



# Navigating the New Year Pt. 3

## *Knowing where you are spiritually.*

### *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith*

#### *@ CBC Sunday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 2018*

Perspective is Powerful because it affects our Perception! But Perception is not the same as “Reality”. Jesus’ life was marked by challenging people’s perspectives and calling them to embrace God’s Truth. (Jn. 14:6; 18:37). The first two recorded statements of his public ministry illustrate this.

- Mt. 4:17 *“Repent, (reconsider) for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”* (a new Perspective)
- Mt. 4:19 *“Follow me, (rearrange) and I will make you fishers of men.”* (a new Direction)

Jesus was challenging his followers to “navigate” by God’s compass! (Ps. 73:24; 119:105)  
Successful “navigation” requires that you consider:

- Your Final (desired) Destination. (Where you hope to end up!)
- Your Current (actual) Location: (Where you’re actually starting from!)

*If you get either of these wrong, you’ll end up adrift!*

### *Understanding Your current “Location” (Spiritual Condition)*

2 Cor 13:5 *“Examine (peirazō: Scrutinize) yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove (dokimazō: Test) your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* (Adok’imos: unapproved, rejected, disqualified.)

There are three basic “spiritual” conditions listed in the Bible.

#### 1. The “Natural” Person: 1 Cor 2:14

*“the natural man (psychikos’: Body, Soul) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know (understand) them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

##### A. Is spiritually **dead**. Eph. 2:1 *“you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins...”*

- 1) They’re incapable of Spiritual life (apart from God’s intervention.) Eph. 2:4,5
- 2) That’s why Jesus said we must be “born again”. Jn. 2:3-6

##### B. Is spiritually **deceived**. 2 Cor. 4:4; Mt. 7:21-23 *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; ... Many shall say unto me, But Lord, have we not... And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

*This is the condition of most people! Mt. 7:13*

#### 2. The “Spiritual” Person: 1 Cor 2:15,16

*“But he that is spiritual (Pneumatikos’: Regenerated, Spirit led.) judgeth all things...”*

(Anakri’no: scrutinizes, examines) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

##### A. Allows God’s Spirit to **Guide** them. Vs. 16 *“But we have the mind of Christ.”*

Nous: Understanding (See John 14:21)

1 Jn 2:20 *“ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.”* (eidō pas)

Consider, understand, recognize the whole!

Eph 5:15-18 *"See then that ye walk (navigate) circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit"* plēro'ō: filled up, under the influence of.

**Aka: Navigates by God's directions!**

How much "influence" does God's Spirit have in your life? (Gal. 5:17-25)

**B. Allows God's Spirit to Grow them.** (Heb. 12:1-17; 2 Peter 3:18)

- 1) 1 Th 5:19 *"Quench not the Spirit."* When we fail to follow His directions.
- 2) Eph 4:30 *"grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*  
When we chose sin over Him!

### 3. The "Carnal" Person: 1 Cor 3:1-3

*"I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal."* Sarkikos': temporary, fleshly

**A. Lacks:**

- 1) Spiritual Growth! Vs 1,2 *"Even as unto Babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."*
- 2) Spiritual discernment. Heb. 5:12,14 *"when ... ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again... and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat...."*
- 3) Spiritual application. Heb. 5:12,14 *"strong meat belongeth to them that ... by reason of use have their senses (perception) exercised (gymnazō: trained) to discern both good (kalos: inherently Valuable) and evil."* (kakos: inherently Worthless)

The lack of Spiritual Growth, Discernment and application...

**B. Leads to a Sensual (Temporary) focus.** Vs 3 *"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"* Behave as non-believers!

Ph. 3:18-19 *"for many walk, .. who mind (phroneō: entertain and regard) earthly things"*

**Conclusion:** *Until you identify your desired Destination, And your actual Location, Any "Direction" will be ultimately pointless!*

*Once you know your Destination, and Location, You can begin to plot a wise course of Direction!*

#### **Application:**

- 1) What's your desired Destination? (Where do you want to "end up"?)
- 2) What's your current "location"? (What is your current spiritual condition?)
  - "Natural" (unregenerate) Person? *Have you been born again?*
  - "Spiritual" Person? *Are you really letting God Guide and Grow you?*
  - "Carnal" Person? *Are you Saved but dangerously drifting toward "temporary" harbors.*

**Remember, we have a limited, unknown "Duration" to "settle" this!**

Luke 13:23-25 *"Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many... will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer I know you not whence ye are... depart from me"*

***There's no time in Eternity, to Change your Destiny!***

2 Cor. 6:2 *"behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

Heb. 3:7-8 *"The Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts"*