

THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual Realities

- I. **Two Truths: There are spiritual things (things of The Spirit) and believers can be ignorant concerning them-1Co12:1-Now concerning spiritual (GIFTS), brethren, I would not have you ignorant (not know through lack of information, unacquainted with)-**YL**-Concerning the spiritual things brethren I do not wish you to be ignorant-**MUR**-Concerning spirituals-**TP**-To be confused about spiritual realities-**CJ**-Brothers, I do not want you to go on being ignorant about the things of the Spirit**
- A. Christians can be ignorant of spiritual things-This is alarming that he's writing to Christians saying I don't want you to be ignorant about spiritual things
- B. He prayed we would have understanding in spiritual things-**Co1:9**-For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding-**AM**-Understanding of spiritual things
- II. **Spiritual things are things non-carnal (physical), unearthly, heavenly, supernatural-Jn3:1-There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ¹²If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly (unearthly, spiritual) things**
- A. Jesus is talking about something spiritual, but Nicodemus is not hearing something natural-There are spiritual realities and natural realities
- B. There's a spiritual realm-It's not imaginary or pretend, it's real-
1. His eyes were opened to see into the other realm-**2Ki6:16**-And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see
2. Unseen doesn't mean unreal-There are things that are invisible, things unseen-**Co1:16**-By him were all things created...visible and invisible-**2Co4:18**-While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal
- a. The realm you can't see is more real than the one you can see-Everything in this one is temporal, that one is eternal
- b. To get real you get over into the realm-You got to talk like that other realm is real

3. In the spirit-John was seeing into the other realm, because the other realm is real, it's a real reality and there's real things going on-**Rv4:1**-*I looked and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*²And immediately I was in the spirit

C. We are spirit beings-**1Th5:23**-*Your whole spirit and soul and body*

III. There's a danger for the Christian and for churches to become unspiritual- Unspiritual in the sense that anything beyond what the natural mind can understand we really don't want; It's like there is limits on the Holy Spirit (Help us sing good, help us preach good, but cool it right there)

A. The enemy is subtle-He wants to slowly work the supernatural out of the church so that are experience is more full of natural than spiritual; The devil would like to strip the supernatural from the church

B. The heart of man cries out for something more, something beyond himself-For real experiences with God, for encounters with God; Even though you know God's real our heart hungers for these living experiences with God and you actually need them for your life (quickenings, edification)-**Jn14:21**-*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

C. If it's God I want it-Our prayer should be, "Lord if this is really you I want it."

D. Spiritual things go beyond natural understanding-Beyond human comprehension

E. We are supposed to be having these experiences with God-To get those things you have to get into The things of The Spirit

F. If your heart is open to it, you can receive these things and enjoy these things even when you don't understand them-If you experience it you'll understand it enough

G. Encounters with God manifest in a variety ways-EX: Falling out in the spirit stories; Naming the church Northsmoke confirmation; Anytime you're led by The Spirit, anytime The Spirit is working through you, anytime you experience His power, His presence all of these things are things of The Spirit and all of them confirm His reality in your life

IV. We're supposed to be spiritual people who have understanding in spiritual things because we learned them from the Holy Spirit and it all has to do with a realm that's not this one and it all has to do with stuff your head won't understand-**1Co2:12**-*We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*¹³*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (CSB-We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people).*¹⁴*The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of*

God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.¹⁵He that is spiritual judges all things

- A. Natural man can't receive the things of The Spirit-They go beyond his mind so he won't accept them
- B. We're not supposed to be just natural people-We are not natural people having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual people having a natural experience and we need to be ever aware of the reality of spiritual things; This earthly realm is not all there is
- C. The danger is to get so caught up in this earthly life you live unaware of spiritual realities-There's no reality of spiritual things in our lives-**Rm8:6**-To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace-**Ph3:19**-Mind earthly things-**Co3:2**-Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth
- D. Spiritual things need to be scriptural-Otherwise they are just spooky
- E. We need these experience-You need to be reading your Bible and have God show you something, there should be time when you can sense His presence in the room when you're praying and worshipping
- F. One of the best ways to get these experience is to pray in tongues a lot-When you pray in the spirit you enter into that arena and realm
- G. They experienced the reality of The Spirit-**Ac2:4**-There appeared unto them cloven tongues like as a of fire and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues-**Ac10:19**-While Peter though on the vision, the Spirit said unto him-**Ac16:18**-I command thee in the name of Jesus to come out of her-**Ac6:8**-Stephen full of The Holy Ghost...full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people-**Ac20:22**-I go bound by the spirit unto Jerusalem-**Ac26:13**-I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth
- H. To be spiritual means: **1.**Live with a consciousness of The Spirit's reality **2.**Live with a dependence on Him as our helper-**Jn14:26** **3.**Live in constant communion with Him-**2Co13:14** **4.**Live being led by Him-**Rm8:14** **5.**We live staying full of Him-**Ep5:18** **6.**We see Him work through us in His gifts-**1Co12:4-10** **7.**We bear His fruit-**Ga5:22** **8.**We experience His reality in our lives-**Jn14:21**-**AM**-I will make Myself real to him
- I. Believers can live like natural men-**1Co3:1**-I brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal (governed by human nature, not by the spirit of God, physical, low in spiritual knowledge), even as babes in Christ.²I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able.³For you are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are you not carnal and walk as men. ⁴For while one saith, I am of Paul; an another I am of Apollos; are you net carnal? ⁵Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom you believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?
 - 1. They were Christians but they were earthly minded-They weren't just carnal as given to the flesh, they had that going on to, the more earthly minded you are the more given to the flesh you will

- be; When you're earthly minded you emphasize and focus on earthly things, not spiritual things
2. They made much of flesh because of flesh-They were making much of the flesh and blood man and that's carnal and earthly minded
 3. He's talking Christians who are earthly minded-They were unaware of the realm of the spirit and spiritual realities
 4. If the spirit is not in what we do, we shouldn't do it-1Co2:4-*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power*