

Understanding Spiritual Breakthroughs

Moving from Confusion/Complacency to Confidence/Commitment.

The Carnal Christian

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Apr. 24 AM

Reflection: For every successful journey we need to know/identify:

*Where we're starting from; Where we want to end up; A map (plan) to get there;
How to identify probable obstacles; and How to overcome (navigate around) them.*

While each of these are important, if we don't understand where we're starting from or where we want to end up, it's impossible to accurately plot a course.

**1 Cor. 2:14-3:4 identifies three distinct types of people in our world
(and in our churches)!**

1. The Natural Person Vs 14 *"The natural man (psychikos': soul) receives not the things of the Spirit of God: For they are foolishness unto him: neither can he (she) know them, because they're spiritually (Pneumatikōs: divinely, spiritually) discerned."* (anakrino: perceived, understood)

A. God describes this natural condition as:

- 1) **Lost:** *So God seeks to Find/Save us.* (Lk 19:10)
- 2) **Blind:** *So God gives us the light of the gospel.* (2 Cor. 4:4-6)
- 3) **Dead:** *So God offers us His life.* (John 11:25; 2 Cor 5:21)

2. The Spiritual Person Vs 15 *"But he that is spiritual (pneumatikos) judgeth all things..."*

A. They respond to God's Spirit as He:

1) **Regenerates us.** (spiritual: Pneumatikos means divinely regenerated)

John 3:6-7 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* (genna'o: brought forth, Regenerated)

2 Cor 5:17 *"if any man be in Christ, he is a new (kainos: fresh, with respect to age) Creature: (ktisis: creation: Aka: a spiritual "baby" {See 1 Pt. 2:2}) old things are passed away; (parer'chomai: perishing through neglect) behold, all things are become (ginomai: becoming) new."*

2) **Preserves us.** Eph 1:13,14 *"In whom ye trusted, after that ye heard the ..., the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession"* See also 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:9

3) **Teaches us.** 1 Cor. 2:9-13 10 *"God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...12 Now we have received, ...the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are ... given to us. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches..."*

a) **Jesus promised this!** Jn 14:26 *"the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost ... shall teach you all things"*

That's why 1 Cor. 2:15 says: *"he that is spiritual judgeth (anakrino: discerns) all things"*

That's why 1 Cor 2:16 reveals that: *"We have (available to us) the mind of Christ."*

Nous: understanding, perspective

Since we're free moral agents, We must cooperate with God's Spirit as He seeks to mature us.
(Jn 15:1-17; 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Pt. 3:18) If we fail to do this, we'll become the...

3. The Carnal Christian 1 Cor. 3:1-4 *"I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, (Sarkikos': fleshly, temporary, unregenerate) even as unto babes in Christ."*

A. These Fail to Mature (Grow up) Spiritually vs 3 *"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."*

This is a common and critical condition! They have God's Holy Spirit in them, but seldom grow to recognize and / or respond (obediently) to Him. *This leaves them as practical atheists!*

Vs 3 *"are ye not carnal (Sarkikos') and walk (behave) as (Natural, unsaved) men?"*

1) They Fail to absorb God's Word.

a) You need a good diet to grow! 1 Pt 2:2 *"desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

2) They Fail to Apply God's Word.

a) You need to exercise to grow strong! Heb 5:11-13 *"when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God. . .; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe!"*

b) God wants us to use what we learn! Heb 5:14-6:1 *"But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."*

6:1 Therefore leaving the principles (basics) of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection"

Teleiot'ēs: completeness, maturity

B. Fails to Focus on God's will/eternity.

1) They Focus on themselves (appetites) Ph. 3:18-20 *"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind (phroneo: focus/regard) earthly things."*

Conclusion:

1) The Natural man is without God's Spirit and is (spiritually) **Lost, Blind, and Dead.**

Jn 3:19 *"Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light. . ."*

Ro 8:8 *"they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

2 Cor. 4:4 *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them."*

2 Cor 4:6-7 *"But God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God In that face (person) of Jesus Christ."*

2) If we respond to this light (truth) God gives us His Holy Spirit (Vs. 7) making us **"Spiritual"**. Ro 8:9 *"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."*

The indwelling presence of God's Spirit Enables us to mature and grow so we can

"Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh". Gal 5:16

Ro 8:5-6 *"they that are after the flesh do mind (focus on) the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit (focus on) the things of the Spirit"*

3) If we choose to ignore God's Spirit, We'll develop a carnal mind. Romans 8:6

"For to be carnally minded (phronēma: focused, purposed, inclined) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Eirēn'ē: one with God.

Would you purpose this week to seriously reflect on your spiritual journey, asking God to help you determine which of these best reflect your current condition: Natural? Spiritual? Carnal?

<https://sethadamsmith.com/2015/07/29/lost-and-found/>