**Navigating our Spiritual journey**

**Knowing where you are spiritually*.***

**Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 27th**

**God challenges us to carefully examine/understanding our spiritual condition. 2 Cor 13:5 Everyone Starts their spiritual journey from (or in) the same point (condition).**

**In 1 Corinthians 2 God *(through His word! 2 Tim. 3:16)* identifies two basic spiritual conditions.**

* **The “Natural” person. Vs 14 Since they haven’t been “born of the Spirit” (Jn 3:6) they’re spiritual Disoriented, deceived, and dead. As such they can’t “Receive” (dechomai: accept) or “know” (ginosko: perceive, understand) the things of God… “because they are spiritually discerned.”**
* **The “Spiritual” person. (Vs 15) Has been “born again” by the Holy Spirit and as such has been saved and sealed, and is in the process of being “schooled” and sanctified, by God’s Spirit. As a result, they have the capacity to recognize and respond to God’s word and will.**

**Phil. 2:13 “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”**

**The presence of God’s Holy Spirit in our lives sets up a series of choices and conflicts!**

**Gal. 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (Sarx: human nature) 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, (Epithymeō: desired superimposition) and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other:”**

* **Our Flesh wants to run our own lives in order to satisfy “the desires of the flesh and mind” (Eph. 2:3)**
* **God’s Spirit wants to grow (transform/conform) us “into the image of Christ.” (Ro. 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18)**

**In essence, God’s Spirit wants to clean up our “Natural” (self-focused) flesh (soul)“by the washing of regeneration, and renewing (anakainosis: renovation) of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5); Becoming a type of “personal (spiritual) trainer” (See Hebrews 5:14) This is what the word “sanctify” actually means. (Hagiázō: to consecrate, make holy, purify) 1 Thes. 4:3**

**To the degree that we “walk in the Spirit”, we grow (mature) spiritually. (Eph. 4:15; 2 Pt 3:18)**

**To the degree that we fail to obey (aka: resist) God’s Spirit and word we continue to grow in the “flesh” and become the type of “believer” God describes in 1 Cor 3.**

**The Carnal Christian 1 Corinthians 3**

1. **Definition: Vs 1 “I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, (pneumatikos)**

 **but as unto carnal” (sarkikos: governed by human nature: from sarx: appetites) Rom. 7:16**

**2. Description:**

 **A. Little (or Slow) Spiritual Growth (Little appetite for the Spiritual/Eternal.)**

 **1) Childish / Selfish. Vs 1,2 “…as unto babes in Christ.**

 **a) We all start here (2 Pt 2:2) “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow ”**

 **b) Too many stay here! b) Too many STAY HERE! Vs 2 “I have fed you with milk…not with**

 **meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” (See also Heb. 5:11-12)**

**B. Lacks Spiritual “Gumption”: (Discipline, strength, initiative)**

**Heb. 5:13 “For every one that uses milk is unskilful (apeiros: inexperienced) in the word of righteousness,**

 **for he (she) is a babe. But strong (stereos’: solid, stedfast) meat belongs to them that are of full age…**

 **(teleios: mature, complete) even those who by reason of use (hexis: habit) have their senses exercised**

 **(gymnazo: train, gym) to discern both good (kalos: valuable) and evil.” (Kakos: worthless)**

**C. Lacks Spiritual Guidance (Discernment) Heb. 15:13b “but strong meat belongs to those**

 **of a full age, even those who by reason of use (hexis: habit) have their senses (aisthētēr’ion: perception)**

 **exercised (gymnazo: train, gym) to discern (diak’risis: distinguish)**

 **both good (kalos’: valuable) and evil.” (Kakos’: worthless)**

 **Since they’re insensitive to God’s Spirit (Mt 13:15):**

 **1) They can’t “discern” between “good and evil”**

 **a) They’re fooled by Satan’s snares. (James 1:14-25; 1Jn 2:15,16)**

 **b) They build with (and for) the temporary “wood, hay, stubble” instead of the eternal!**

 **“gold, silver, precious stones” See 1 Cor 3:12-15**

 **2) They lack discernment, sacrificing the eternal on the altar of the Temporary! Mt 6:19-24;**

 **2 Cor 4:16-18**

**3. Destination (The effects of Carnality)**

 **Gal. 5:19 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest..”**

 **A. In time: 1 Cor 3:4 “whereas there is among you:**

 **1) “envying” (zēlos: zeal, jealousy)**

 **2) “strife” (eris: contention, quarrels)**

 **3) “divisions” (dichostasi’a: sedition, disunion)**

 **“are ye not carnal and walk as men?” Behave as lost (natural) people?**

**B. In Eternity: 1 Cor 3:15 “he shall suffer loss” (zēmioō: experience detriment)**

**Phil. 3:14-19 “whose end is destruction (apōleia: waste) whose god is their belly , whose glory is their shame; Who mind (phroneo: value, regard) earthly things.” Mt 16:26; Mark 8:36; Lk 9:25**

**Conclusion:**

 **If we fail to “focus” on and follow God’s Spirit, we’ll focus on (and feed) our flesh (Ro 8:5), With tragic consequences! (Ro. 8:6; 1 Cor 3:12-17) Ro 8:7 “For the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God…they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”**

**God designed and desires that the Spirit influences our choices. Gal. 5:16 ; Eph. 5:18**

**1 Th 5:23 “the …God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord…”**

**This process involves partnership with God to “purify” our souls. 1 Cor 3:9; 1 Peter 1:22**

**“ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit “ (See Jaames 4:7,8)**

**As we do this the “flesh” (corrupted soul) loses influence and the “spirit” gains strength. (Influence) ( Romans 12:1,2; Eph. 5:18) Cooperating with (aka: “Walking in the Spirit” and crucifying (denying) the flesh (Gal 5:16) will result in developing the visible “fruits” (conduct, attitudes) of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-24; Mt 16:24; Col 3)**

**Application:**

**Where are you in your spiritual journey? Natural? Spiritual? Carnal?**

**Where does God want you? Where do you really want to be?**

 **Matthew 16:24,25 “If any will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

**For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”**

**For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**