lk 9:1, "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases."
  - Authority over evil spiritual beings must be **spiritual** authority
- **Courage, Vitality**
  - Vitality: one's force, energy, vigor
  - Gen 45:27 "But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the **spirit** of their father Jacob revived."
  - Eze 21:7, "... every **spirit** will become faint and every knee become as weak as water."

- **Disposition**
  - Description: habitual inclination; prevailing emotion, desire or attitude
  - Deut 2:30 “For the Lord your God had made his **spirit** stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.”
  - Pr 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty **spirit** before a fall.”
  - Jn 13:21 “After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in **spirit** and testified, ‘I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.’”
- **Character – Aptitudes**
  - Description: spiritual gifts
  - 1 Co 12:1, “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
  - Lists of spiritual gifts: 1 Co 12:8-11, 28; Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:11
  - Our aptitudes or spiritual gifts are major features of our character – functions of our spirits; i.e., our human spirits are the source of our character
- **Character – Traits**
  - Description: fruit of the spirit
  - Gal 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”
  - These are traits of God’s character, but he intends for them to become traits of our human spirits
- **Will**
  - Description: determination, purpose, aim, intention; a fixed and persistent intent or purpose
  - Ps 51:12, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing **spirit**, to sustain me.”
  - Mt 26:41, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The **spirit** is willing, but the body is weak.”
  - God will not violate human will; he made people free moral agents and honors their choices (will = function of spirit, choices = function of psyche)
- **Discernment**
  - Description: “discern” (Gk, verb, *anakrino*): investigate, judge or evaluate carefully, study thoroughly
  - 1 Co 2:14 ESV, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are **spiritually** discerned.”

- **Subconscious Thought, Knowledge**
  - Ps 77:6 “My heart mused and my **spirit** inquired ....”
  - 1 Co 2:11 “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s **spirit** within him?”
  - 1 Co 14:2 “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his **spirit**.”
  - Mt 9:4, “Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your **hearts**?’”
  - 2 Co 1:22 “He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his **Spirit** [*pneuma*] in our **hearts** [*kardia*] as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”
- **Intuition**
  - Definition: the act or faculty of knowing or sensing without the use of rational processes; a sense of something not evident or deducible
  - Mk 2:8, “Immediately Jesus knew in his **spirit** that this was what they were thinking in their hearts.”

### **Recommended Daily Activity**

- Learning to recognize God’s voice is very important, so I’m asking you basically to repeat last week’s daily activity
- This week’s suggested question: “Father, what do you want to tell me about my spirit?”
- Wait & see what he has to say

### **Closing**

- Your spirit is the real you, so honor it by being aware of its existence and activities.