

Navigating your Spiritual Journey: The Natural Man

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 13th

Successful navigation requires that we consider: *Where we're starting from; Where we want to go (end up); A map (plan) to get there; how to identify probable obstacles and How to overcome (navigate) them.* Getting any of these wrong can result in getting sidetracked or even shipwrecked! (1 Tim. 1:18,19) Our journey requires that we accurately recognize where we are spiritually! 2 Cor 13:5 *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (adok'imos: rejected!)

Everyone starts the journey of Faith from the same basic point. God calls this condition *"The Natural man"* in 1 Cor. 2:14. "Natural" (psychikos) comes from Psyche meaning soul! They have a body and soul, but lack a functioning spirit. 1 Cor 2:14 *"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know (ginōskō: understand) them, because they are spiritually (pneumatikos) discerned."* (anakrino: examined, discerned)

Notice How God describes Natural People:

1. Spiritually Disoriented (Lost) 2 Cor 4:3

"if our gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost," (apollymi: destroyed)

A. Jesus told 3 parables to illustrate this.

- 1) Lost Sheep. Lk 15:1-7 (Lost foolishly)
- 2) Lost Coin Lk 15:8-10 (Lost carelessly)
- 3) Lost Son. Lk 15:11-32 (Lost intentionally)

Thankfully Jesus came to: *"seek and to save that which was lost."* Lk 19:10

B. God rejoices when the lost are found!

- 1) Lost Sheep Luke 15:6 *"Rejoice with me; I've found my sheep which was lost."*
 - 2) Lost Coin 9 *"...Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost."*
 - 3) Lost Son 22-24 *"let us eat, and be merry:... For this my son was lost, and is found!"*
- Lk 15:10 *"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."*

2. Spiritually Deceived (Blinded) 2Cor 4:3-4 *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds..."*

A. Jesus warned about this. Mt. 7:21-23; John 8:44

B. Paul warned about this. Rom. 10:1-4; Rom. 3:20

C. Thankfully God is (and gives) light Vs 6 *"God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge (truth) of the glory of God in ... Jesus Christ."*

1) Jesus illustrated this in John 9 by healing the man born blind: vs39-41 *"For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which (think they) see might be made blind."*

3. Spiritually Dead! Eph. 2:1-5 *"you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"*

A. Death (thanatos) means separation. Is. 59:1,2 *"your iniquities have separated you and God..."*

- 1) Physical death separates the soul & Body. Eccl 12:7
- 2) Spiritual death separates the soul from God. Ez. 18:4,20 *"The soul that sinneth, It shall die"*
Luke 16:22,23 *"the rich man died..., and in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torment..."*
- 3) This will culminate at the final White Throne Judgment of Rev. 20:11-15

Ro. 6:23a *"The Wages of Sin is Death"*

B. God warned of this. Gen. 2:17 *"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."*

C. Dead people are incapable of life, (independent of God's Grace. {John 11:25})

Eph. 2:1 *"you hath he quickened, who were dead...in sin"* (nekros: a corpse, destitute of life & power)

1) Eph. 2:12 further describes them as: *"without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."*

D. Thankfully God is (and gives) Life. John 11:25,26 *"I am the resurrection and the life..."*

1) Light proceeds life. 2 Cor 4:6 *"God commanded the light to shine...in our hearts"* (Also John 1:4,5)

2) God's Light received produces life! Jn 1:9-13; Eph. 2:4,5; 12,13

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 12 "ye were...without Christ...having no hope... 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Conclusion:

Because of the curse of our sin nature, we are naturally and spiritually:

1) Disoriented (*Lost*) 2 Cor 4:3 2) Deceived (*Blind*) 2 Cor 4:4 3) Dead. Eph. 2:1

Thankfully Jesus came to *"seek and to save, that which was lost"* (blind and dead) Lk 19:10

Ro. 6:23 *"The Wages of Sin is Death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

That's why Jesus said in Jn. 3:3 *"Except a man be born again (Gennaō anōthen: regenerated) he cannot see the Kingdom of God!... 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, Even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (Sōzō: rescued, protected, preserved, healed)

Application: John 3 separates all of humanity into two groups.

Vs 18 *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (See John 8:24)

Vs 36 *"He that believeth on (pisteuo: trusts in, commits to) the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Which of these two "categories" are you in?

1) The "Natural men/women" who have not yet "believed in" (entrusted, committed to) Jesus and are therefore spiritually Disoriented, Deceived, and Dead?

2) Those who have, by faith (trust) in him, have become "born again" and therefore have God's promise of "everlasting life"?

You have a limited time to "settle" this! Luke 13:23-25; Mt 13:1-13

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"*

Heb. 2:3 "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"