



Navigating the New Year Pt. 4

Knowing where you are spiritually.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith

@ CBC Sunday, Feb. 4th 2018

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'imōs: unapproved, rejected, disqualified.)

God's original Design: *"Let us make man in our image"* Gen. 1:26 (1 Jn. 2:7; Jn 4:24; 1 Th. 5:23)

- Body {soma} So we can "relate" (function) to the creation.
- Soul {psyche} So we can "relate" to each other.
- Spirit {Pneuma} So we can "relate" to our Creator. Gen 2:7

Satan's persistent "Desire": (2 Cor. 2:11) Contaminate the soul to dominate us.

- This is the essence of "Sin!" (Ro. 14:23) *Harmatano: miss the mark and therefore the prize.*
- Sin mars God's design and distorts/destroys His purposes. Jer. 29:11; John 10:10
- Sin "Destroys" the human spirit. Pr. 20:27; Gen. 2:17; Ro. 3:23; 6:23

Last week we examined two of the three human "conditions":

1. The "Natural" Person: 1 Cor 2:14: Spiritually Dead (Eph.2:1) and Deceived (2 Cor 4:4)

Needs to be "Born again" John 3:3-8; Gal. 4:4-6; Rō. 8:16

2. The "Spiritual" Person: 1 Cor 2:15,16 Allows God's Holy Spirit to Guide

(1 Jn. 2:20; Eph. 5:15-18; Jn. 16:13) and Grow them. (Heb. 12; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Thes. 5:19; Eph. 4:30)

The "spiritual mind" must be developed by a partnership with God to purify our soul!

As we do this the "flesh" loses strength (influence) and the "spirit" gains strength. (Influence)

(1 Peter 1:22; James 4:7,8; Romans 12:1,2)

God describes the third "spiritual" condition as "Carnal". 1 Cor 3:1-3

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

3. THE "CARNAL" MIND LACKS:

A. 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."*

1) They have limited appetite for the things of God and eternity.

B. 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..."*

1) Their limited "spiritual diet" produces a type of spiritual "anemia."

C. 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)*

1) What you don't use, you lose! James 1:22-26 *"be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!"*

The lack of Spiritual Growth, Discernment and application leads to a...

D. 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!*

1) This affects their "value" system. (Mt. 6:21) *"Where your treasure is there shall your heart be..."*

Ro 8:7-8 *"the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject (hypotasso) to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

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

The Carnal mind is more influenced by the "Philosophy" of this world than by the "Promptings" of God's Spirit. (Gal. 5:16,17)

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? (1 Cor. 2:14) *Have you been born again?*

➤ "Spiritual" Person? (Ro. 8:1-6; Gal. 5:22-25) *Are you letting God Guide and Grow you?*

➤ "Carnal" Person? (Ro. 8:6; Gal. 5:17-21)

Are you Saved but dangerously drifting toward "temporary" harbors.

See John Bunyan's book "Holy War"

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"*